

# SSP reviews security in Jammu ahead of Republic Day



SSP Jammu Joginder Singh chairing Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centre meeting on Friday.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh on Friday chaired a Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centre meeting here to review security arrangements for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations, a police spokesperson said.

The meeting was attended by officers from the police, the Army, Central Armed Police Forces and intelligence agencies operating in Jammu. They emphasised evolving joint strategies for ground monitoring, area domination and enhanced surveillance of anti-national and anti-social

elements. The meeting also focused on real-time intelligence sharing and the monitoring of social media platforms, the spokesperson said. At the start of the meeting, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) extended New Year greetings to the officers and praised the efforts of per-

sonnel for maintaining peace in the district over the past year. A detailed discussion was also held on the prevailing security scenario, following recent inputs indicating attempts by anti-national elements to disturb normalcy in the region, the spokesperson said.

The SSP stressed the need for a coordinated approach to pre-empt disruptive activity, counter rumours and manage contingencies. He underlined the importance of briefing deployed personnel and ensuring heightened alertness and swift responses to exigencies, the spokesperson said.

Directing that actionable intelligence be shared promptly, the SSP highlighted the significance of synergy among all agencies. The spokesperson added that the meeting concluded with a resolve to strengthen inter-agency cooperation to ensure a peaceful and incident-free Republic Day celebration in the district.

# Police, NSG conduct anti-fidayeen mock drill in Kathua



## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police and the National Security Guard (NSG) on Friday conducted a joint anti-fidayeen and anti-hostage mock drill at police stations in Kathua district to enhance preparedness against terror-related contingencies, officials said.

The exercise was conducted under the supervision of Kathua SSP Mohita Sharma at police stations in Hiranagar and Rajbagh, they said. The mock drill was carried out jointly by the Special Operations Group (SOG) Kathua, police personnel and NSG commandos, the officials said. During the exercise, the NSG component briefed and demonstrated tactics for neutralising terrorists during a fidayeen attack, procedures for the safe rescue of hostages in crisis situations and methods for defusing improvised explo-

sive devices (IEDs). After the culmination of the drill, NSG officers conducted a detailed debriefing of the police and SOG teams, they said. The mock drill aimed at enhancing operational preparedness, agility and response capabilities of police personnel to deal with any potential fidayeen attack or hostage-like situation targeting police establishments, the officials said. Police personnel were also briefed on the tactical use of dominating heights, deployment of heavy firepower and the functioning of alarm systems installed at police establishments. They were directed to remain in a constant state of alertness, fully equipped with arms and ammunition, to ensure swift engagement of any hostile threat, officials added.

# Status of J&K State Coop Agriculture & Rural Dev Bank Ltd

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development (SCARD) Bank Ltd. has, over a period of time, been experiencing persistent operational and financial challenges. These challenges have primarily arisen due to deficiencies in governance and internal control systems, weak loan recovery performance, and constraints in accessing refinance support from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Taken together, these factors have adversely impacted the financial health and normal functioning of the Bank. The issues relating to the Bank have been examined in depth by the Cooperative Department in close consultation with NABARD. Based on its supervisory assessments, NABARD has advised a regulated, closely monitored, and structured course of action, with the primary objective of safeguarding the interests of depositors and other stakeholders, while ensuring an orderly, transparent, and legally compliant process. In pursuance of these recommendations, the Cooperative Department has undertaken and completed a special Know Your Customer (KYC) verification exercise covering all account holders, including depositors and loanees, across all branches of the Bank, including the Head Office and Regional Office. This exercise was aimed at verifying the authenticity of account holders and ensuring that the interests of genuine depositors are duly identified and protected in any future course of action. It is further informed that the Government has approved the proposal relating to the liquidation of the J&K State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development (SCARD) Bank Ltd., with specific directions that the Cooperative Department shall work out a clear proposal for safeguarding the interests of the depositors. Accordingly, the Department has formulated a practical, phased, and legally compliant line of action strictly in accordance with the provi-

sions of the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989, with due care to ensure minimal inconvenience to depositors. The Department is presently awaiting the requisite prior sanction in writing from NABARD as mandated under section 74(4) of the J&K Cooperative societies Act, 1989 to proceed further, which is expected shortly. The Cooperative Department fully acknowledges the concerns and anxieties of depositors and assures them that protection of their interests remains its foremost priority. All actions are being taken with due diligence, transparency, and appropriate regulatory oversight to ensure that depositor claims are addressed in a fair, systematic, and orderly manner. The Cooperative Department remains in close coordination with the concerned departments of Jammu and Kashmir and regulatory institutions and reiterates its commitment to act responsibly, lawfully, and in a depositor-centric manner, in the larger public interest.

# Red Fort blast: NIA conducts searches in south Kashmir

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday carried out searches in Shopian and Pulwama districts as part of its probe into the November 10 blast near the Red Fort in Delhi, officials said. They said the NIA sleuths, assisted by police and CRPF, brought along one of the accused -- Yasir Ahmad Dar -- to the searches. Ahmad was arrested in connection with the "white collar" terror module. The officials said the searches were going on in the Padpawan area of Shopian and the Pampore locality of Pulwama, both in south Kashmir. The searches were carried out at the instance of Dar, the ninth accused in the case, who had told the investigators about some hideouts in these areas, the officials said, adding that further details were awaited.

