

Union Home Secy holds meeting with LG on security situation

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Thursday held a meeting with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here and discussed the security situation, ongoing anti-terror operations and the operational preparedness of the security setup in the Union territory, officials said.

Mohan, who is on a two-day visit to Jammu, on Thursday also chaired another high-level meeting to review the heightened operational security up in hilly areas, the overall security situation, and to assess ongoing anti-terror operations and drone incursions along the borders.

The home secretary called on the LG at the Lok Bhawan this morning and held discussions on wide-ranging security, operations and development-related

issues in Jammu and Kashmir, they said. They discussed and reviewed the current security situation in the twin regions of Kashmir and Jammu, the ongoing anti-terror operations in the Valley and the hilly areas of the Jammu region, and the operational preparedness of the joint security setup, they said.

Inter-agency coordination among the police, paramilitary forces, the Army and intelligence agencies was also discussed, officials said.

Issues related to enhanced security measures in the hilly areas of Jammu in view of recent activities were also reviewed, they added.

Mohan continued his meetings for the second consecutive day at the convention centre in Jammu, where top security

officials of various forces, police and intelligence agencies took part, they said.

The meeting reviewed border security management, security enhancement in the hills of Jammu, inter-agency coordination, and assessed ongoing anti-terror operations and drone incursions along the borders.

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

Accompanied by a central team of officers, Mohan reached Jammu on Wednesday afternoon on a two-day visit and straightaway headed to 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, Jammu and Kashmir DGP Nalin Prabhat, and senior military, police, civil and intelligence officers.

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

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



Pr. Distt & Sessions Judge chairs Under Trial Review Committee-2026 meeting



Pr. Distt & Sessions Judge, R. N. Wattal chairing Under Trial Review Committee-2026 meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu (Principal District and Sessions Judge) R. N. Wattal on Thursday chaired the first Undertrial Review Committee-2026 meeting in his office chamber to evaluate cases of under-trial prisoners and to ensure compliance with legal safeguards and timely justice.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Adm), Jammu Ms. Anshu Jamwal; Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Joginder Singh; Secretary DLSA Jammu, Maleeka Sharma; Superintendent of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu, Chhabil Singh; Assistant Superintendent of District Jail Amphalla Jammu, Tarsem Lal and Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu, Anil Sharma.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed

cases based on guidelines from the Supreme Court and NALSA SOPs, focusing on prisoners with no representation or those who have spent substantial time behind bars.

The Committee recommended the release of eligible prisoners, by filing bail applications before the appropriate Courts and ensuring that the benefits of legal provisions reach the intended beneficiaries, especially prisoners. The meeting also discussed action taken, such as conducting regular meetings to track progress, maintaining a consolidated datasheet to monitor prisoners' cases and preparing quarterly reports.

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed by Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) Jammu to all the stakeholders for their proactive participation in addressing the concerns related to under trial prisoners.

Sham Lal releases special New Year calendar 2026

STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: The Civil Society Akhnoor released its special New Year calendar for the year 2026, showcasing the rich historical and cultural heritage of Akhnoor.

The calendar was formally unveiled on the occasion of the New Year by senior BJP leader, former Minister, and MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma, at a well-attended function in Akhnoor.

The calendar is a unique collection highlighting Akhnoor's historical landmarks and cultural legacy, reflecting the region's deep-rooted identity and traditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal Sharma congratulated the Civil Society Akhnoor for its consistent efforts in serving society. He praised the organization for working beyond political interests and urged it to continue focusing on social welfare, preservation of

local culture, and promotion of regional languages.

He emphasized that such initiatives help strengthen social unity and inspire the younger generation to remain connected with their roots.

SDPO Akhnoor, Virender Gupta, also addressed the gathering and highlighted the vital role of civil society organizations in maintaining peace and harmony.

He stated that when civil society functions with positive intent, it naturally fosters mutual



MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma with other dignitaries releasing calendar 2026.

cooperation, communal harmony, and social stability in the region.

Civil Society Akhnoor President Shiv Gupta elaborated on the objectives and ongoing activities of the organization.

He described the calendar as more than just a record of dates, calling it a meaningful effort to preserve and promote Akhnoor's identity and heritage.

Founder Kunwar Shakti Singh and Executive President D. N. Abrol also shared their views, stressing that social

awareness and cultural consciousness form the backbone of a progressive society.

