

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! US strikes Venezuela...

Nicolas Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores," Rodriguez said. "We demand proof of life."

Maduro, Trump said, "has been, along with his wife, captured and flown out of the Country. This operation was done in conjunction with US Law Enforcement." He set a news conference for later Saturday morning.

The attack itself lasted less than 30 minutes, and the explosions - at least seven blasts - sent people rushing into the streets, while others took to social media to report what they'd seen and heard. It was not known if there were any deaths or injuries on either side or if more actions lay ahead, though Trump said in his post that the strikes were carried out "successfully."

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, posted on X that Secretary of State Marco Rubio had briefed him on the strike and said that Maduro "has been arrested by US personnel to stand trial on criminal charges in the United States."

The White House did not immediately respond to queries on where Maduro and his wife were being flown to.

Maduro last appeared on state television on Friday while meeting with a delegation of Chinese officials in Caracas.

The strike came after the Trump administration spent months increasing the pressure on Maduro, including a major buildup of American forces in the waters off South America and attacks on boats in the eastern Pacific and Caribbean, accused of carrying drugs. Last week, the CIA was behind a drone strike at a docking area believed to have been used by Venezuelan drug cartels - the first known direct operation on Venezuelan soil since the US began strikes in September.

Shah chairs Parl...

poem 'Sagara Pran Talamala'.

Security has been tightened across the Union territory in view of Shah's visit, officials said. Shah will depart the archipelago on January 4.

ACB arrests clerk...

On receipt of the complaint, the ACB conducted a discreet verification, which confirmed the demand of illegal gratification by the accused. Consequently, FIR No. 01/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar; and investigation was taken up.

During the course of the investigation, a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused clerk red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of Rs 2,000 from the complainant.

"The accused, identified as Laiq Ahmad Nath, resident of Qamarwari, Srinagar, was apprehended on the spot after accepting the bribe money. All necessary medico-legal formalities were completed, and the accused public servant has been taken into custody," the spokesperson added.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau has stated that further investigation in the case is underway to ascertain whether other officials were involved and to examine related official records. The ACB has reiterated its commitment to zero tolerance against corruption and has urged citizens to report any instances of bribery or misuse of official position.

Capacity building in...

assumes a deeper resonance in Bihar, which is a land that occupies a distinctive place in India's civilisational memory," Justice Kant said in his address.

Capacity building implies that the ability to evolve hinges upon the groundwork for a justice system that can meet the demands of a growing population, increasing litigation and disputes of rising complexity, the CJI said.

He asserted that Bihar's civilisational wisdom has long recognised varying dimensions of justice, adding that 'nyaya' (justice) in the state is "a lived moral idea shaped by empathy, responsibility, and social consensus".

Kant stressed that courts need to be equipped with the support that allows "judicial authority to be exercised meaningfully".

"The first dimension of this effort is institutional capacity. A modern administrative block functions much like the nervous system of the court," he added.

Justice Kant asserted that the IT building will mark an important transition from courts that are "paper-heavy and time-intensive" to the ones that "are data-informed, digitally enabled and user-centric".

He said the ADR building and auditorium will serve as a "place of learning and exchange by hosting, among other things, ADR initiatives and conversations that will strengthen the relationship between Bar and the Bench".

Cyber crime has...

"A judicial academy is the only effective platform for district judiciary to keep abreast of the newest complexities in civil or criminal laws like the fast-growing quagmire of cyber crimes," he said.

"All of you have never thought of hearing offences like digital arrest and how these cyber crimes are being committed day and night, and the harassment caused, particularly, to senior citizens," he added.

The CJI said these are the latest challenges which the Indian judiciary is facing.

"I was shocked to know that in India alone, not a few hundred crores, (but) thousands of crores have been siphoned off, by way of extortion committed on senior citizens through cyber crime," he said.

The CJI said, therefore, the significance of sensitive training and updating of judicial officers to deal with these kinds of modern challenges is extremely important.

"Courts function through judges, but judges are also shaped by training. Judicial academies are, therefore, silent pillars that sustain the justice delivery system. They are spaces where legal knowledge is refined," he said.

"The judiciary today, let us acknowledge, operates in an environment of unprecedented change. Courts are increasingly called upon to address disputes arising from technological innovation, economic complexity, social transformation and evolving rights jurisprudence," he said.

AC State Taxes...

pinpoint vulnerabilities and bolster compliance mechanisms.

