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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 Omar joins tourists to ski down Gulmarg's slopes

03 Railway to run special reserved trains between Katra and Srinagar next week

09 LG Kavinder calls for sustainable, inclusive development in Ladakh

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India a messenger of peace in conflict ridden world: Prez Murmu

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Amidst geopolitical tensions escalating across multiple continents, President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said India is spreading the message of peace in the world which is crucial to secure the future of humanity.

In her address to the nation on the eve of 77th Republic Day, she spoke about various issues including Operation Sindoor and women empowerment, and also touched upon the topics of Vande Mataram and growing economy of the country.

President Murmu outlined India's position as a "messenger" of peace while reinforcing ancient civilisational commitment to universal harmony.

"In our tradition, we have been offering prayers for peace to prevail in the entire universe. The future of humanity can remain secure only if there is peace in the



Shun allurements, prejudice; employ wisdom while casting votes: Murmu

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said she hoped that Indians would exercise their right to vote by employing wisdom and shunning allurements, prejudice and misinformation to strengthen the country's electoral system.

She also lauded women voters for coming out in large numbers to exercise their franchise during elections.

Addressing a 16th National Voters' Day event held here, Murmu asserted that while the right to vote is important, it is also imperative that all citizens exercise it by keeping in mind their constitutional duties.

For the last 16 years, the foundation day of the Election Commission (EC) has been celebrated as the National Voters' Day. On November 26, 1949, when

whole world.
"In an atmosphere marked by conflicts in many parts of the world, India is spreading the message of peace," she said.

During her speech, the President also underscored a firm commitment to national security by highlighting the recent success of Operation Sindoor, a precision strike that dismantled terror infrastructure across the border.

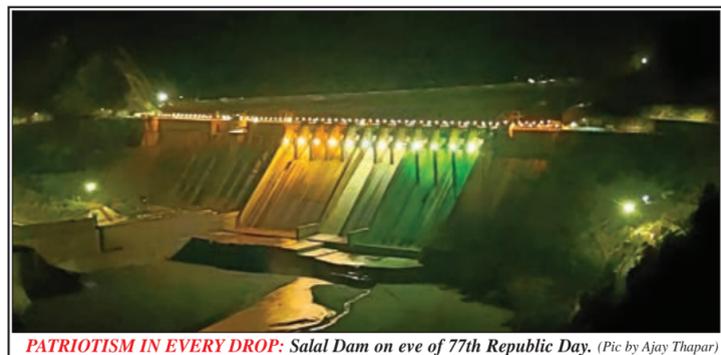
"Last year, our country launched precision strikes against terror infrastructure...terror centres were destroyed, and many terrorists met their end," she said, highlighting country's "self-reliance" in the field of defence that powered the historic success of Operation Sindoor.

Reflecting on the strength of the Armed Forces, the President recalled personal visits to the Siachen Base Camp and sorties in

Ashoka Chakra for space hero Shubhanshu Shukla; Shaurya Chakra for 2 women Navy officers

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who created history by becoming the first Indian to set foot on the International Space Station (ISS), was on Sunday awarded the Ashoka Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award. In June last year, Shukla became

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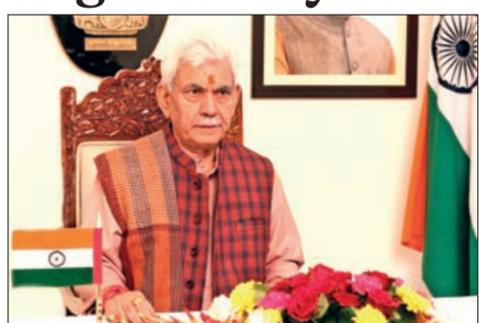


PATRIOTISM IN EVERY DROP: Salal Dam on eve of 77th Republic Day. (Pic by Ajay Thapar)

Future ready infrastructure, new growth engines key for J&K: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday extended his heartfelt greetings and sincere good wishes to every citizen of UT of Jammu & Kashmir on the auspicious and momentous occasion of the 77th Republic Day.

"I convey my heartfelt greetings and sincere good wishes to every citizen of UT of Jammu & Kashmir" the Lieutenant Governor said in



a message, adding, "I bow in reverence to the visionary architects of our Republic, whose exceptional wisdom, courage, and sacrifice won us freedom and gifted us a constitution rooted in the timeless ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. These enduring principles and values uphold our ethos and reinforce the democratic and socialist ideals that define our nation."

