

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Omar calls for...

Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary and Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare, School Education and Higher Education, Sakina Itoo.

The consultative meetings were also attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary PWD Anil Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary of Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, Administrative Secretaries of Social Welfare, Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education, Public Works (Roads & Buildings), Mining, Industries & Commerce and Labour, besides senior officers of the Finance Department and other concerned officials.

During the meetings, the Chief Minister reviewed sector-wise progress, ongoing projects, budget utilisation and future requirements. He emphasised the need for realistic and outcome-oriented budgeting, ensuring that public funds are directed towards priority sectors that directly impact the lives of the people.

Directing the departments to adopt a people-centric and performance-driven approach, the Chief Minister said that the upcoming budget must focus on strengthening healthcare and education infrastructure, expanding social security coverage, improving road connectivity, promoting industrial growth and generating employment opportunities for the youth.

He stressed that departments must ensure timely completion of projects, transparency in execution and efficient service delivery. "The budget should reflect the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and must focus on inclusive growth, balanced regional development and sustainable economic progress," the Chief Minister said.

He further directed the departments to submit well-structured and need-based proposals, aligned with the government's development roadmap and fiscal discipline.

Yesterday, the Chief Minister began pre-budget discussions with nine key departments. The consultative process will conclude on January 22 with the remaining departments.

These pre-budget consultations are aimed at finalising a comprehensive, growth-oriented and people friendly budget for Jammu and Kashmir.

## Search ops intensified...

highway security by intensifying surveillance, checking and frisking.

In Kishtwar, additional troops were mobilised in Sonmar, Mandral-Singhpora and adjoining areas in the Chatroo belt to speed up the ongoing search for terrorists, which the Army has named 'Operation Trashi-I'. The operation launched on Sunday had led to a gunfight, leaving one paratrooper martyred and seven soldiers injured, primarily due to splinter injuries from a sudden grenade attack by hiding terrorists. A major terrorist hideout was busted near the encounter site on Monday and several individuals were picked up for questioning, the officials said, adding that there was no fresh contact with the terrorists. A group of two to three terrorists, allegedly affiliated with Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad, are believed to be trapped in the area, they said. Security forces are also engaged in search and combing operations at dozens of places including Rajouri, Poonch, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and Doda districts of Jammu, officials said. Meanwhile, the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel destroyed a bag with a rusty mortar shell in a controlled explosion at the Border Outpost Bundtip in Samba district, the officials added. They said the bag was seized from some labourers collecting scrap near the Basantar-Devika river confluence.

## Special train services...

of the special reserved train has been extended once again for four trips (on both sides). Passengers are requested to check the train's timetable before commencing their journey," Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said.

## Ahead of Republic...

order situation across Pulwama district. He asked the officers to maintain a people-friendly policing approach while continuing to work with dedication, professionalism and commitment to uphold the rule of law and ensure a secure environment for the residents, the spokesperson said.

## Probe ordered into...

J-K Sheikh Aijaz Bashir to inquire into the incident. The committee shall furnish its report on the matter within a period of seven days, Sharma said in another order.

