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STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 SMVDSB reopens natural cave for devotees on Makar Sankranti

10 3 medals for J&K in School Games Cycling

10 CS flags off J&K Tableau contingent for Republic Day 2026

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Union Home Secy chairs high-level security review meeting in Jammu

Ongoing anti-terror ops, drone incursions assessed



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan chaired a meeting here on Wednesday to review security arrangements for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations as well as assess the ongoing anti-terror operations and drone incursions along the borders.

This came a week after Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on January 8, directed security forces to continue with their operations targeting terrorist infrastructure and terror financing in a "mission mode".

Accompanied by a central team of officers, Mohan reached Jammu in the afternoon on a two-day visit and straightaway headed for the convention centre to chair the high-level meeting, officials said.

It was attended by Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Deka, BSF

Director General Praveen Kumar, CRPF chief G P Singh and Jammu and Kashmir DGP Nalin Prabhat, as well as senior military, police, civil and intelligence officers.

Security forces are engaged in massive anti-terror operations, especially in the high altitude areas and forest belts across Jammu, where nearly three dozen terrorists, including Pakistani nationals, are believed to be hiding after managing to infiltrate into the region more than two years ago.

There has also been a spurt in drone activities along the International Border and Line of Control, with intelligence reports suggesting the presence of terrorists waiting to infiltrate under the cover of dense fog, the officials said.

Senior IPS officer Rakesh Aggarwal appointed NIA Chief

Shatrujeet appointed ITBP chief; Praveen to head BSF

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Senior IPS officer Rakesh Aggarwal was on Wednesday appointed as the director general of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Aggarwal, a 1994 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, is currently special director general in the anti-terror agency. He has also been holding the additional charge of the post of DG, National Investigation Agency.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment as DG, NIA for a tenure up to August 31, 2028, the date of his superannuation, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Meanwhile, Senior IPS officer Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor was on

Wednesday appointed as the director general of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

He will succeed incumbent Praveen Kumar, who has been named the new chief of the Border Security Force (BSF).

Kapoor, a 1990-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, is currently working in his cadre state Haryana.

He has been appointed DG, ITBP for a period up to October 31, 2026, the date of his superannuation, according to a Personnel Ministry order.

Incumbent ITBP chief Kumar has been named new DG, BSF.

Kumar, a 1993-batch IPS officer of West Bengal cadre, has been appointed for a period up to September 30, 2030, the date of his retirement.

Op Sindoor ongoing, enemy's every move being closely monitored: Army Chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Army chief General Udaya Dvivedi on Wednesday said Operation Sindoor is still ongoing and every move of the enemy is being closely monitored.

Speaking at the investiture ceremony at the South Western Command in Jaipur, he said the Army, Navy and Air Force jointly engaged nine terrorist camps and infrastructure in Pakistan with precision in just 22 minutes during Operation Sindoor.

"Operation Sindoor is still ongoing, and we are keeping a close watch on every move of the enemy," he said.

He said following the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, a clear decision was made at the highest level that India would take decisive action.

"Operation Sindoor was the result of this resolve. Within 88 hours, our precision, professionalism and operational



superiority forced Pakistan to agree to a ceasefire.

"This was a clear demonstration of the Indian Army's decisive capabilities in upholding national sovereignty and national interests," he said.

Meanwhile, addressing a gathering of cadets at the National Cadet Corps' (NCC) Republic Day Camp here, General Dvivedi said, "Operation Sindoor was a defining demonstration of India's resolve and restraint, a reflection of the moral strength and professional excellence of our armed forces, and our youth alike."

The Army chief recalled the contribution of the NCC during the decisive military action last May.

During the operation, over 75,000 NCC cadets volunteered across the

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J&K vital pillar of India's national security architecture: Army Commander



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI/JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma on Wednesday said Jammu and Kashmir is a vital pillar of India's national-security architecture, not

Delhi court convicts Asiya Andrabi, 2 others in UAPA case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: In a significant development, a special court here on Wednesday convicted Kashmiri separatist Asiya Andrabi and two others for offences including conspiracy to wage war against the country and being members of a terrorist organisation under stringent anti-terror law UAPA.

Andrabi, the founder of the all-women separatist group Dukhtaraan-e-Millat (DeM) in 1987, was arrested in April 2018 and charges were framed against her under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for allegedly conspiring to commit terrorist acts, being

members of a terrorist organisation, and providing support to such groups.

Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh, as the special National Investigation Agency (NIA) judge, had heard the case against Andrabi and her two associates -- Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen.

The accused were physically present in the packed courtroom in the afternoon amid tight security for pronouncement of the judgement.

The court has now listed the case on January 17 for hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence which may exceed imprisonment for life for the offences under the stringent provisions of the anti-terror law.

153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against Government of India), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief).