The programme was efficiently conducted by Convener Anshul Gupta. Notably, the calendar has been creatively designed by renowned caricature artist and designer Chandar Shekhar from Jammu and Kashmir, who has artistically depicted Akhnoor's historical and cultural landmarks.

The event witnessed the presence of intellectuals and respected citizens of the town. A strong message

was conveyed on promoting brotherhood, peace, education, development of Dogra culture, and addressing issues faced by the common people.

Among those present were SHO Akhnoor Rajesh Jasrotia, Advisory Committee members Neeraj Goyal, Ashok Mishra, Rajesh Langer, Rameshwar Singh Pawan, Vice President Narendra Langer, General Secretary Ritesh Gupta, Secretary Ashok Kumar, Joint Secretary Ranjit Rohmetra, and several other prominent citizens.

Justice Sanjeev, Justice Sanjay Parihar visit Bar Hall Jammu; review security, parking challenges for advocates and litigants

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association (JKHCBAJ) hosted Justice Sanjeev Kumar Shukla and Justice Sanjay Parihar at the Late Vinod Kumar Gupta Memorial Bar Hall, High Court Complex, Janipur, here on Thursday. The visit underscored the judiciary's unwavering commitment to addressing critical infrastructural and safety concerns affecting advocates, litigants, and all stakeholders within the High Court and District Court Complex, Janipur. During the interactive session, attended by President of the Association Nirmal K. Kotwal (Sr. Advocate), General Secretary Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan, office-bearers of the Young Lawyers Association, Senior Advocates and other members of the Bar, the Justice



Justice Sanjeev Shukla and Justice Sanjay Parihar interacting with JKHCBAJ members.

Sanjeev Kumar specifically emphasized twin issues: enhancing security measures for advocates and litigants at the High Court and District Court Complex, Janipur; and resolving the chronic parking woes plaguing the premises.

On the security front, Justice Sanjeev Kumar highlighted the imperative need for robust protocols to safeguard all court users amid rising vulnerabilities, inadequate surveillance.

Justice stressed immediate collaborative steps in order to improve security issues within the court premises and for the same one committee has also been constituted. However, the Justice emphasised that the security issues can only be resolved with the cooperation and positive efforts of the members of the JKHCBAJ and for the same same mechanism has to be adopted among the members in order to tighten the

security system. The Justice noted the security issue is essential not only for physical safety but also to foster an environment of trust and efficiency in the dispensation of justice. Equally critical was the discourse on parking deficiencies, which have escalated into a daily ordeal for advocates, litigants, judges, and court staff. The overflowing lots, haphazard vehicle placements, and lack of designated zones lead to congestion, delays in hearings, and avoidable frustrations.

Nirmal K. Kotwal (Sr.

Advocate) advocated for decisive, multi-pronged interventions, including immediate expansion of multi-level parking facilities within the court complex. Strict enforcement of zoning-separate allocations for advocates, litigants, judiciary, and visitors with dedicated enforcement teams. The JKHCBAJ reaffirms its full endorsement of these directives and pledges wholehearted support in their execution. The visionary guidance from Their Lordships today marks a pivotal step toward a safer, more accessible judiciary. We stand united in transforming these challenges into opportunities for systemic excellence. This visit exemplifies the symbiotic bond between the Bench and Bar; reinforcing JKHCBAJ's role as a vanguard for judicial welfare. The Association calls upon all stakeholders to prioritize these issues with urgency, ensuring the High Court Complex evolves into a model of security and convenience.

STeP-India Chairperson greets newly appointed National Chairman NATF

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Samia Khan, Chairperson of STeP-India Organization, Baramulla, on Thursday extended her greetings and best wishes to Vishal Chopra on his recent appointment as the National Chairman of the National Anti-Terrorism Front (NATF).

During the interaction, Samia Khan congratulated Chopra and appreciated his leadership role in strengthening national unity, peace, and social harmony.

She highlighted several pressing social issues, with special emphasis on the rising unemployment among youth, particularly those belonging to border areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

She stressed the urgent need for targeted employment opportunities, skill-based training, and livelihood generation programs for young people who remain



STeP-India Chairperson greeting newly appointed National Chairman NATF, Vishal Chopra.

vulnerable due to limited access and resources.

Khan also drew attention to the importance of girl child education, underscoring the need to promote formal education alongside skill development initiatives to ensure economic independence and social empowerment of girls and young women, especially in remote and border regions.

Responding positively, Vishal Chopra assured full cooperation and support from NATF to work collec-

tively towards addressing these critical issues. He reiterated his commitment to collaborating with civil society organizations like STeP-India to promote youth empowerment, education, skill development, and social stability in sensitive regions of the country.