## CS seeks time...

Commerce Department to prepare a clear, time-bound action plan for systematic analysis of all MSMEs across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the need for defined timelines, measurable milestones and district-wise coverage to ensure the Health Clinic delivers tangible outcomes on the ground. The Chief Secretary further stressed that timely diagnosis and intervention are critical for safeguarding employment and sustaining economic growth. He directed that implementation be closely monitored and reviewed periodically so that the MSME Health Clinic emerges as a strong institutional mechanism for enterprise revival and long-term resilience in the Union Territory. The Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh took this occasion to inform the meeting that the MSME Health Clinic is being implemented by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu, with an approved outlay of ₹30.64 crore. The initiative aims to provide structured financial and non-financial support to MSMEs through diagnostic studies, counselling, mentoring, handholding and customized turnaround solutions, thereby strengthening enterprise resilience and sustainability. He further added that the MSME Health Clinic portal was launched on July 11, 2025, and a tripartite MoU has been signed between IIM Jammu, JKTPPO and the Directorates of Industries & Commerce, Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated that under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme, Jammu and Kashmir has secured an approved outlay of Rs 74.03 crore, including Rs 66.63 crore as RAMP share and Rs 7.40 crore as UT contribution, for implementation of multiple MSME-focused interventions across the Union Territory. The MD, TPO, Sudershan Kumar elaborated that so far, 417 MSMEs have been onboarded on the portal, including 75 recoverable units, one unit prone to sickness and 340 stable units. Diagnostic study reports of two MSMEs have been completed, while online expert consultations have been conducted for recoverable units, to be followed by field visits. During the presentation, he highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir has over 8.12 lakh MSMEs, with more than 73 percent formalized through Udyam registration. Recognizing the need for proactive institutional support, the Health Clinic has been designed to identify early signs of stress and prevent viable units from slipping into sickness. It was additionally divulged that a significant progress has also been achieved in data integration, with API linkage established with the Udyam portal and Udyam data of 5.85 lakh MSMEs uploaded on the Health Clinic platform. BISAG-N will shortly initiate mass communication to MSMEs for data updation, targeted for completion by January 2026. Recruitment of professional resources for the Health Clinic is at an advanced stage and is expected to be finalized shortly. The Director, I&C Jammu, Arun Manhas while speaking apprised the meeting that the capacity building initiatives, including Management Development Programmes (MDPs) and Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programmes (ESDPs), are being implemented by JKEDI, while interventions related to GI/ODOP products and handicrafts are being executed by the Directorates of Handicrafts and Handloom.

## Prez Murmu to...

president will honour 400 workers working at the Ram temple, the trust officials said. A delegation comprising Trust general secretary Champat Rai, treasurer Govindev Giri, trustee Krishna Mohan and construction committee chairman Nripendra Mishra met the president in New Delhi on Wednesday to extend the formal invitation, they added.

## KASHMIR TERROR TRAIL...

In August 2022, the Jammu and Kashmir administration dismissed Assabab from service under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution, citing activities prejudicial to the security of the State. Authorities flagged alleged links with separatist elements, questionable foreign travel, and potential misuse of official position, raising concerns over radicalisation penetrating institutional spaces. Security analysts say the case underscores a broader pattern in which ideological indoctrination has drawn some educated women into separatist and jihad-inspired networks—often at the cost of professional careers and legal consequences. For victims of terrorism and displaced Kashmiri Pandits, Karate's continued incarceration without final conviction and the delayed judicial outcomes remain reminders of unresolved accountability, while the dismissal of a serving officer signals a tougher stance against radical influence within governance structures.

## Engineer-in-Chief...

Accounts Officer, Designs, Inspections & Control Department, J&K, Jammu, is appointed as the Presenting Officer in the aforesaid inquiry," an order reads and added, "During the pendency of the inquiry, Pankaj Gupta (Junior Assistant), Kewal Krishan (Senior Assistant), and Ashok Raina (Senior Assistant) of the Designs, Inspections & Control Department, J&K, Jammu, shall remain attached with the office of the Engineer-in-Chief till further orders."

## Rehana Batul re-designated as DG IMPARD, J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The government on Wednesday re-designated Rehana Batul, IAS (AGMUT:2010) as Director General, Institute for Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD), J&K. "Consequent upon promotion of Rehana Batul, IAS (AGMUT:2010) to the Super Time Scale (Level-14 in the Pay Matrix) by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and subsequent assumption of charge on January 1, 2026 (F.N), the officer is designated as Director General, Jammu and Kashmir Institute for Management, Public Administration and Rural Development," reads an order issued by M. Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

## Two drug peddlers arrested; contraband substance recovered

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SOPORE: Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking, Police in Sopore have apprehended two drug peddlers at a checkpoint established near the Municipal Council building, Sopore, and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

During naka checking, a battery-operated auto bearing registration number JK01BA-8171, coming from Iqbal Market towards Main Chowk, Sopore, was stopped for checking. During search, poppy straw-like substance was recovered from the possession of the auto driver and another person travelling in the vehicle.

