

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Army vehicle carrying...

carrying troops for an operation slipped off the road while navigating treacherous terrain in bad weather in the general area of Doda. There are multiple casualties, including fatal. The injured have been evacuated for further treatment," White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

Modi, Rajnath, Shah...

and Kashmir: I express my heartfelt condolences to the families of the brave soldiers we have lost in this tragic incident," he said.

The Home Minister informed that the injured army soldiers are being provided with the highest level of medical care.

"The injured jawans are being provided with the highest level of medical care. I pray to God that all the soldiers recover as soon as possible," he said.

LG Sinha, in a post on X, said, "We will always remember the outstanding service and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers."

"In this moment of profound sorrow, the entire nation stands united with the bereaved families in solidarity and support," the LG said, adding he had directed the senior officials to ensure the best possible treatment.

Expressing sadness over the accident, Congress president Kharge called for strengthening road safety measures to prevent such deaths.

"My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and loved ones. The nation stands united with deep sorrow and our thoughts and prayers are with the injured for a speedy recovery.

"Several such instances have happened in the past. There is an urgent need to strengthen road infrastructure, improve mobility in difficult terrain, and road-safety measures to prevent such heartbreaking losses," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, has expressed profound shock and deep sorrow over the tragic accident.

In his condolence message, the Lt Governor said that the nation has lost courageous soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for strength and courage for them to bear this irreparable loss. He also wished a speedy and complete recovery for the injured personnel.

Kavinder Gupta stated that the supreme sacrifice of the fallen Jawans will always be remembered with reverence and gratitude.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed deep grief over the tragic accident involving an Army vehicle at Khanitop on the Bhaderwah-Chamba road.

He conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of the soldiers who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery to those injured, lauding the swift rescue and evacuation efforts.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party Azad said, "My deepest condolences to the bereaved families, and I pray for the swift recovery of those injured."

Army's Northern Commander said the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen Pratik Sharma and all ranks of the Command salute the bravehearts and express heartfelt condolences on the untimely demise of soldiers who lost their lives in the unfortunate vehicle accident.

"Northern Command fraternity stands in solidarity with the bereaved families and wishes speedy recovery to those injured in the accident," it said in a post on X.

Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson and Convener of International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta, expressed deep sorrow over the tragic army vehicle accident.

In a heartfelt statement following the accident, Gupta said he was deeply grieved by the loss of brave soldiers in the unfortunate incident. He offered his condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for strength for their loved ones during this difficult time. Gupta also prayed for speedy recovery of the injured personnel.

Describing the sacrifice of the soldiers as a moment of immense sadness for the nation, Gupta reaffirmed the BJP's support to the affected families and emphasised that their service to the country will always be remembered with honour.

Vishal Chopra, National Chairman of the National Anti Terrorism Front (NATF), expressed deep grief over the tragic road accident at Khani Top in Bhaderwah.

Describing the incident as a "monumental loss for the nation," Chopra extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the martyrs.

BJP spokesperson and Convener of International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta also expressed deep sorrow over the tragic army vehicle accident in Doda. In a heartfelt statement following the accident, Gupta said he was deeply grieved by the loss of brave soldiers in the unfortunate incident. He offered his condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for strength for their loved ones during this difficult time.

CS calls for...

offenders involved in rash driving and non-compliance with traffic rules.

The Chief Secretary also took stock of the road accident scenario in Jammu and Kashmir based on data available on the i-RAD portal. He reviewed accident trends with respect to time of day, monthly patterns, district-wise distribution, classification of roads, and the nature of traffic violations leading to such mishaps.

During the meeting, road construction agencies including PWD, NHAI, NHID-CL, BRO and SAMPARK were asked to brief the meeting on steps taken for removal of identified black spots in accordance with the Black Spot Protocol. The Chief Secretary also reviewed measures related to traffic calming, installation of safety signage, and fitting of speed-limiting devices in school buses to ensure student safety.

Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa made a detailed presentation on the functioning of the i-RAD and e-DAR portals in the Union Territory. She informed that since the operationalisation of the i-RAD portal in June 2022, a total of 20,135 road accidents involving 32,819 persons have been reported in J&K. These accidents resulted in 3,688 fatalities and 29,131 grievous or minor injuries too.