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J&K's Brij Lal Bhat & Prof Shafi Shauq among 113 get Padma awards

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Brij Lal Bhat, a social worker from the Kashmiri Pandit community who was named a recipient of the Padma Shri award in the 'unsung heroes' category on Sunday, said that clear rays of positivity were visible on the ground after decades of bloodshed in Kashmir.

He stressed that a comprehensive policy was needed for the return of his community to the Valley.

Bhat, a former bureaucrat,

expressed confidence that with a balanced policy and continued efforts, Kashmir can restore its old glory as a symbol of harmony and co-existence. "I have served in Kashmir, and I have witnessed the period of peak militancy and terrorism. I was a witness to the



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Proud Moment for JK Public School Kunjwani JKIIAN Swapnila Acharya becomes youngest-ever commentator at Republic Day Parade 2026 on Kartavya Path

VIVEK SHARMA
JAMMU: JK Public School Kunjwani has yet another moment of pride as Swapnila Acharya (21), an alumna of JK Public School, creates history by becoming the youngest-ever commentator for the Republic Day Parade-2026 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

A graduate student and a JKIIAN, Swapnila will deliver live commentary during the nation's most prestigious ceremonial event, where President, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, will take the salute.



The occasion will be graced by the Prime Minister of India, visiting dignitaries including the President of the European Union and the European Council, along with the Vice President, Chief of Defence Staff, Chief

of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, and Chief of Air Staff, all present on the dais.

Swapnila studied at JK Public School, Kunjwani, Jammu from 2010 to 2022, alongside her twin brother Swapnil Acharya. The siblings consistently brought laurels to their school and to Jammu & Kashmir. Among their notable achievements, both were selected as Young Scientists of India under the YUVIKA programme, an initiative inspired by the Prime Minister's vision and conducted by ISRO.

Raj Daluja, Chairman, JK

Public School, congratulated Swapnila Acharya on her historic achievement and said that her success reflects the ethos and values of JK Public School. He expressed immense pride that an alumna of the institution has earned such national recognition at a young age.

"Swapnila's journey from the classrooms of JK Public School, Kunjwani to the prestigious Kartavya Path at New Delhi is truly inspiring. Her achievement is a testimony to her dedication, discipline, and the holistic

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SC seeks J&K Govt's reply over delay in trial of murder accused jailed for 7 years

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has expressed displeasure that an undertrial prisoner, arrested on a murder charge, has been lodged in jail in Jammu and Kashmir for seven years and questioned the delay in the trial.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan noted that only four prosecution witnesses out of 19 have been examined till now and sought an explanation from the J-K government and the trial court concerned on why the trial was pending

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Jammu resident held for links with Pak-based terrorist Shahzad Bhatti

STATE TIMES NEWS
CHANDIGARH: A Jammu resident has been arrested for his alleged links with Pakistan-based terrorist Shahzad Bhatti, the Punjab Police said on Sunday.

The accused, identified as Raman Kumar alias Golu, has been apprehended by State Special Operation Cell of the Punjab Police.

In a major breakthrough against Pakistan-backed terror network, Station Operation Cell, SAS Nagar apprehended Raman Kumar alias Golu, a resident of Jammu, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said in a post on X.

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56 from J&K get State Award on R-Day 2026

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Government on Sunday announced the conferment of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Awards, 2026. These awards are conferred each year on the eve of Republic Day in recognition of contributions made by outstanding achievers in different fields viz: Achievements in the field of Literature, performing Art, excellence in Art & Crafts, Social Reforms and Empowerment, Meritorious Public Service, Lifetime Achievement in any other field, Award for Outstanding Sports Persons, Outstanding Media Persons and Outstanding Industrial Entrepreneurship.

According to the order issued by M. Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department, this year, the government has conferred the award in the category of bravery to Adil Hussain Shah (Posthumously), son of Syed Hyder Shah, resident of Hapatnar, Pahalgam and Nikhil Kumar (PSI), son of Joginder Pal, resident of Swarn Nagar, Greater Kailash, Jammu

In the field of Literature, the Jammu and Kashmir Government Award, 2026 have been conferred on Yashpaul Nirmal (Dogri Litterateur), Ch. Hassan Parwaz (Gojri Litterateur), Parwaiz Manoos (Pahari Litterateur), Fayaz Dilbar (Poet) (Posthumously), Kewal Krishan Sharma (Writer/Poet), and Rattan Lal Sharma (Writer/Editor & Translator).