The meeting concluded on a positive note with mutual assurance of continued coordination and joint efforts for the welfare and upliftment of marginalized communities.

Ex-DC Poonch Vikas Kundal receives COAS Disc Award for exemplary services during Op Sindoor

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Former Deputy Commissioner (DC) Poonch, Vikas Kundal has been conferred with the prestigious Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Disc Award in recognition of his exemplary administrative services and outstanding contribution during Operation Sindoor.

The award acknowledges Vikas Kundal's effective leadership, exceptional coordination with the Indian Army and civil administration, and his unwavering commitment to public service during a critical operational period. His proactive

approach, timely decision-making and efficient crisis management played a vital role in ensuring smooth civil-military coordination and maintaining public safety and essential services during the operation.

The COAS Disc Award is a significant honour, bestowed for distinguished service of a high order; and reflects Kundal's dedication, professionalism and sense of duty beyond the call of routine administrative responsibilities.

The people of Poonch have expressed pride and appreciation for this recognition, terming it a moment of honour for the district. The award also highlights the crucial role played by civil servants in supporting national security efforts through effective governance and cooperation with the armed forces.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Supwal, Rakh, Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 16 from 9 am to 10 am. Similarly, the power supply to District Kishtwar will remain affected on January 18 from 9 am to 1 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Industrial area of Bari-Brahmana, Narbhada, Mandal, Sainik Colony, Greater Kailash, Birpur and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 18 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Transport Nagar, Narwal, Railway Colony, Part of Channi Himmat, Malik Market, Upper Chowadi, Matto Colony, Bathindi, Sunjwan, Boria and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 19 from 10 am to 2 pm.

from 10 am to 5 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Kheora, Thudi, Thanamandi, Manjakote on rotational basis will remain affected on January 18 from 10 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Dhar Road, Cherry Sial and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 18 from 11 am to 4 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Chenani, Kud, Sudhmahadev, Mantlai, Dhuna, Dudu and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 19 from 10 am to 4 pm.

DIPR holds 2-Day workshop on holistic wellness

Renowned Dietitian Dr. Mitali Gupta trains participants regarding Science of Breath, Mind & Meditation

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), organised a two-day workshop on Holistic Wellness: The Science of Breath, Mind & Meditation at the DIPR Auditorium.

The workshop was attended by Director Information, Nitish Rajora; Joint Director (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director, Jammu Division, Deepak Dubey; officers and other officials of DIPR and divisional office, Jammu.

The sessions were conducted by renowned Dietician, Yoga Teacher and Chakra Meditation Expert Dr. Mitali Gupta, who seamlessly blended scientific principles with ancient yogic wisdom, making the sessions practical, engaging and transformative through her experiential teaching approach.

A special highlight of the workshop was a live practical demonstration by Dev,



an underprivileged and a student of Dt. Dr. Mitali Gupta.

His confident and disciplined demonstration was appreciated and stood as a live example of how yoga and meditation can empower individuals and promote inclusive growth.

During the two-day workshop, participants

gained deep insights into the interconnection between the body, breath and mind along with practical tools for achieving mental calmness and inner balance.

The workshop focused on explaining how physical health, breathing patterns and mental state is deeply interconnected.

Participants learned how conscious breath regulation can calm the mind, balance emotions, reduce stress, and enhance overall well-being.

The foundational sessions laid the groundwork for inner awareness, self-regulation, and holistic healing.

On the concluding day, sessions on Meditation, Chakra Meditation and Power Nap Techniques were conducted.

Besides, simple meditation practices were introduced to help participants quiet the mind and improve awareness. The chakra meditation session emphasized balancing the body's energy centres to promote emotional stability, inner harmony and mental clarity. Additionally, power nap techniques were shared to enable deep relaxation and rejuvenation within a short span of time.

Speaking on the concluding day, Joint Director (Hqr) Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina appreciated the initiative, stating that the workshop significantly contributed to improving coordination between mental and physical well-being. He said all the sessions were highly informative and expressed hope that participants would make the best use of the yoga and meditation practices in their daily lives for a healthier lifestyle. He further added that yoga and meditation have been adopted worldwide for overall well-being and healthy living.

Speaking during the inaugural session, Joint Director (Jammu) Deepak Dubey welcomed the participants and highlighted the positive role of yoga and meditation in developing a strong body and mind, and in promoting a disciplined way of life.