It was further informed that the majority of accidents occur on major highways, particularly in the districts of Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur and Rajouri. Data analysis revealed that most accidents took place between 3:00 pm and 9:00 pm, with rash driving and over-speeding accounting for nearly 50 percent of road mishaps reported during 2025.

The Transport Department also shared enforcement statistics, stating that 40,197 challans were issued in 2024 and 52,543 challans in 2025, amounting to fines of Rs 10.15 Cr and Rs 15.88 Cr respectively. Major violations included non-wearing of helmets, driving without seat belts, use of mobile phone while driving, over-speeding, and jumping of red lights. In 2025 alone, 1,528 vehicles were seized, 1,641 driving licences suspended, 10,439 vehicles blacklisted, 1,192 registration certificates cancelled, and 300 route permits revoked.

In this meeting the IGP Traffic, M. Suleman apprised about the functioning of surveillance cameras installed under the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) and traffic signal cameras under the Intelligent Light Traffic System (ILTS) at major junctions in Jammu and Srinagar.

He informed that the Traffic Police enforced 12,36,380 e-challans in 2023, 15,03,901 in 2024 and 14,92,591 in 2025, imposing fines of Rs 85.16 Cr, Rs 120.09 Cr and Rs 145.12 Cr respectively. He further added that 15,947 vehicles were seized during 2025 for various violations of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the Road Accident Victim Fund, establishment of trauma care facilities along highways, and the functioning of the Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) at Kot Bhalwal and the Inspection and Certification Centre (ICC) at Samba. The performance of the District Infrastructure Quality Control (DIQC) mechanism in conducting road safety audits across districts was also assessed.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment to reducing road accidents through coordinated enforcement, engineering solutions, public awareness, and strict adherence to judicial and statutory road safety norms for saving the precious lives of the people here in J&K.

Search operation intensified...

Sunday, leading to a gunfight that left one paratrooper dead and seven other soldiers injured.

The terrorists fled deep inside the forest after several hours of gunfight on Sunday taking advantage of thick vegetation and challenging terrain. However, the forces continued their hunt and finally tracked them hiding in a wooden structure at Mali Dana top this morning, the officials said.

They said a heavy exchange of fire between the two sides continued for hours.

The firing has stopped and a search operation is underway when last reports were received, the officials said. Earlier, a major terrorist hideout was unearthed near the scene of the first encounter on Monday while several individuals were picked up for questioning. A group of three terrorists affiliated with the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) are believed to be trapped in the area, the officials said.

They said the police assisted by security forces conducted a thorough search operation in Sumah area of Akhnोर sector in Jammu after a village defence guard reported suspicious movement in the early hours of the day.

However, there was no trace of the suspected persons, the officials said.

Search operations were also carried out at dozens of places in Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, Udhampur and Samba districts during the day, they said.

Security forces are on high alert across Jammu region in view of the Republic Day to ensure peaceful celebrations and thwart any attempt by the terrorists to disturb peace in the region.

Budget proposals must...

concerned departments, senior officers of finance department and other concerned departments attended the meeting. During the deliberations, the Chief Minister reviewed sector-wise proposals, ongoing projects, and emerging challenges, while seeking focused inputs aimed at strengthening service delivery and development outcomes. "Budgetary allocations must move beyond routine exercises and should firmly be rooted in practicality, efficiency and measurable impact on the ground", he asserted. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah underscored the need for realistic planning, stating that proposals included in the budget should be implementable within defined timelines and capable of delivering tangible benefits to people. "Budgetary proposals should be practicable which can actually be translated on ground", he said. The Chief Minister also called for convergence among departments to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure optimal utilisation of resources.

Highlighting the importance of sectors like water supply, agriculture, rural livelihoods and environmental conservation, the Chief Minister directed officials to prioritise initiatives that enhance service delivery, improve infrastructure, generate employment and directly address the needs of farmers and rural communities.

He further emphasised on accountability and outcome-based budgeting, instructing departments to align their proposals with clear performance indicators.

Pertinently, the pre-budget consultations are part of the Government's broader effort to craft a people-centric and development-oriented budget.

