

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Democracy delivers in...

Commonwealth's total population resided in India which has consistently sought to contribute as much as possible to the development of all nations. "India continuously makes efforts to learn from fellow partners and also ensures that India's experiences benefit other Commonwealth nations," the prime minister said.

Modi said at a time when the world is undergoing unprecedented transformation, it is also the moment for the Global South to chart new pathways. The CSPOC is deliberating on a wide range of contemporary parliamentary issues, including the role of speakers and presiding officers, in maintaining strong democratic institutions.

The use of artificial intelligence in parliamentary functioning, the impact of social media on Members of Parliament, innovative strategies to enhance public understanding of Parliament and citizen participation beyond voting, among others, are also being discussed at the conference.

Modi said the scale of India's democracy is truly extraordinary and cited the 2024 general elections where 980 million citizens were registered to vote, a number larger than the population of some continents.

The prime minister said there were more than 8,000 candidates and over 700 political parties contesting, and the elections also witnessed record participation by women voters.

He said Indian democracy was rich in diversity with hundreds of languages being spoken. The country also has over 900 television channels across different languages, and thousands of newspapers and periodicals published.

The prime minister said very few societies manage diversity at such a scale, and India celebrates this diversity because its democracy has a strong foundation.

"India's democracy is like a large tree supported by deep roots. India has a long tradition of debate, dialogue, and collective decision-making," he said while noting that India is called the 'Mother of Democracy'.

## Fog season poses...

inputs came from local sources and the ground intelligence network is actively working.

Highlighting anti-terror operations in the region, the DIG said a large-scale search operation has been launched following credible inputs. "The information provided was very reliable and we are acting upon it, so we cannot share many details at this stage," he said, referring to the Kathua operation.

"All our police personnel and ground teams are on duty. We appeal to the public to immediately contact the police if they notice anything suspicious. Our teams are committed to the safety and security of the people and remain deployed across the area," he said.

He said that Special Operations Group (SOG) teams, ground intelligence units and personnel from all police posts have been deployed, and sustained, area-wise search operations are being carried out ahead of Republic Day.

"This is the fog season, and fog poses a major challenge for us. Conducting search operations in fog creates several difficulties, whether about drones or ground forces," Sharma told reporters.

The DIG said that search operations are continuing and any development will be shared in due course. "We have patriotic citizens who promptly inform the police whenever they notice suspicious activity," he added.

He said regular meetings are being held with the public to create awareness.

"People are repeatedly advised to inform the police immediately if they notice footprints, suspicious activity, suspicious persons or any unusual movement," Sharma said. He reiterated that SOG teams, ground intelligence units and personnel from all police posts and outposts remain deployed, with sustained, area-wise search operations underway.

## There were no...

driving change, and it begins with citizens stepping out to vote. "Change can only be brought by those who are ready to take part. And taking part does not mean that I stand as a candidate. Taking part also means that I at least come out and use my vote," the J&K chief minister added.

## Drones sighted along...

and the Ramgarh sector of Samba district, according to sources. A drone was seen near posts along the LoC in Poonch, leading the forces to implement their anti-UAS measures. Similarly, another drone was sighted along the International Border in the Ramgarh sector, sources added. Meanwhile, troops remain on high alert along the border with Pakistan.

## Shankaracharya ensured banner...

country on foot, and in a way, he played the role of a walking university, said Shah. "He didn't just travel on foot; he established India's identity, built four monasteries in the four directions, established centres of knowledge, and ensured that the banner of Sanatana Dharma fluttered high in all four directions," Shah said.

Shah said the monasteries established by Adi Shankaracharya did not merely become religious centres. Under their auspices, he divided the Vedas among them, creating a permanent place for their preservation and propagation, he said.

The Union minister said that, in his lifetime, Adi Shankaracharya addressed doubts that had arisen around Sanatan Dharma amid the rise of various philosophical schools, including Buddhism, Jainism, Kapalika, and Tantric traditions.

The scholar provided logical answers to all the questions and doubts, Shah said. "Adi Shankaracharya not only gave ideas, but also offered India a synthesis of ideas. He not only imparted knowledge, but also gave it a form; he not only presented the idea of liberation, but also paved the way to it," Shah said.