The accused have been identified as Sabzar Ahmad Sheikh son of Ghulam Nabi Sheikh resident of Kathidarwaza Rainawari A/P Doglitang Sopore (driver), and Manzoor Ahmad Sofi @Man Dab son of Bashir Ahmad Sofi resident of Neharpora Sopore. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 19/2026 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Sopore and investigation is underway to trace the source and wider network involved.

## Machinery, vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BARAMULLA: In a joint raid conducted by Police Post Old Town in coordination with the Geology & Mining Department, Baramulla, strict action was taken against illegal mining activities at Drangbal.

During the operation, one JCB machine and two L&T machines were seized for their involvement in illegal mining activities. In addition, seven vehicles (tipper) were also seized at the spot for operating without valid documents.

All seizures were made after due verification, and legal action under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) has been initiated against the violators.

J&K Police, in coordination with the concerned departments, remains committed to curbing illegal mining and reiterates that stringent action will continue against anyone found violating the law.

## Police secures conviction in NDPS case; accused sentenced to 5 years RI

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
GANDERBAL: In a significant achievement in its sustained fight against drug menace, Police in Ganderbal have secured conviction in an NDPS case, reinforcing its commitment towards a drug-free society.

The Sessions Court Ganderbal, after appreciating the meticulous investigation and strong prosecution put forth by the police, convicted accused Abdul Gani Sheikh son of Abdul Ahad Sheikh resident of Wanihama-Bala Nagbal, Ganderbal, in case FIR No.230/2017, under section 8/20 of the NDPS Act of PS Ganderbal. The Court sentenced the convicted accused to 05 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs.25,000 underscoring the seriousness of offences related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

This conviction is the result of professional investigation, effective supervision, and coordinated efforts by the J&K Police, which ensured collection of credible evidence and its successful presentation before the court. The case was meticulously prosecuted by PP Shafat Ahmad and the arguments were put up by PP Syed Jahangir Rafeeqi which has resulted in the conviction.

## 3 bovine smuggling attempts foiled; 2 smugglers arrested, 25 bovines rescued

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA/UDHAMPUR: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police has successfully foiled two separate bovine smuggling attempts in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Ghagwal and Samba, arrested a bovine smuggler and rescued eighteen (18) bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers.

Acting on information received from reliable sources, a team of Police Station Ghagwal during vehicle checking at Naka NHW Tappal, intercepted a Truck bearing registration No. PB08BZ-9668 for its checking. During checking, twelve (12) bovines were found inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission.

The bovine smuggler identified as Shoaib Ali S/o Sharafat Ali R/o Mandi Road, Indra Chovk tehsil & district Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh) has been arrested. All the bovines have been rescued and the truck involved in the illegal transportation of bovines has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 09/2026 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.

In another incident, a team of Police Station Samba during vehicle checking at Naka Daini, signaled to stop a vehicle bearing registration No. HP71-7942 for its checking. On the seeing the Naka party, the driver stopped the vehicle few meters away from the Naka point and managed to flee away from the spot. During checking, six (06) bovines were found inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the bovines have been rescued and the vehicle involved in the illegal transportation of bovines has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 20/2026 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started.

Acting on reliable information, Police Station Chenani received specific inputs regarding illegal transportation of bovine animals on foot from the Danhass area towards Kashmir via Chenani. Upon prompt action, a police team of Police Station Chenani led by the SHO apprehended one accused namely Mohd Sadeeq S/o Saif Din R/o Mander Dursala, Tehsil Chenani who is a known bovine smuggler. The accused was found illegally transporting 07 bovine animals in a cruel and inhumane manner by beating and whipping them, without any valid permission from the competent authority. All 07 bovine animals were rescued safely and the accused was taken into custody on the spot. In this regard, FIR No. 09/2026 under Section 223 of BNS and Section 11 of the PCA has been registered at Police Station Chenani.