Highlighting the division's performance, it was noted that the Kashmir Division has recorded an impressive 16.55% year-on-year growth in cash revenue and 4.56% growth in settlement revenue for the current financial year 2025-26 (up to December 31, 2025), reflecting the positive outcomes of rate rationalization measures introduced under the GST 2.0 framework. Fresh targets were assigned to circles to ensure achievement of the allocated revenue goals for the remaining period of the financial year.

The meeting also acknowledged the beneficial impact of GST 2.0 reforms in simplifying tax structures, easing the burden on essential goods, and fostering fair trade practices.

The Additional Commissioner, underscored the need for intensified efforts in key areas, including expeditions recovery through DRC-03, reversal of ineligible IGST claims, and optimal cash utilization under Rule 86B. He directed officers to redouble their focus on these priorities while continuing to leverage cutting-edge data analytics tools to detect and deter ITC misuse.

Raina further emphasized continuous skill upgradation of field teams to strengthen capabilities in combating tax evasion and promoting ethical trade practices. "The State Taxes Department remains steadfast in building a transparent, technology-driven, and taxpayer-friendly ecosystem. The encouraging growth trajectory achieved so far is a testament to our collective efforts, and with renewed focus on enforcement and compliance, we are confident of surpassing our annual targets while protecting revenue and consumer interests," stated the Additional Commissioner. The meeting concluded on a determined note, with clear actionable directives issued to all circles to accelerate pending recoveries, close audit and adjudication cases, and sustain the momentum of revenue augmentation across the Kashmir Division.

Mercury plummets below...

normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The Ayanagar station recorded the lowest local minimum at 6.9 degrees Celsius, while Lodhi Road logged the highest local maximum of 17.6 degrees Celsius.

Visibility remained low during the morning hours amid dense fog, with Safdarjung recording the lowest visibility of 800 metres around 9 am, which later improved to 1,200 metres, the IMD said.

The mercury plummeted below the freezing point at several places along the western Himalayan ranges.

After a few days of respite, the cold returned to Kashmir amid sub-zero minimum temperatures, the IMD said.

While Srinagar recorded a minimum of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius, down from 0.1 degrees Celsius a night before, the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir remained the coldest spot, with mercury dipping to minus 6.5 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature settled at minus 2.6 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, while Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, and Kupwara in north

Kashmir logged minus 1.6 degrees Celsius.

The region is currently experiencing 'Chilla-e-Kalan', the 40-day period of extreme cold, during which night temperatures often drop several degrees below freezing point.

During this period, the chances of snowfall are maximum.

The IMD has forecast light rain or snowfall at isolated places in the higher reaches of north and central Kashmir on January 5 and 6.

The weather is expected to remain largely dry until January 4.

Cold wave conditions gripped Himachal Pradesh on Saturday with the IMD issuing a yellow alert for dense fog at isolated places in Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Solan and Sirmaur districts in the morning hours from January 4 to 7.

Ladakh LG launches...

coaching support, financial assistance and long-term planning.

Launching the Ladakh sports policy in presence of chief secretary Ashish Kundra, the Lt Governor said it provides a clear and structured roadmap for developing a strong sports culture from the school level to high-performance sports.

"The policy is based on the principle of 'scout, facilitate and recognize', focusing on early identification of talent, provision of quality infrastructure and coaching, and recognition of sporting achievements," Gupta said.

He said the launch of the policy is not merely the introduction of a new government document, but a firm commitment towards shaping the future of Ladakh's youth and giving a new identity to the region through sports.

The Lt Governor underlined that the policy adopts an inclusive approach, ensuring equal opportunities for all children irrespective of region, background or ability, with special emphasis on women athletes and para-athletes.

"To encourage youth to pursue sports as a viable and respected career, the policy includes provisions such as four percent reservation in government jobs for outstanding sportspersons, scholarships, awards, cash incentives and promotions," he said. The Lt Governor also highlighted that Ladakh is hosting the sixth edition of the 'Khelo India Winter Games' this month, calling it a matter of pride for the region. The event offers an excellent opportunity to showcase Ladakh's sports infrastructure, organisational capabilities and unique hospitality to participants from across the country, he said. Emphasising the potential of sports tourism, the Lt Governor noted that Ladakh's natural landscape and adventure-friendly environment offer immense possibilities in winter sports, mountaineering, ice sports and traditional games.

Efforts to prevent...

major reason, the release said.

Three levels of efforts -- continuous communication within families, inculcating awareness among girls and teaching them to protect themselves, and effective action against those committing such crimes -- were required, the release quoted the RSS chief as saying.

Social organisations too must remain alert and society should respond collectively so that a solution is found, he further said.