First full goods...

logistics capacity and is set to improve the availability of essential commodities for traders and the general public," he said.

In the coming times, he said, the operation of FCI food grain trains by the railways will play a major role in providing a strong foundation for the economy.

"Such successful initiatives will boost the grain supply chain and the distribution network in the valley," Singhal said.

Public Relations Inspector, Jammu Division, Raghvender Singh said a food grain goods train of the FCI with 21 BCN wagons had earlier reached Anantnag Goods Terminal on December 21 from Ajitwal Goods Shed of the Firozpur division. It carried approximately 1384 tons of weight, he said. Strengthening this food supply chain further, he said, a full rake of rice, weighing 2768 tons, was loaded from Sangrur Goods Shed of the Ambala division on January 21, reaching its destination within 24 hours without any hindrance and in much less time compared to road transport. He said the railways and the FCI have jointly initiated this food grain goods train service for Kashmir.

Unity in diversity...

barriers of caste, creed, and colour.

Cautioning against the growing tendencies of hatred, he said such forces have already created divisions within society and stressed the urgent need to bridge these divides. "We must pledge to ensure a life of dignity for every individual... Unity in diversity must continue to be India's guiding principle if the country is to realise its aspiration of becoming a global power," he said. Reiterating his appeal for peace and calm, Abdullah said maintaining harmony has been the proud and glorious tradition of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Jammu region. He asserted that any attempts to undermine this ethos must be firmly rejected and isolated.

Jaishankar to EU...

"Look forward to the visit of @eucopresident Antonio Costa and European Commission President @vonderleyen to India for Republic Day celebrations," Jaishankar said. The two sides are set to announce the conclusion of negotiations on the much-awaited free trade agreement at the summit. The European Union is India's biggest trade partner with bilateral trade in goods recording USD 135 billion in the financial year 2023-24. The free trade agreement is expected to significantly enhance trade ties. The proposed agreement is expected to bring a qualitative change in deepening the overall bilateral ties in a range of sectors as well at a time the world is witnessing trade disruptions in view of Washington's tariff policy.

Gulmarg, other areas...

including Srinagar:

Trees have been uprooted at many places, while electricity was snapped in such areas as a precautionary measure, the officials said.

The Meteorological Department had said widespread light to moderate rainfall/snowfall is expected, including in the plains of the valley, with heavy falls at a few places.

It said the main activity of the weather system would occur on Friday as another western disturbance is expected to affect the region on January 26.

DGP reviews security...

District Awantipora. Prabhat stressed the need for heightened alertness, fool-proof security planning, intensified area domination, and strong intelligence-based operations to ensure peaceful and incident-free Republic Day celebrations, a spokesperson said. Addressing the officers, the DGP issued clear directions to deal firmly and decisively with anti-national elements posing threats to public safety, peace, and tranquillity. The J-K police chief reiterated zero tolerance towards activities inimical to national security and emphasised the importance of sustained and focused operations against such elements.

We're fully prepared for multiple actions to dominate escalation ladder: Army Chief on Op Sindoor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A "three-dimensional chess" was being played during Operation Sindoor, when the Indian forces were fully prepared for multiple actions to "dominate" the complete escalation ladder, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said on Thursday. In his address at the launch of the book, 'Redlines Redrawn - Operation Sindoor and India's New Normal' here, he also said the information domain saw a "series of coordinated actions, well planned and put into place, even before the first weapon was fired.

"Op Sindoor"... was given to me, if I remember, on 29th or 30th of April. But it was not put out in the media", he added, without elaborating.

"And as you are aware that the tweet -- 'Justice is served' had huge record hits on Twitter (now X). Today as we speak, it's nearly 23 million. The IW (info-warfare) was credible, consistent, and to a plan, which was unveiled in a sequential manner," the General said.

Operation Sindoor was carried out by the Indian armed forces in the early hours of May 7 last year, eliminating at least 100 terrorists in response to the horrific Pahalgam terror attack of April that killed 26 innocent civilians.

"#PahalgamTerrorAttack Justice is Served. Jai Hind!" the Indian Army had posted on X at 1:51 am on May 7, shortly after the operation was launched.

