

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Maharashtra Dy CM...

having finally received a clearance it did not give any read-back' to the ATC, and moments later burst into flames on the edge of the runway.

In aviation parlance, a go-around is a standard procedure where a pilot discontinues a landing attempt and initiates a climb to fly another approach. It is used when a landing cannot be completed safely due to factors like poor weather, an unstable approach, or traffic on the runway. It is a proactive safety measure rather than an emergency.

A readback is a crucial safety procedure where a pilot repeats back the essential parts of a message or instruction received from Air Traffic Control (ATC). It acts as a "closed-loop" communication system, ensuring that the controller's instructions were heard and understood correctly by the flight crew.

The 16-year-old chartered aircraft, operated by VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd, crashed while attempting a second landing approach at Baramati airport which is an uncontrolled airfield where traffic information is typically provided by instructors and pilots from local flying training organisations.

V K Singh, owner of VSR Ventures, said the pilot apparently could not see the runway and carried out a "missed approach", a standardised procedure in such cases.

Terrifying eyewitness accounts have emerged from the site of the aircraft crash as residents near the Baramati airport described a scene of chaos as the plane appeared to lose control before erupting into a series of big explosions.

An eyewitness described watching the aircraft circle the airport, noting it appeared 'a bit unstable' before its final approach. According to her, the plane 'hit the ground hard and exploded' upon impact, with the blast being heard in homes throughout the area.

Later, the Civil Aviation Ministry, quoting the person manning the Air Traffic Control at Baramati, issued a statement about the sequence of events indicating that the flight encountered visibility issues during its landing attempt despite reports of calm weather.

The statement said that at 8.18 am, the aircraft first established contact with Baramati air traffic control after being released by the Pune approach at 30 nautical miles (around 55 km) inbound to Baramati.

The crew was advised to descend at their discretion under Visual Meteorological conditions and was also informed that winds were calm and visibility was approximately 3,000 metres.

Upon reaching the final approach for the runway, the crew reported that the runway was not in sight and initiated a go-around to reposition for a second attempt on the runway.

After initially stating the runway was still not visible, the crew reported "runway in sight" just seconds later and the ATC cleared the aircraft to land at 8.43 am.

However, the crew did not provide the mandatory readback of this final clearance and at 8.44 am, exactly one minute after the last communication, ATC personnel observed flames erupting near the threshold of the runway.

Emergency services reached the scene immediately following the explosion and the wreckage was located on the left side of the runway.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is currently analysing why the crew struggled to maintain visual contact with the runway despite the reported 3,000-metre visibility.

According to eyewitnesses, the force of the explosion was so great that parts of the aircraft were hurled through the air, landing near residential structures. "The plane tilted before coming down. We saw the explosion and it was frightening," an eyewitness said.

Another eyewitness reported that the aircraft appeared to be losing control from an altitude of approximately 100 feet above the runway.

"The way the plane was coming down, we felt it was going to crash... As we rushed towards it, we saw flames, followed by four to five consecutive blasts, which prevented us from going anywhere near the aircraft".

Pramod Madurikar, a witness at the scene, said the victims were identified shortly after the crash and were shifted to ambulances. Fire brigade personnel reached the spot shortly.

The aircraft was trying to land amid poor visibility, Civil Aviation Minister K Ramnathan Naidu told reporters in Pune.

VSR Ventures' fleet includes seven Learjet 45 aircraft (including the one involved in the crash), five Embraer 135BJ aircraft, four King Air B200 aircraft and one Pilatus PC-12 aircraft, the statement said.

Superintendent of Police, Sandip Singh Gill, said that after the crash, there was a fire. "People onboard were immediately taken to the hospital," he said.

Ajit Pawar is survived by wife Sunetra, a member of the Rajya Sabha and two sons, Parth and Jay.

His Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) had contested the recent municipal corporation elections in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad in alliance with his uncle Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP).

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and several other leaders expressed grief over Pawar's demise.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who reached Baramati and met Ajit Pawar's family members, described the NCP leader's tragic death as unbelievable, and said he had lost a good friend.