Tanya Dev Gupta (Singer), 2. Anil Tiekoo (Actor), Dr. Ayash Arif (Actor/Director), Abdul Hamid Bhat (Rabab Artist), Raman Singh Slathia (Dogri Folk Singer), Sunil Sharma (Singer/Music Director), Ajay Kumar Sharma (Theatre), Sudesh K. Verma (Producer/Director), and Neeraj Verma (Tabla Artist) have been conferred

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Justice a living institution that must balance continuity with change: CJI

STATE TIMES NEWS
PANAJI: Justice is a "living institution" that must balance continuity with change, and law should neither resist transformation nor embrace novelty without reflection, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said on Sunday.

The law that refuses to engage with change does not remain pure, while the law that embraces every novelty without reflection also risks losing its moral centre, he said.

Legal Conference here, the CJI asserted that every legal system is an inheritance received by centuries of



struggle, debate, compromise, and moral courage. The question that will always be is how justice can remain faithful to itself in a world that refuses to stand

still, he asserted. "It is this shared enquiry that leads me to the theme of justice as a living institution saved by time, tested by change and sustained by the collective discipline of those who serve it," he said. "Every legal system is an inheritance and none of us gathered here today invented the courts we are practising in, the procedure we rely upon or the principles we invoke with such familiarity. We all received them by centuries of struggle,"

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices of STATE TIMES group of publications will remain closed on Monday (January 26, 2026) in connection with Republic Day celebrations. Therefore, there will be no issue of your newspaper on Tuesday (January 27, 2026).

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 20.9°C Min: 7.1°C

Humidity
Max: 81 Min: 66

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 5.3°C Min: -1.6°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 75

Sunset : 17:56 Hours
Sunrise : 07:30 Hours

J&K Police gets 52 Medals in Republic Day 2026, 33 awarded for Gallantry

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir 52 medals including 33 got Medal for Gallantry (GM), two received President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) and 17 got Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) in Republic day 2026.

The highest number of Gallantry Medals has gone to personnel of J&K Police, followed by members of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), who majorly engaged in the anti-Naxal operations and the Border Security Force (BSF), guarding India's sensitive frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh.



IG Sujit Kumar
Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySPs) Himat Singh, DySP Champa Devi Sharma, DySP Khushwant Singh, DySP Gurmeet Singh; Inspector Anil Sharma, Inspector Reyaz Ahmad Langoo, Inspector Sardar Singh, Inspector Neeraj Kumar Koul, Inspector Mushtaq Ahmad

IG Vivek Gupta
Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Sham Lal, ASI Balwinder Singh Bali; Head Constable Gopal Singh; Constable Tawheed Ahmad Thoker and Constable Shubh Kumar.

IG Mohd Suleman Choudhary
Sujit Kumar, IPS (2007 batch, AGMUT cadre), presently serving as Inspector General of Police (IGP) Security, Jammu & Kashmir, has taken charge of one of the most sensitive and significant positions in the Union Territory, drawing upon nearly two decades of rich experience in field policing, counter-terrorism, and internal security.

DIG Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughal
A native of Patna, Bihar, Sujit Kumar is son of Bhagwan Singh. He is an alumnus of Hindu College, Delhi University, where he completed his graduation in History (Honours), and later pursued his post-graduation in Rural Management from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). His academic background reflects a strong foundation in social sciences and public administration.

SP Mohan Lal Sharma
During his distinguished career, Sujit Kumar has held several challenging assignments across Jammu & Kashmir and on central deputation. He began his professional journey with probation at Baramulla and later served as SDPO Mahor, a remote and terrorism-affected subdivision of Reasi district. He went on to serve as Zonal SP South Srinagar,

Additional SP Budgam, and SP Traffic Rural Jammu, where he was also given the additional charge of Jammu city traffic management. He has also served as District Superintendent of Police in strategically important districts including Kargil and Reasi, contributing significantly to maintaining law and order in sensitive border and mountainous regions. On central deputation, he served as Assistant Inspector General (AIG) in the Special Protection Group (SPG) and later as Commandant of 18 and 26 Battalions of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in Naxal-affected areas of Jharkhand, gaining valuable experience in anti-insurgency operations. At the senior leadership level, Sujit Kumar

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