At the event, referring to the operation, he said, in the military domain, "we all know of the actions and reactions on both sides".

"A three-dimensional chess was being played, where we had war-gamed our actions in-house with our red teams, and were fully prepared for multiple actions to dominate the complete escalation ladder," the Army chief said.

Operation Sindoor also showed that the jointness is "no longer something we aspire" to do in seminars or discussions, he underlined.

"It is something we practised under pressure and we came out as a successful synergistic organisation," the General said.

He said tactical ups and downs would happen during the conduct. However, a "wholesome positive end-state based on initial aims is what segregates a very successful mission from a not-so-successful one. And I can say proudly, Op Sindoor was the most successful operation", the General added.

The Army chief further said the "old assumption" that India requires a "long time for decision-making", as also a long drawn mobilisation cycle to synchronise force application, was "quietly etched out of the window".

"And one could say that the adversary discovered that India's decision-making loop has become shorter, while there's become longer and incoherent," he added.

Amway India launches Nutrilite Biotin C Plus

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In today's world of late nights, high stress, and nutrient-depleted diets, even the healthiest hair, skin and nails can lose their vitality. As consumers increasingly embrace beauty-from-within solutions, Amway India, one of the leading companies supporting health and wellbeing, has launched Nutrilite™ Biotin C Plus (with Zinc & Beta Carotene)-a scientifically formulated nutraceutical that contains ingredients to support healthy hair, skin and nails from within. Positioned as a 'beyond biotin' formulation, the product goes beyond single-ingredient supplements by delivering 100% of the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) of three essential nutrients, Biotin, Vitamin C and Zinc, along with Beta Carotene, reinforcing Amway's focus on science-backed nutrition and plant-forward wellness.

Illegal timber smuggling busted; huge quantity of forest timber recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: Acting swiftly on specific and credible inputs received from reliable sources, Police in Ganderbal have successfully unearthed a case of illegal timber smuggling at Poshkar Kangan.

The information revealed that one individual, namely Intiaz Ahmad Banya son of Husain Banya resident of Poshkar, Kangan, had illegally smuggled forest timber from a nearby forest area and clandestinely dumped the same in the courtyard of his residential premises at Poshkar, Kangan.

Taking cognizance of the matter, Police Station Kangan registered a case vide FIR No. 06/2026 under relevant sections of law and investigation was initiated. A special police team conducted a search operation which led to the recovery of a huge quantity of illegally acquired forest timber from the courtyard of the accused. The recovered timber has been seized as per legal procedure and the accused was apprehended and taken into the police custody. Further investigation in the case is under way to ascertain the source, involvement of other persons, and to identify the entire nexus behind the illegal timber smuggling.

Drug peddler arrested; contraband substance recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: In its continued crackdown against drug menace, Police in Pulwama achieved a major success during routine naka checking at Circular Road near Tahab Crossing.

During the checking, a person carrying a nylon bag was intercepted by the Naka Party of Police Station Pulwama. During search, contraband substance including Charas-Chura like substance weighing 1.760 kilograms and Charas powder-like substance weighing 475 grams was recovered from his possession. The accused has been identified as Intiyaz Ahmad Chat son of Ghulam Nabi resident of Dangerpora, A/P Rangmullah, who was instantly arrested.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 12/2026 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pulwama, and investigation has been taken up to trace the source and forward/backward linkages of the seized contraband.

830 litres of illegal kerosene oil, 25 quintals of rice seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: Acting on specific information regarding the illegal sale of subsidised kerosene oil in the black market at the Pratapbora area of Shopian, a police party from Police Station Shopian conducted a search at the shop of Shabir Ahmad Sheikh resident of Partabpora. During the search, 253 litres of kerosene oil were recovered and seized accordingly. The accused has been arrested and further investigation has been set into motion.

In a separate action, a police party from Police Station Shopian conducted a raid at the shop of Shabir Ahmad Ganie resident of Heepora Batagund. During search, police recovered and seized 577 litres of kerosene oil along with 50 bags of rice (25 quintals) from his shop. The accused has been arrested and investigation has been initiated.

Subsequently, cases under relevant provisions of law have been registered at Police Station Shopian.