Maharashtra government declared a three-day state mourning till January 30, during which the national flag will be flown at half-mast on all buildings.

Ajit Pawar's last rites will be held with full state honours on Thursday in Baramati. Modi and Shah are expected to attend the funeral, which will be held at Vidya Pratishthan ground at 11 am, the Nationalist Congress Party said.

LG Sinha, CM...

political organiser whose loss will be greatly felt.

Abdullah recalled his close association with the deceased Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader during his college days in Mumbai, when he stayed with Sharad Pawar and his family.

"Shocked to hear about the untimely demise of Ajit Pawar Saab. I've known Ajit da since my days in college in Bombay when I stayed with Sharad Pawar Saab and his family at Varsha. Ajit da was an able administrator and a consummate political organiser whose loss will be greatly felt," Abdullah said in an X post.

"I join my father (National Conference president Farooq Abdullah) in sending our condolences to Sharad Pawar Saab, Supriya (Sule) and the entire family," the chief minister wrote.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah expressed grief over the death of Ajit Pawar and said the country has lost one of its great sons.

"The news about Pawar's death is heartbreaking. He was a great son of Maharashtra who sincerely tried to change the destiny of the state. His passing away in the plane crash left me deeply saddened," Abdullah told reporters here.

He said the contribution of the deceased politician will never be forgotten and "today, India has lost one of its great sons."

"No one has power over the will of Allah. He was on his way to Pune for election preparations, but fate did not favour him. His death is not only an irreparable loss to the entire Pawar family but for the entire nation," he added.

Expressing condolences with Sharad Pawar and other members of the family, Abdullah prayed for peace of the departed soul and sought strength for the family to bear his loss.

Finance Deptt assigns...

leave. Jaswinder Pal Singh, Chief Accounts Officer, Resource Division, Finance Department, will also hold the additional charge of Chief Accounts Officer, Youth Service & Sports Department, till further orders.

Akhtar Ali, Chief Accounts Officer, Directorate of Social Welfare, Kashmir, has been assigned the additional charge of Chief Accounts Officer, Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), in addition to his own duties, until Sabreena Qadir resumes duties after leave.

Meanwhile, Ravi Kumar, Accounts Officer at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Kathua, has been given the additional charge of Pay & Accounts Officer, District Urban Development Agency (DUDA), Kathua, till further orders.

The order has been issued with immediate effect and has been signed by Santosh D. Vaidya, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government, Finance Department.

Modern warfare not...

armed forces. It also demonstrated the advancement of indigenous weapons," Modi said.

Modi underlined the contributions of the NCC cadets during Operation Sindoor, whether in supporting the armed forces, organising blood donation camps, and providing first-aid services.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025, carrying out air strikes on terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10.

In his address, Modi said the training imparted by the NCC is not just limited to a parade ground, but it also instils the spirit of "Nation First", which inspires cadets to work with full strength for the country in difficult times.

He recalled that his own sense of "Nation First" was strengthened during his time as an NCC cadet, and expressed satisfaction at seeing the same values being learned by the cadets today.

Modi cautioned that nations lagging in technology become weak not only in the economy but also in security, and underscored that innovations by youth strengthen patriotism and contribute to national security.

New opportunities are opening for the tech-savvy, innovative youth in the armed forces, with defence start-ups excelling, 'Made in India' drones being developed, and AI and defence innovation modernising the forces, he said and urged young people to take full advantage of these possibilities.

The prime minister also mentioned that the nation recently celebrated National Voters' Day on January 25, and he wrote a letter to citizens on this occasion.

He said the National Voters' Day is a celebration of the responsibility and rights bestowed by the Constitution, and highlighted that India has the largest number of young voters in the world.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his deputy Sanjay Seth, Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the Chief of Defence Staff and the three Service chiefs were also present on the occasion.

Deepfakes significant threat...

for technology and innovation.