The volumes have been published by Sastu Sahitya Mudranalay Trust and edited by Gautam Patel.

## Woman who engineered...

hoisted the Pakistani flag and sang its national anthem in Srinagar, leading to fresh cases against her. Later that year, she released a video slaughtering a cow to provoke tensions after the beef ban in the then state.

In April 2018, Andrabi was arrested in Anantnag district while allegedly planning large-scale demonstrations and stone-pelting. Acting on directions from the Union Home Ministry, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took over the case and charged her with running a banned terrorist organisation, conspiring to wage war against India and seeking support from proscribed terror groups.

The special court has now convicted Andrabi and her two associates under key provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, including conspiracy and membership of a terrorist organisation, as well as under various sections of the Indian Penal Code for promoting hatred, disturbing public harmony and plotting against the nation. All three were present in court when the verdict was pronounced amid tight security. The matter will be taken up on January 17 for hearing on the quantum of sentence, which could extend to life imprisonment.

Investigators have also pointed to Andrabi's extended family links abroad. While she remained active in Kashmir, several relatives lived in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and Malaysia. One of her nephews is reported to be an officer in the Pakistan Army, while another works as an aeronautical engineer and academic in Islamabad. Her two sons have largely stayed away from public political activity; one having lived abroad for a period, and the other pursuing his education in Srinagar.

Often described as ideologically more rigid than even senior separatists, Asiya Andrabi turned women into active participants in street agitation and ideological mobilisation. With this conviction, a long chapter of organised separatist influence has reached a legal conclusion.

Finally, terror meets justice in Kashmir. Asiya Andrabi, has been convicted by a court outside the strife-torn Jammu and Kashmir. This time, the verdict was based on clear and credible evidence-unlike several earlier cases within the Union Territory where even hardened terrorists walked free due to weak prosecution. On one such occasion, a court had passed strong remarks against the prosecuting agency for failing to prove charges despite the accused being visibly involved in terror activities.

The verdict sends a clear message: sustained separatism, even when cloaked in ideology and mobilisation, will ultimately face justice when pursued with evidence and resolve. (The inputs taken from various agencies on Internet)

## Operation Sindoor not...

and national character. "Because of this approach, Operation Sindoor will be remembered in India's history not merely as a military operation but as a symbol of courage and balance," he said.

The defence minister congratulated the armed forces for the bravery displayed during the operation and reiterated that the operation remains ongoing as long as the ideology of terrorism persists.

"Operation Sindoor has not yet fully concluded. Our efforts towards peace will continue as long as the mindset of terrorism persists," he said.

Singh asserted that the terrorists could never have imagined the bravery and swift actions of the Indian Armed Forces in response to their threats.

"The situation was difficult, and there was pressure, but the restraint, unity and patience with which our soldiers executed the operation were unprecedented and praiseworthy," he said.

He said that the use of indigenous weapons during the operation underscored the fact that self-reliance is not a matter of pride but a necessity. He added that the nation has come a long way on the path of 'Aatmanirbharta', with the Armed Forces taking the lead and contributing significantly to this endeavour.

He further stressed the need to accelerate efforts to achieve the goal of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in the future. Additionally, he underscored the importance of enhancing inter-service cooperation in light of the evolving nature of warfare.

Singh highlighted that the government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is equipping the Armed Forces with indigenous, state-of-the-art weapons and platforms tailored to India's needs.

He noted that domestic defence production, which was only Rs 46,000 crore in 2014, has increased to a record Rs 1.51 lakh crore. Similarly, defence exports, which were less than Rs 1,000 crore in 2014, have surged to approximately Rs 24,000 crore.

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, Mizoram Governor General VK Singh, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Ministers Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa, South Western Army Commander Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, other senior Army officers, veterans and a large number of citizens were present in the programme.

## We are preparing...

and Shakti Baan Regiment have been raised. "This reflects the creation of an agile, responsive, and mission-oriented Army, aligned with future challenges," he said.

He said that today's parade showcased a beautiful blend of tradition and transformation.

"The Nepal Army Band reflected our strong ties, while the new units demonstrated the Army's emerging strength," he said.