# India has every right to defend its people when it comes to 'bad neighbours': Jaishankar

## STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENNAI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said India has every right to defend its people when it comes to "bad neighbours" and asserted that a neighbouring country cannot ask New Delhi to share water if it continues to spread terrorism in the country. At the same time, he said with "good neighbours", India invests, helps and shares, whether it was vaccines during COVID-19 pandemic, fuel and food support during the Ukraine conflict, or the USD 4 billion assistance to Sri Lanka during its financial crisis. Without naming Pakistan, Jaishankar said India has every right to defend its people when it comes to "bad neighbours" and nobody can tell the country how to exercise that right. "...people make it sound as diplomacy is rocket science. It is common sense..now, what do you do in common sense with a neighbour? If you have a neighbour who is good to

you or at least who is not harmful to you, your natural instinct is to be kind, is to help that neighbour: If the neighbour has a problem, you would like to contribute in some way. If nothing else, you will say hello...you will try to build friendships, bonding, etc. And that's what we do as a country," he said in a fire-side chat at IIT Madras here. "So, when you look around our neighbourhood, wherever actually there is a sense of good neighbourliness, I think you have seen India invests, India helps, India shares. Now, when you have bad neighbours, and if a country decides that they will deliberately, persistently, unrepentantly continue with terrorism, we have a right to defend our people against terrorism. We will exercise that right. How we exercise that right is up to us. "You know, nobody can tell us what we should do or not. We will do whatever we have to do to defend ourselves. That's a common sense proposition," he said.

# Authorities ban trekking, camping in higher reaches of Kokernag citing security concerns

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday imposed a ban on trekking, hiking, camping and other similar outdoor activities in the high-altitude and forest areas of Kokernag due to "security concerns". The decision followed reports received from police and security agencies about rising threats in certain high-altitude and forested areas falling within the jurisdiction of the Kokernag sub-division. The order issued by Sub-divisional Magistrate Prince Kumar said, "In recent incidents, certain persons attempted to cross police checkpoints during late-night hours, thereby raising serious concerns regarding public safety." Unrestricted movement of individuals in these areas could "adversely affect public safety and security", Kumar said in the order. "Therefore, in exercise of the powers under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, I hereby order that trekking, camping, hiking, and similar outdoor activities are hereby prohibited in the areas of Margan Top, Chauhar Nag and Sinthan, with immediate effect," the order said. The station house officer of Larnoo shall ensure strict implementation of the order and monitor movements at all the checkpoints, it said, adding that the general public should strictly comply with the order, with any violation subject to legal action. The order shall remain in force for two months from the date of issuance, unless withdrawn earlier or extended as per the law, the order said.

# Satish conducts surprise visit of FCI godowns in Jammu, stresses on quality foodgrains for public distribution

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Satish Sharma on Friday conducted surprise inspection of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns in Jammu to take first hand stock of the storage, quality and distribution mechanism of foodgrains meant for public consumption. During the visit, the Minister inspected various sheds where foodgrains are stored and took stock of the condition of stocks maintained by the FCI. He specifically directed the authorities to ensure proper segregation of foodgrains, stressing that only high-quality grains should be issued to consumers under the Public



FCS&CA Minister, Satish Sharma inspecting FCI godown in Jammu.

Distribution System (PDS).

Satish also examined the stock registers and records related to procurement and distribution. He visited the quality testing laboratory within the FCI premises and reviewed the procedures being followed for testing both fresh and stored foodgrains.

Expressing concern, the Minister directed the officers present to strictly adhere to quality control norms and ensure that no substandard or unfit foodgrains are supplied to the people. He said that the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is

fully committed to safeguarding the interests of consumers and ensuring food security for every household. "The priority of the government is to provide people with safe, nutritious and quality foodgrains. Any laxity in storage, handling or distribution will not be tolerated," the Minister asserted. He further instructed the officials to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and conduct regular inspections of storage facilities so that the integrity of foodgrains is maintained from procurement to distribution. Senior officers of the FCI and the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs accompanied the Minister during the inspection.

# IIIM Jammu releases Annual Report 2024-25, unveils roadmap for 2026

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, released its Annual Work Report for 2024-25 and unveiled its roadmap for 2026 during an event organised to mark the New Year. The official calendar for 2026 was also released on the occasion. Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, presided over the event and highlighted the institute's scientific achievements, societal contributions, infrastructure development, and future priorities, in alignment with the vision of CSIR leadership.