"The Atal Innovation Mission is playing an effective role in this. So far, over one crore students across the country have benefitted from Atal Tinkering Labs," the President said, adding that the culture of research and development is also being promoted through Anusandhan National Research Foundation.

Murmu said one thousand ITIs were being made future-ready for upgrading the ITI network in the country.

"On this account, Rs 60,000 crore is being spent under the PM Setu Scheme. My government is preparing an industry-ready workforce for modern technology. So far, 60 thousand youth have been trained for the semiconductor industry. Ten lakh youth are being trained in the field of Artificial Intelligence," the President said.

The President dwelt in detail on varied subjects.

She said, for the country to reach the goal of 'Viksit Bharat', as much importance is required to be given to national self-respect and cultural pride as to modern development.

"From the cultural perspective, India is among the richest nations in the world. My government is working to transform this heritage into a source of strength for the country," Murmu said.

In her address, she also made a reference to British official Macaulay and his policies during the colonial rule in the 19th century.

"Through Macaulay's conspiracies, a sense of inferiority was instilled among the people of India during the colonial period. Now, for the first time since independence, my government has shown the courage to strike a blow on this," the President said.

Murmu said today, the nation is working on every front to preserve and "enrich its own cultural heritage."

"In this direction, through the efforts of my government, the sacred relics of Bhagwan Buddha have returned to India after 125 years. These relics have now been offered for public viewing," she said.

The sacred Piprahwa relics, which include bone fragments believed to be of the Buddha, among other relics, originally excavated in northern India in 1898, and a set of recently repatriated gems, are currently part of a grand exposition in Delhi. Titled, 'The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One,' it was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 3.

Murmu said 2026 also marks the completion of 75 years since the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple in Gujarat's Saurashtra.

"The thousand year journey since the attacks on the Somnath Temple stands as a symbol of India's religious devotion, Sanatan culture and enduring faith. The enthusiasm with which people across the country participated in the Somnath Swabhimaan Parv has been truly unmatched," she added.

The President said some time ago, the establishment of Gangaikonda-Cholapuram by Rajendra Chola completed one thousand years. This occasion, too, has given crores of Indians an opportunity to feel proud about their glorious past, she said.

Murmu emphasised that "our nation has been a centre of ancient learning".

This body of knowledge was preserved for thousands of years, generation after generation, in the form of ancient manuscripts. However, due to "foreign invasions and the neglect in the years following Independence, this priceless heritage has suffered serious loss," she said.

Now, the government is taking steps to preserve this vast reservoir of knowledge. Through the Gyan Bharatam Mission, digitisation of ancient manuscripts has begun across the country, the President emphasised.

"These efforts will play an important role in preserving the Indian knowledge tradition and making it accessible to the people in future," she said.

Murmu said, "My government is also establishing tribal museums to preserve the rich tribal heritage of the country".

As a part of this, the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museum in Chhattisgarh was inaugurated recently.

"I am happy to announce that by getting the Constitution translated in Santhali language, my government has enhanced the pride of tribal community," she added.

J&K Govt Constitutes...

No. 3177 of 2025, arising out of the Sukdeb Saha vs State of Andhra Pradesh & Ors case.

Each district-level committee will be headed by the Deputy Commissioner as Chairperson, with the Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, and a representative from civil society nominated by the Deputy Commissioner as members.

The committees have been tasked with overseeing the implementation of Supreme Court guidelines, conducting periodic inspections, and examining complaints related to mental health protection and suicide prevention among students across educational institutions in their respective districts.

The order, dated January 28, 2026, has been issued by M. Raju, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, and comes into force with immediate effect.

Registration for allied...

operational. Updates regarding the launch date and registration procedure shall be communicated in due course.

It is also stated that no State Allied and Healthcare Council in India has initiated the registration process so far, as registration is to be carried out uniformly across the country in coordination with the National Commission.

For any queries, stakeholders may contact the office of the State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K at Srinagar and Jammu.

Vehicular traffic fully...

said. The advisory comes in the wake of a recent avalanche that struck near the New Truck Yard in Sonamarg at around 10.15 pm on Tuesday.