## Woman booked for using VPN on mobile phone

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: District Police Udhampur have booked another violator for breaching the prohibitory orders issued by the District Magistrate, Udhampur, regarding the use of VPN services within the district. The accused has been identified as Rekha Devi W/o Romesh Kumar R/o Mand East, Tehsil and District Udhampur. She has been booked vide FIR No. 13/2026 under Section 223(a) BNS at Police Station Rehambal for violating District Magistrate Udhampur Order No. DMU/JC/1872 dated 03.01.2026, which prohibits the use of VPN services in the district. During verification, her mobile number was found to be using VPN services, thereby violating the said order.

## Missing woman traced, reunited with family

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: Doda Police have successfully traced a missing lady along with her infant baby girl and reunited her with her family.

On 07.12.2025, a missing report was lodged regarding a woman resident of Bhatal, Massri Pranoo, Tehsil and District Doda, along with her infant baby girl. The missing report was entered at Police Post Bhalla vide DDR No. 18

dated 07.12.2025.

Acting promptly on the complaint, Doda Police initiated a comprehensive search operation and utilised all possible means, including technical assistance, to trace the missing lady. As a result of sustained and coordinated efforts, Sumita Devi along with her infant baby girl was successfully traced.

After completion of all required legal formalities, the lady and her child were handed over to their legal heirs. Consequently, the missing report has been closed.

## Drug peddler arrested with Chitta

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
AKHNOOR: Jammu (Rural) Police achieved a significant success in its ongoing drive against narcotics by arresting a drug peddler and recovering a chitta-like narcotic substance in the Akhnoor area.

On 21.01.2026, during routine patrolling-cum-naka checking near Old Bridge, Akhnoor, a police party led by PSI Aijaz-ul-Haq intercepted a motor-cycle bearing registration number JK02AN-5471, coming from Ambarain towards Akhnoor. Upon noticing the police naka, the rider attempted to flee but was swiftly apprehended by the alert police personnel. During a personal search, a chitta-like narcotic substance weighing approximately 5.50 grams was recovered from his possession. The accused was identified as Abhishek Jamwal, S/o Sh. Raghbir Singh, R/o Aghore Ranjan, Tehsil Bhalwal, District Jammu. The recovered contraband was seized in accordance with legal procedures in the presence of a Magistrate. Consequently, FIR No. 15/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Akhnoor.

## Immovable property of NDPS accused attached

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
ANANTNAG: Rajouri Police has attached an immovable property worth Rs 16,73,431 belonging to absconding accused under Section 68(F) of the NDPS Act. The attached property is a single storey residential house situated at Jablipora Tehsil Bijbehara District Anantnag (Kashmir) belonging to Humaira Akhter wife of Mashooq Ahmed Malik.

The accused is involved as a backward link in FIR No. 15/2025 registered under Sections 8/20/25/29 of the NDPS Act and Section 111 of BNS.

In this regard the Sessions Court Rajouri has issued an arrest warrant under Section 335 of BNS against the aforesaid accused. It is pertinent to mention that in the same case, an immovable property (residential house) worth ₹19 lakh belonging to another accused Anwar Hussain S/O Amin Shah resident of Kothhara Rajouri who has already been arrested was attached earlier on 30.09.2025. The case pertains to the recovery of 3 kg and 640 grams of Charas wherein two accused were arrested on the spot while one additional accused was arrested later as a forward link.

## Two drug peddlers arrested with heroin

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Police team of Police Station Udhampur while conducting naka checking intercepted one Car bearing registration number JK01AT-7571 coming from Jammu towards Srinagar for checking purpose.

During checking, two persons were found sitting in the vehicle who on questioning disclosed their identities as Saqib Haneed Dar S/O Abdul Hameed Dar R/O Sheikhpora, Srinagar and Faisal Lateef Rather S/O Mohd. Latief Rather R/O Hyderpora, Srinagar. During their personal search, 51.59 grams of Heroin were recovered from their possession. On being questioned about the recovered narcotic substance, both failed to give any satisfactory reply regarding its possession. In this regard, Case FIR No. 22/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Udhampur and investigation of the case has been taken up.