The programme commenced with a tribute to eminent CSIR scientists who passed away in 2025. Dr. Ahmed paid homage to Dr. Palpu Pushpangadan, former Director, of CSIR-NBRI, who started his work at erstwhile RRL Jammu (now CSIR-IIIM), and other distinguished scientists including Dr. Gopal Prasad Sinha, Dr. G.R. Venkatakrishnan, and Dr. H.N. Siddiquie. He emphasized that carrying forward their scientific vision and commitment to national development remains the institute's foremost responsibility. He urged young scientists and students to draw inspiration from their lives of dedication and integrity. Presenting the Annual Work Report, Dr. Ahmed described 2025 as a year of robust scientific output, institutional strengthening, and impactful societal engagement. "CSIR-IIIM filed 09 Indian and 19 foreign patents during the year and published 173



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM and other dignitaries unveiling institute's Calendar of 2026.

peer-reviewed research papers, reinforcing its position as a leading research institution. The institute also awarded 69 PhD degrees, underscoring its growing role as a premier research and academic hub," he said. Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu informed that the institute's drug discovery pipeline saw significant progress, with 9 New Chemical Entities (NCEs) and 5 phytopharmaceutical leads targeting critical conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and cancer pain. In addition, he added that two nutraceutical leads for sickle-cell anemia and sleep disorders were declared ready for technology transfer. "CSIR-IIIM's societal initiatives continued to transform livelihoods. The CSIR Aroma Mission team received the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar - Vigyan Team Award 2025 for spearheading the 'Purple Revolution', which has substantially increased farmer incomes in Jammu and Kashmir through lavender cultivation," he said. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed said that the Floriculture Mission also recorded major success, gener-

ating over 3.8 lakh planting materials, covering more than 62 hectares, producing export-quality monofloral honey from Lavender and training thousands of farmers across the region. "The institute's Technology Business Incubator, IIIM-TBI, was conferred the Bharat Incubator Award 2025 for its role in nurturing start-ups and promoting entrepreneurship in the region. Adding to this, a student mentored by CSIR-IIIM for the "Solar Mech Engine"- won the prestigious USA HonorsGradU 2025 Scholarship award, highlighting the institute's outreach at the grassroots level," he said. "Major facilities have been augmented including the state-of-the-art Industrial Scale Fermentation Plant and Drug Testing Laboratory (DTL)," he said. He added that through the JIGYASA 2.0 programme,

CSIR-IIIM engaged with over 3,000 students and 500 teachers. In addition, 748 participants were trained through various skill development initiatives focusing on advanced laboratory techniques, GMP compliance, and entrepreneurship. Building on the momentum, Dr. Ahmed outlined a clear and ambitious agenda for 2026. In the area of drug discovery, he said the institute plans to initiate Phase I/II clinical trials for its pancreatic cancer drug IIM-290 and would put its efforts to file atleast one US FDA application for a phytopharmaceutical lead. "Efforts will also focus on advancing technologies committed for transfer by 2030 while expanding the drug development pipeline," he said. For societal missions, CSIR-IIIM is preparing for Aroma Mission Phase-IV and Floriculture Mission Phase-III, with sharp-

er farmer-centric verticals, stronger market linkages, and enhanced income generation. "The institute also aims to shift towards job-oriented skill development programmes and provide advanced incubation support through TBI, BioNEST, and AIC centres, strengthening the regional startup ecosystem," Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu said. "As we move into 2026, let us work with renewed resolve to advance science and contribute meaningfully to society and the nation," he said, extending New Year greetings to the entire CSIR-IIIM fraternity. Among those present on the occasion were Chief Scientists-Er. Abdul Rahim, Head, RMBD&IST Division and IIIM Branch Srinagar; Dr. Asha Chaubey, Head, Fermentation and Microbial Biotechnology Division; and Dr. Shashank Kr. Singh; Senior Principal Scientists-Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Head, Plant Sciences and Agrotechnology Division; Dr. Sumit G. Gandhi, Head, Infectious Diseases Division; Dr. Tasduq Abdullah; Dr. Suphla B. Gupta; Dr. Amit Nargotra; and Dr. Saurabh Saran; Principal Scientist-Dr. Nasir ul Rasheed; and Administrative Officer-Rajesh Gupta. The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Rajesh Gupta.



# National Strength, National Integrity-our top priority, says NATF Chairman Vishal Chopra

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Kashmir, (Retd.) Advocate Farooq Rishi along with a delegation comprising senior officers and distinguished citizens from various districts of the Valley- Badgam, Anantnag, Srinagar, and surrounding areas - extended a warm welcome to Vishal Chopra, National Chairman, National Anti Terrorism Front (NATF). In the ceremony, the delegation lauded Chopra's initiatives aimed at combating drug addiction, corruption, narco-terrorism and all forms of terrorism. They expressed full support for NATF's mission to strengthen national unity and pledged to work hand-in-



hand with the armed forces and local communities. The dignitaries invited Chopra to visit Kashmir regularly, conduct awareness programmes, and hoist the National Flag as a symbol of unity, ensuring the spirit of "Love India, Live India, For India" reaches every corner of the valley. They also emphasized the need to expose underground elements that undermine the nation's integrity. The event concluded with the chanting of "Jai Hind, Jai Bharat, Vande Mataram", reaffirming unwavering commitment to the country's security and prosperity.