"The Indian Army is fully prepared at all times for any kind of attack. We are fully prepared for future warfare. We demonstrated this in the parade. Such preparations will continue to increase in the coming days," he said, adding that the Indian Army will continue to adapt itself with time and will bring about the necessary changes.

He said that with the display of 'Made in India' equipment, the parade reflected that the foundation of transformation is self-reliance.

## J&K Govt names...

The officer has been tasked with coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the government of India, the concerned Indian embassy and consular authorities, and other relevant agencies to facilitate information sharing, coordination and necessary interventions relating to the safety, welfare, travel facilitation and related matters of students from the Union Territory.

The appointment comes amid a rapidly deteriorating security situation in Iran following widespread protests and rising fears of further escalation, prompting concerns among families of Indian students, particularly those from Kashmir.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said he spoke to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar regarding the evolving situation in Iran and was assured that all necessary steps were being taken to safeguard the interests of students from Jammu and Kashmir caught in the turmoil.

India has already advised its nationals residing in Iran to leave the country by available means and avoid any further travel there.

Meanwhile, the JKSA said Iran has reopened its airspace to civilian traffic after a temporary closure, bringing a measure of relief to anxious students and their families. The association claimed that the first evacuation flight from Tehran to Delhi is scheduled to depart on Friday.

"All students have been duly registered, the Indian embassy has collected their personal details and passports, and the first batch has been informed to remain ready by 8 am," the JKSA said in a statement.

It further said students from Golestan University, along with a few students from Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and Tehran University of Medical Sciences, are likely to be part of the first evacuation batch.

The final passenger list is expected to be shared later on Thursday once confirmed by the authorities, it said.

The JKSA said it has been in touch with several Indian students, including those from Kashmir; studying in Shiraz, Arak and other cities in Iran, many of whom have booked tickets and are expected to arrive from Friday onwards, subject to clearances from the Iranian government and the prevailing security situation.

Parents of Kashmiri students have also appealed to the Centre to ensure the safe return of their children, with several concerned families gathering at the Press Enclave in Srinagar on Wednesday to seek immediate government intervention.

## Doda Police holds Cyber awareness workshop

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: On the directions of SSP Doda, Sandeep Kumar Mehta, the Cyber Police Station Doda organized Cyber Awareness Workshop at 2nd J&K COY NCC BHADERWAH, Doda with a view to give awareness to the NCC Cadets and general public about Cyber crime. The event witnessed large numbers of NCC Cadets.



On this occasion lectures were delivered by Insp. Surinder Singh and PSI Ankush Nagra of Cyber Police Station Doda to the participants and they were made aware about the use of cyber crime portals, floating trends of fraudsters to trap common man in their tricks to loot their hard earned money by way of using various type of online cheating like E-Chalan fraud, credit card fraud, OTP, QR scan frauds, online gaming frauds, assuring loan frauds. Participants were also cautioned to keep their social media accounts secure and safe and also remain aware while chatting with unknown person on facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Twitter etc.

Mentionable here that cyber awareness programmes are being organized by J&K Police to spread the awareness of Cyber related crimes, online frauds, cheating among the general public so that common people may not get trapped in the net of fraudsters / cheaters.

## Gaurav calls on Tarun Chugh

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: BJP Spokesperson for Jammu & Kashmir and Convenor, International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta today called on BJP National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K Tarun Chugh at the party headquarters in New Delhi and held detailed discussions on a wide range of issues concerning Jammu & Kashmir and the nation.

During the meeting, Gaurav Gupta briefed the senior party leader on the prevailing political, social and developmental scenario in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

He highlighted the need for sustained focus on peace, stability and inclusive development to ensure that the benefits of central government initiatives reach every section of society.

A key point of discussion was the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) and its long-term benefits for Jammu & Kashmir as well as the country at large. Gupta said the initiative reflects the Modi government's vision of strengthening rural livelihoods, creating sustainable employment opportunities and empowering grassroots institutions. Gupta emphasised that such transformative programmes would play a crucial role in improving economic resilience, enhancing skill development and promoting self-reliance, particularly in rural and remote areas of Jammu & Kashmir. He also underlined the importance of effective implementation, transparency and community participation to maximise outcomes.