While no loss of life or property was reported, police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams were deployed immediately to assess the site, the officials said. According to a spokesman with the Ganderbal Police said the chances of avalanches remain "very high" due to prevailing weather conditions.

He said the Ganderbal Police advises the general public, tourists and transporters to strictly avoid visiting or halting in avalanche-prone areas and that unnecessary movement in vulnerable zones can pose serious risks.

People travelling through the Sonamarg axis and adjoining areas should prioritise safety, follow official advisories and cooperate with local authorities, the spokesman said.

Concerned agencies are closely monitoring the situation and precautionary measures are being kept in place to ensure the safety of residents and visitors in the region, he added.

The reopening of the Jammu-Srinagar highway has come as a relief for the people, especially tourists, who were stranded in the Valley in the wake of its closure following inclement weather.

Most parts of Kashmir received snowfall on Tuesday, which led to the suspension of traffic on the highway and flight operations at the Srinagar airport.

Fresh snowfall across Kashmir on Tuesday led to the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway and the cancellation of all flights at Srinagar airport, leaving hundreds of tourists stranded in the valley.

Flight operations also resumed at the airport on Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, the night temperature plunged several degrees below the freezing point at most places in Kashmir on Tuesday. Srinagar, however, recorded warmer-than-expected night temperature -- 0.1 degrees Celsius -- a notch above the season's normal.

Srinagar city and Baramulla town (at 0.4 degrees Celsius) were the only places in Kashmir where the night temperature settled above the freezing point.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district and Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district were the coldest places in the valley, both recording a low of minus 9.8 degrees Celsius.

The Pahalgam in south Kashmir, which also serves as one of the base camps for

the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 6.4 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Qazigund, the gateway town of the valley, settled at minus 4.3 degrees, while Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees and Kupwara minus 0.7 degrees Celsius.

The Kashmir valley is at the fag-end of 'Chilla-i-Kalan', a 40-day period of extreme cold during which night temperatures often drop several degrees below the freezing point, and the chances of snowfall are the highest. 'Chilla-i-Kalan', which began on December 21, ends on January 30.

Jammu celebrates boat...

Disaster Response Force (SDRF), an attempt will be made to make it a permanent feature by involving the private sector," said Yadav, who is also the commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

At present, he said, all boating activities are being conducted in-house in collaboration with the SDRF team. However, in the future, the department intends to hand over operations to private operators so that the facility can be managed professionally and enjoyed by people on a daily basis.

He added that the barrage has a spillover mechanism to release excess water; while a basic pondage of approximately three to four metres required for boating will be maintained. "From March onwards, the barrage will be made a permanent feature, and various adventure and tourism-related activities will be promoted in the area," he said.

Tour operators and youth interested in adventure sports would be promoted by granting permissions for boating operations, Yadav said, expressing hope that the newly developed urban space would take Jammu's tourism potential to a whole new level.

To further boost tourism, he shared that JSCL has invited local bands to perform, while efforts are also being made to promote authentic Dogri cuisine.

"People should come, witness and appreciate the beauty of Suryaputri Tawi, spend quality time with their families, and help make this riverfront area a go-to destination in the coming days. These two days of programming are a small step in that direction," Yadav said.

Visitors expressed joy over the start of the boating in the river and thanked the JSCL for almost completing the project.

"Today is a great day for Jammu as the long wait for boating in River Tawi has finally come true," said Tarun Kumar, a Jammu resident.

He said that pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and revered temples such as Raghunath Mandir now have another reason to extend their stay in the city. "It is a great achievement and will benefit our local economy," he added.

J&K Govt repatriates...

Jehanzeb Naqash, SP (JKPS) and Reyaz Ahmad Bhat, Dy.SP (Telecom), presently on deputation to the Union Territory of Ladakh, have been repatriated to Jammu and Kashmir with immediate effect.