Preliminary investigation reveals that both accused persons were involved in the illegal sale of subsidised kerosene oil in the black market. The source of procurement of the subsidised kerosene oil is being investigated and officials, if found involved in facilitating the black marketing, shall be dealt with strictly as per law.

Tractor trolley laden with firewood seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Ms. Mohita Sharma IPS seized 01Tractor alongwith Trolley laden with firewood in the jurisdictional area of PP Nagri which was allegedly being smuggled from the concerned area respectively.

On 22/01/2026 the police team of PP Nagri led by PSI Ravinder Thakur under the close supervision of Addl. SP Kathua Sh. Rahul Charak JKPS & DySP Hqrs Kathua Sh. Ravinder Thakur during naka checking intercepted one tractor along-with trolley enroute from Palli Morh towards Nagri which was driven by unknown person who while seeing naka party was managed to flee away from the spot while leaving the vehicle behind. Accordingly the vehicle along with firewood was seized and later on handed over to officials of Forest Department,accordingly.

Drug peddler arrested with 10 grams heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers & peddlers, Samba Police has arrested a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur and recovered approximately 10 grams heroin like substance from his possession.

A Police team of Police Station Vijaypur during special Naka at Rakh Barotain road near AITMS residence complex Vijaypur, intercepted a pedestrian who was moving under suspicious circumstances. During frisking, approximately 10 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from the possession of said person.

The drug peddler identified as Anuj Kumar S/o Suresh Kumar R/o Daroi Daboh Tehsil & District Samba has been arrested and the contraband item has also been seized. A case FIR No 16/2026 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Vijaypur and investigation started.

Missing woman traced, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BILLAWAR: Kathua Police under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Ms. Mohita Sharma IPS traced out one missing lady and handed over to her legal heirs in the jurisdictional area of PS Billawar.

On 06-01-2026 one Person R/O Dhardugnoo Tehsil Billawar District came at this P/S and lodged a written complaint regarding missing of his wife. On receiving a complaint a missing report was entered at this P/S Billawar vide GD No.16 dated 06-01-2026 and a team of P/S Billawar led by SHO Billawar Insp Zaheer Mushtaq under the supervision of SDPO Billawar Sh Neeraj Padyar searched various places and with the help of technical assistance along with timely human intervention recovered the missing lady. After completing all legal formalities the said missing lady handed over to her legal heirs. Moreover the missing report stands closed.

SC issues notice to Delhi Govt on plea of LeT terrorist against death penalty in Red Fort case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to hear the curative plea of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Mohammad Arif against the death penalty given to him in the 2000 Red Fort attack case that left three Army jawans dead.

The top court had on November 3, 2022 dismissed the review plea of Arif in the case.

Arif alias Ashfaq was awarded the death sentence by a trial court in October 2005 and the Delhi High Court had affirmed the view of the trial court in September 2007. He had then approached the apex court challenging the high court's verdict. The top court had in August 2011 affirmed the death sentence awarded to Arif.

On Thursday, a special bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Vikram Nath and JK Maheshwari took note of the submissions of the counsel which cited apex court judgements after the death sentence was upheld by dismissing the appeal and the review petition. "Issue notice," the CJ said. Curative petition is the last legal recourse available to a litigant to assail the verdict which has been upheld twice by the apex court itself by dismissing the appeal and the review petition. According to the prosecution, on the night of December 22, 2000, some intruders had entered the area where the unit of 7 Rajputana Rifles of the Indian Army was stationed inside the Red Fort here and opened fire. Three Army jawans were killed in the incident.

‘Vande Mataram’ celebrations; cleanliness drive held at GDC Kastigarh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Government Dy. SP Aman Thakur Memorial Degree College, Kastigarh organized a cleanliness drive to mark 150 years of "Vande Mataram." The initiative promoted hygiene, environmental responsibility and patriotism among students.

A large number of students actively participated in the drive, cleaning the College campus and surrounding areas reflecting the spirit of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Principal Prof. Koshal Kumar Mangotra emphasized cleanliness as vital for public health, dignity of labour and civic responsibility.

Supervised by Dr. Anupam Lata, the event concluded with a pledge to maintain cleanliness, inspiring students to contribute towards a clean, healthy and progressive India.