The meeting also covered other important national and regional issues, including strengthening outreach programmes, addressing public concerns, and reinforcing the BJP's commitment to constitutional values, national unity and balanced regional development.

Tarun Chugh appreciated the detailed feedback and reiterated the party leadership's continued focus on Jammu & Kashmir's progress, peace and prosperity. He said the BJP remains committed to ensuring that development, good governance and social justice remain at the core of policymaking for the Union Territory.

## IED recovered in Rajouri, defused

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI/JAMMU: Security forces on Thursday recovered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) weighing around three kilograms in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. The recovery was made during an anti-terror operation launched in Kakora village under the jurisdiction of Manjakote police station, they said. Officials said that based on specific intelligence inputs, security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Kakora village. During the operation, suspected material was recovered from a forest area, which was later examined by the Bomb Disposal Squad and found to be an IED, they said. The IED, weighing around three kilograms, was destroyed through a controlled mechanism, they added.

## Major theft, online cheating case cracked, 2 arrested

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: On 23rd Dec 2025 City Police received a zero FIR from Police Station Ashmuqam regarding the theft and cheating case involving theft of mobile and transfer of money illegally through the complainant phone. Complainant further alleged that his mobile was stolen from Gummat area of Jammu and around one lakh rupees was fraudulently transferred online through different accounts by the accused from the stolen phone. In this regard investigation in the instant case started. During investigation and perusal of record it came to fore that the accused persons transferred money illegally through the complainant's mobile to some unknown Kashmiri men in two instances of Rs 40,000 each and bought one Vivo mobile phone to the tune of ₹21000 from on Mobile Seller Shop, on the basis of technical evidence and sincere efforts of police team of Police station City Jammu led by SHO P/S City Jammu Inspector Shakti Devi assisted by PSI Inuran Hameed and PSI Kumar Vishesh under the supervision of SDPO City North Jammu and close supervision of SP City North Jammu raided various locations viz: Belicharana, Jewel Area, Gummat and successfully arrested two accused persons namely Ibrahim Hussain Rather S/O Abdul Rehman Rather R/O Dever Yatanpura Pattan Baramulla and Irshad Ahmed Dar S/O Abdul Salam Dar R/O Wanigam Kunzer Tehsil Tangnang District Baramulla and recovered one handset which was purchased by the duped money of the complainant.

## Missing woman traced, reunited with family

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: Police Station Loran has successfully traced a missing lady and ensured her safe reunion with her legal heirs after completing all required legal formalities. A missing report regarding of a woman resident of Lohil Bela, Tehsil Mandi, was entered at Police Station Loran on 01 Nov 2025, after information was received regarding her untraceable status. Acting promptly on the report, a police party of Police Station Loran initiated sustained efforts to trace the missing lady. As a result of these efforts, the missing lady was successfully traced today. After being traced, her statement was recorded in accordance with law. Upon completion of all legal formalities and due verification, Ms. Shazia Akhter was safely handed over to her legal heirs. Accordingly, the missing report has been formally closed.

## Bottlegger arrested, 5 litres of Desi liquor seized

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Police party of Police Post Sudh mahadev while on routine patrolling duty in the area of Marothi noticed a suspicious person carrying a gallon. On noticing the police party, the said person tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended. During checking, the gallon was found to contain 05 litres of illicit desi liquor. The accused has been identified as Parveen Singh S/o Kedarnath R/o Marothi, Tehsil Chenani, District Udhampur. Accordingly, FIR No. 05/2026 under Section 48(a) has been registered at Police Station Chenani and further investigation in the case has been taken up.