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Govt schools shine in Class 10, 12 results

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The sustained efforts of the Government to strengthen the education sector have yielded encouraging results, as Government schools have registered a remarkable performance in the Class 10th and 12th examinations, the results of which were declared on Wednesday.

The improved outcomes reflect the Government's focused approach towards holistic development of education sector across Jammu and Kashmir. The Government led by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah has initiated various policy inter-

ventions, enhanced academic support systems as well as continuous monitoring mechanism at all levels with an aim to uplift the quality of education in Government institutions.

As per the result statistics, in 10th class, out of 94845 students who appeared, 80650 passed the examination, showing an overall pass percentage of 85.03 percent, depicting a significant increase from last years pass percentage of 79.94 percent.

Similarly, in 12th class, 59435 students qualified the examination out of 70735 appearing students,

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Winter Vacations extended till Jan 17

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The government on Wednesday extended winter vacations for Schools in Summer Zone till January 17, 2026.

"In continuation to order No. 16-DSEJ-2026 dated January 11, 2026, issued vide endorsement No. DSEJ/GEN/2703-36 dated January 11, 2026 and in view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions, it is ordered that the Winter Vacations for all Government and Private Schools falling in the Summer Zone shall stand extended till January 17, 2026," reads and order issued by Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director School Education.

"The vacation shall be applicable to both teaching staff and students. However, the Board Examinations for Classes 10th to 12th shall be conducted strictly as per the notified schedule, if any." It stated and added, "Moreover, the schools shall explore the possibilities of conducting online classes from

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Security Forces intensify search operation in Kathua



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Security forces on Wednesday stepped up an ongoing search operation by extending the cordon to track down and neutralise terrorists in remote villages of Kathua district, officials

several gunshots were heard when the security forces launched the operation in the Najote forest area in Billawar tehsil on Tuesday based on information about the presence of a terrorist

GH Sheikh takes over as Chairman J&K BOSE

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Ghulam Hassan Sheikh on Wednesday took over as Chairman J&K Board of School Education in pursuance of the Government order.

Soon after assuming the charge, Sheikh convened an introductory meeting, setting out the goals for J&KBOSE organization. He asked all sections to work in synergy to come up with the expectations of stakeholders and translating the academic standards on ground.

The Chairman emphasized the need to uphold the transparency, efficiency and credibility in academic

Pakistan resorting to border mischief to deflect focus from internal issues: Ladakh LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Pakistan is indulging in mischief along the borders, including sending drones, in an attempt to divert attention from its internal problems, particularly its poor financial situation, Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta said on Wednesday, asserting that its disintegration is inevitable.

Talking to PTI Videos here, Gupta also dismissed China's claim over the Shaksgam valley and said "this is not India of 1962. This is India of 2026 and they should understand this".

Hopes positive outcome as MHA calls Ladakh groups for talks

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J&K secures 'Leader' status in EPI 2024; jumps 15 ranks to bag 2nd spot

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a significant milestone in its export development journey by securing the second rank among Small States, North Eastern States and Union Territories in the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, released by NITI Aayog.

The Union Territory scored an impressive 51.08 points and has been categorised as a "Leader" in the EPI 2024 classification.

The achievement reflects a remarkable improvement over previous years, with Jammu and Kashmir making a substantial leap from 17th rank in EPI 2022 to 2nd position in EPI 2024. This sharp upward movement highlights the focused,

Jammu logs 4th lowest day temperature in decades, colder than Kashmir



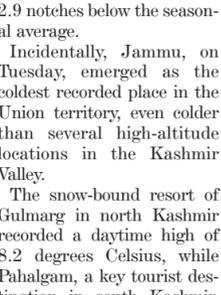
■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu witnessed an exceptionally cold day on Wednesday, with the city recording a maximum temperature of just 7.4 degrees Celsius, around 10 degrees below normal for this part of the winter season, a Meteorological Department

official said.

The temperature stands as the fourth-lowest maximum in Jammu in four decades, with colder daytime temperatures reported in 1986 (5.0 degrees C), 2013 (6.7 degrees C), and 2016 (7.1 degrees C), the official said.

The city also recorded a

Parts of Dal Lake freeze



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Parts of the famous Dal Lake here and several water bodies in Kashmir froze on Wednesday as sub-zero minimum temperatures across the Valley dropped further.

The Kashmir Valley is in the midst of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- a 40-day period of extreme cold, when the chances of snowfall are the highest. It began on December 21 and will end on January 30.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, down from the minus 4.9 degrees Celsius recorded the previous night, weather department officials said. Shopian in south Kashmir

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 7.4°C Min: 4.0°C

Humidity
Max: 97 Min: 79

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 13.3°C Min: -5.2°C

Humidity
Max: 89 Min: 57

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