Consequent upon the repatriation, Aijaz Ahmad Malik, Dy. Commandant, IR-13th Battalion, and Muzaffar Ahmad Mir, Dy.SP Telecom, Udhampur, have been deputed to the Union Territory of Ladakh with immediate effect.

The order further states that the deputation shall be for a period of two years or until recall. The lien and promotion prospects of the deputed officers will remain with the Home Department, J&K, while they will be entitled to incentives as admissible by the UT of Ladakh. The officers are deemed to have been relieved and have been directed to report to the Home Department, UT of Ladakh, for further posting. The order has been issued by the direction of the Lieutenant Governor and signed by Chandraker Bharti, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department.

JKBOSE notifies timeline...

Joint Secretary- Secrecy, Jammu Division, awards must be submitted to respective Divisional/Sub/Branch Offices of JKBOSE, Jammu Division, strictly as per the prescribed formats available on the JKBOSE website (www.jkbose.jk.gov.in)

The Board has clarified that late /incomplete submissions of awards shall entail penalty as admissible under BOSE norms, while cautioning that submission through email or post will not be entertained.

The Board has urged all heads of institutions to strictly comply with the instructions and adhere to the timelines.

Shobha Yatra taken out on eve of 649th Prakash Utsav of Sant Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All Jammu & Kashmir Guru Ravidass Sabha organized a grand Shobha Yatra



on the eve of the 649th Prakash Utsav of Sant Shiromani Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj from its head office at Krishna Nagar, Jammu. The yatra was taken out under the convensorship of Er. R.C. Bhasin. The Shobha Yatra was flagged off by prominent senior members of the Biradari including C.L. Banal, Amar Nath Bavouria, Paras Ram Angral, M.R. Bangotra, Er. B.R. Chadgal, Er. D.D. Gorka and Dr. Rajinder Sambyal, among others. Sri Sri 108 Swami Gurdip Giri Ji Maharaj later joined the procession as a revered spiritual authority of the Ravidasia Samaj. The yatra passed through various bazaars of Jammu city and culminated at Gurudwara Bahu Fort as per the pre-decided route. A large number of members of the Biradari participated with great zeal and devotion. Beautiful jhankies depicting the life and teachings of Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj were a major attraction. Devotees set up stalls along the route and distributed water and eatables. At Gurudwara Bahu Fort, Sri Sri 108 Swami Gurdip Giri Ji Maharaj delivered a spiritual sermon. On the occasion, Guru Ravidas Sabha Bahu Fort felicitated heads of various Sabhas and prominent members of the Biradari. The organizers expressed gratitude to the Civil and Police Administration of District Jammu for making excellent arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the yatra. The management committee also thanked the media for their cooperation and coverage.

Landslide buries dozens of livestock in Kishtwar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dozens of livestock, including sheep and goats, were killed in a landslide in Kishtwar on

Wednesday, officials said. The landslide struck near the Hasti bridge when a group of shepherds were crossing the area along with their livestock, the officials said. They said several animals were buried under the debris, but the accompanying shepherds escaped unhurt. The exact number of livestock that perished in the incident will only be known once the rescue operation is complete, the officials said. Most parts of Jammu and Kashmir experienced fresh snowfall in the higher reaches and rainfall in the plains over the past two days.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction, Jalandhar City for and on the behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet system for the under noted work:-	
1	Name of work and location Electrification of Railway Station Building, Platforms including Circulating area, Staff Qtrs, Pump house, Approach Road, Freight siding with Goods office/Merchant room & Labour shed in c/w Conversion of halt station to A Crossing station with development of freight terminal at BADHAI BALAMGARH HALT on KKP-FKA Section.
2	Completion period of the work 12 (Twelve) Months
3	Approx. Cost of work Rs. 85,86,460.62
4	Bid Security Rs. 1,71,700/-
5	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender Tenders may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs. on date 18.02.2026 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 18.02.2026.
6	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document The detailed e-tender notice is available on Indian Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 04.02.2026 to 18.02.2026. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
No.: 17-ELECT/IT/JUC/66 Dated: 27.01.2026 294/2026	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	