## Months after Chisoti cloudburst, families of missing wait for closure to perform rituals

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: For months, Rajesh Kumar and Bindiya from Punjab's Jalandhar are living between despair and acceptance, searching in Jammu for answers about their 22-year-old daughter and her friend, who went missing after a cloudburst in Kishtwar district in August last year.

Another family from Jammu has lost eight members to the tragedy. The families say they are not asking for compensation but acknowledgement -- death certificates that would allow them to perform the rituals for the dead.

As DNA reports remain pending, they say every passing day deepens the pain of not knowing whether to hold on to hope or accept the loss.

The devastating cloudburst struck Chisoti village -- the gateway to the Machail Mata temple -- on August 14, 2025, killing 65 people, mostly pilgrims, and leaving more than 30 missing.

Holding photographs of their daughter Vanshika and her friend Disha, Rajesh Kumar and Bindiya were among the several people who gathered outside the Press Club here on Wednesday, pressing for justice and answers.

"We were walking together. Our daughter and her friend went ahead of us and vanished without a trace. We are desperately waiting for some news and seeking justice," an emotional Bindiya told PTI. She accused the Jammu and Kashmir government of doing nothing for them so far. "We were called for DNA sampling in September but no report has been shared with us till date," she said. Kumar said the family made repeated efforts to trace the missing women. "We submitted affidavits to the sub-divisional magistrate for the death certificates and gave DNA samples on September 8 but till date, there is no word from the Jammu and Kashmir administration," he said.

He said they have not received any compensation either. "My daughter and her friend were MBA students and we want the government to release their death certificates so that we can perform the necessary rituals," he said. A similar account was shared by Ramesh Kumar, a resident of Resham Garh Colony in Jammu, who witnessed eight of his relatives, including two sisters, perishing in the tragedy. "We have only retrieved one body, while seven people -- three women and four children -- remain missing. We are not asking for money, we only want justice -- death certificates before the completion of the six-month period since the deaths," he said.

He said his sister and her two children -- a seven-year-old girl and a five-year-old boy -- are among the missing. He claimed that there was mismanagement from day one of the tragedy. "My friends helped me retrieve the lone body from the scene, while no one from the administration extended any support. Our parents are distressed. We want the missing to be declared dead so that we can at least perform the rituals," he said, adding, "We cannot bring back those who are gone, but we deserve a closure."



## IWDC 3.0 to chart next phase of growth for India's Inland Waterways; J&K to boost river cruise tourism by 2027

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The third meeting of the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC 3.0) will be held on January 23, 2026, at Kochi, Kerala, with the aim of reviewing achievements of the Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector and outlining a roadmap for its future growth. The day-long meeting will be chaired by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, and attended by Minister of State Shantam Thakur, along with ministers from various states. Jammu and Kashmir will be represented by Satish Sharma, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, IT, Youth Services & Sports, ARI & Training.

During the meeting, several new initiatives to strengthen inland water transport across states are expected to be launched. State Support

Agreements are also likely to be signed to enhance Centre-State collaboration for the development and execution of IWT projects. The agenda of IWDC 3.0 includes discussions on resilient urban water transport systems, efficient cargo movement, promotion of green vessels for passenger services, expansion of river cruise tourism, and adoption of digital and sustainable practices. The meeting will also review regulatory frameworks and address concerns raised by states on ongoing and proposed projects.

India has an extensive inland waterways network, with more than 145 million tonnes of cargo moved annually through waterways, offering a fuel-efficient and environment-friendly alternative to road and rail transport. Out of 111 National Waterways across 23 states and four Union Territories, 32 are currently operational for cargo and passenger movement.

## Northern Army Commander reviews security preparedness in Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Wednesday reviewed the ongoing operations and preparedness of the force in north Kashmir. "Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyChNC visited North #Kashmir to assess the operational preparedness of troops and review ongoing operations in the Rafiaband-Sopore Sector," the Army's Northern Command said in a post on X. The Army said Lt Gen Sharma held discussions with representatives of various agencies at the Joint Control Centre, stressing stronger inter-agency cooperation, rapid intelligence fusion, and synergised response mechanisms against emerging threats.