## Two narco smugglers nabbed with heroin, cash

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Under the overall supervision of the SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, and the direct guidance of the SP City South Dr Ajay Sharma, along with the close supervision of SDPO City East, Jammu, Jammu Police achieved a breakthrough under Operation Sanjeevani with the arrest of a drug peddler and recovery of a heroin-like substance, cash and an electronic weighing scale by Police Station Bahu Fort. During routine patrolling, a police team from Police Post Narwal, led by the Incharge Police Post Narwal and assisted by other officials, apprehended a drug peddler near Railway Pulli, Narwal. The arrested person was identified as Yasir Sheikh, S/o Mohd Ameen, R/o Basarkund, Kishtwar; at present residing near Makka Masjid, Bathindi. Upon conducting a thorough search, the police recovered 14 grams of heroin-like substance, cash amounting to Rs. 54,500/-, and one electronic weighing scale from his possession. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 22/2026 under Sections 8/21/22/27A of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Bahu Fort, Jammu. The accused has been taken into custody and further investigation is underway to ascertain backward and forward linkages. Meanwhile, A police party of Police Post Lamberi while performing naka duty at Lamberi apprehended one person during routine checking who was coming from Siot towards Lamberi. On noticing the police party, he attempted to flee from the spot but was swiftly apprehended by the alert naka team. During questioning the accused disclosed his identity as Sheraz Ahmed S/o Abdul Hamid R/o Lah Behot Thanamandi Rajouri. During his personal search 03 grams of heroin-like narcotic substance was recovered from his possession. In this regard a Case FIR No. 11/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Nowshera. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the contraband and to uncover possible forward and backward linkages with a larger drug network.

## Police attaches property of Pak-based terror handler in Poonch Car attached in Anantnag in UAPA case

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH/ANANTNAG: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday attached the immovable property of a Pakistan-based terror handler in Poonch district, officials said. The action followed court directions in connection with a case registered at Mandi Police Station. The attached property consists of 10 kanal and 14 marlas (approximately 58,261.5 square feet) of land in Mandi tehsil, with an estimated value of Rs 22.05 lakh. According to the officials, the land belongs to Abdul Aziz, a resident of Chamber Kanari. Aziz is currently operating as a terror handler in Pakistan. The officials said the accused had earlier exfiltrated to Pakistan and PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir). Since then, he has been involved in activities inimical to the security and sovereignty of India, they said. Aziz was declared a proclaimed offender by the court after he continued to evade the legal process. Despite repeated attempts by the Poonch Police to arrest him, he remained at large, leading the court to order the attachment of his property, the officials said. The attachment was carried out by the police in coordination with the Revenue Department after completing all legal formalities, including verification and documentation, they added. Meanwhile, police also attached a car under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in Anantnag district. "A car bearing registration number JK13E-5393 has been attached in connection with FIR No. 40/2025, registered at Utrasoo police station under sections 18, 20, 23, 39 of UAP Act and 7/25 of the Indian Arms Act," a police spokesman said. The attachment was carried out as part of the ongoing investigation into a case, in accordance with due legal procedures, he said.

## Bajaj General Insurance launches 'Fetal Flourish' Fetal Health Insurance Rider

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Bajaj General Insurance Limited (formerly Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited), one of India's leading private general insurers, today introduced 'Fetal Flourish', a first-of-its-kind fetal health insurance rider designed to support advanced in-utero medical care. The rider is priced at an affordable premium of ₹1,025 and is available with the company's flagship health plans "My Health Care Plan" and "Health Guard." The innovative rider addresses a long-standing gap in maternity insurance by focusing on the health and treatment of the unborn child during pregnancy, especially in high-risk cases. While traditional maternity covers largely begin at delivery, Fetal Flourish provides financial support for critical prenatal interventions such as amniocentesis, fetal reduction, fetoscopic laser surgery, and intrauterine transfusions. With a growing number of women in India conceiving after the age of 35, pregnancy-related complications have become more common. Many families are forced to bear the high cost of advanced fetal procedures due to the absence of specialised insurance coverage. Fetal Flourish aims to reduce this burden by ensuring that parents have access to necessary medical care when it matters most. Speaking on the launch, Dr. Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO, Bajaj General Insurance, said, "Pregnancy is a deeply personal journey filled with hope and anticipation. When medical complexities arise, families should be able to focus on the best treatment for their child, not on the financial strain. With Fetal Flourish, we are extending protection to the earliest stage of life by supporting essential in-utero procedures." He added that the product reflects Bajaj General Insurance's commitment to holistic healthcare coverage, ensuring that both the mother and the unborn child receive the protection they deserve. With the launch of Fetal Flourish, Bajaj General Insurance has taken a significant step toward strengthening India's maternal and fetal healthcare ecosystem by combining medical innovation with insurance support.