Religion, culture and social order are secure because of women, Bhagwat said, and stressed the need for their empowerment, ideological orientation and greater participation in family and social life.

"The time has passed when women were confined to homes in the name of security," he said, adding that families and society move forward through combined efforts of men and women, making the "prabodhan" (awakening, enlightenment) of both essential. The RSS's Madhya Bharat 'prant sanghehalak' Ashok Pandey and `vibhag sanghehalak' Somkant Umalakur were present on the dais during the programme. Bhagwat further said that women play a central role in families as caregivers, and are crucial in maintaining balance, sensitivity and order. Women also carry the sense of 'self' from the family to society and the nation, he was quoted as saying. He also noted that women constitute nearly half the population, and called for greater efforts to involve more women in social and national work.

Touching upon mental health, Bhagwat said it is important that no one in a family feels isolated. He advised against imposing unrealistic expectations on children and said a meaningful of life is more important than success.

India is emerging from "mental slavery" and the world is looking to the country (with expectations), Bhagwat said.

LG unveils poster...

by Advocate Pawan Dev Singh, President District Bar Association Reasi and Ch. Mohammad Akram, BJP Leader. A delegation of Guidance and Counselling Cell for Youth Development Gurha Slathia called on the Lieutenant Governor.

Nagar Kirtan taken...

and fitted with loudspeakers for the recitation of Gurbani Kirtan. The head priest and other prominent Sikh religious personalities accompanied the sacred scripture on the chariot.

In keeping with Sikh religious traditions, the procession was led by the Panj Piyaras-five revered warriors of the Guru-attired in traditional attire and holding swords, symbolising courage, discipline, and righteousness. They were followed by the Sikh Sangat and other devotees chanting religious slogans and hymns.

School children marched in disciplined rows, accompanied by band parties, adding colour and vibrancy to the Nagar Kirtan. The long procession commenced from Lower Gumat/Chand Nagar and proceeded along its traditional route via Dogra Chowk, Main Tawi Bridge, Bikram Chowk, Asia Crossing, Green Belt Gandhi Nagar, Gole Market, and Nanak Nagar, where it culminated at Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Nanak Nagar. The district administration and Jammu Police made elaborate security and traffic arrangements to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of the Nagar Kirtan. Traffic was diverted through alternative routes; however, due to the scale of the procession, traffic congestion was witnessed at several places, including Canal Road, Bakshi Nagar, Railway Road, Satwari, and parts of the old city. A major attraction of the Nagar Kirtan was the display of Gatka, the traditional Sikh martial art, by Sikh youth. Demonstrating remarkable skill and discipline, the youth performed various martial feats, drawing applause from spectators lining the route. Reflecting the spirit of communal harmony and secularism, members of other communities set up stalls offering drinking water, sweetened beverages, tea, fruits, and other refreshments for the Sikh Sangat. Welcome gates were also erected at several locations along the route. The DGPC President expressed gratitude to the civil and police administration, volunteers, and members of all communities for their cooperation, which ensured the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Nagar Kirtan, truly reflecting the unity and brotherhood of Jammu.

Eight Rural Development...

Mukesh Sharma, and Joginder Lal.

Consequent upon the above, it is ordered that the aforesaid officers shall continue at their present place of posting, till further orders.

New State Body of IHRO constituted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The International Human Rights Organization (IHRO) has constituted its new State Body today, January 2, 2026. The newly formed leadership is expected to strengthen the organization's presence and further its mission at the state level. The newly constituted State Body includes Altaf Bhat as President, Sukhdev Kumar Sangral as Vice President, Tasleema as General Secretary, Saima as Secretary, Saika Rashid as Accountant, and Muneer Ahmed as Treasurer.

IHRO has conveyed its best wishes to all the newly appointed members and expressed confidence that their dedication and commitment will contribute meaningfully toward the growth of the organization and the achievement of its objectives. The organization looks forward to their active role in promoting human rights and strengthening IHRO's initiatives in the state.

Red Fort blast: Delhi court remands Dr Bilal Malla to judicial custody till Jan 16

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Saturday remanded Dr Bilal Naseer Malla, one of the accused in the November 10 Red Fort blast case, to judicial custody for 13 days till January 16. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) produced Malla at the Patiala House Court amid tight security on Saturday, upon the expiry of his 8-day NIA custody granted on December 26. Mediapersons were barred from covering the proceedings. The accused was produced before Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna, who sent Malla to judicial custody till January 16. NIA arrested Malla in Delhi on December 9 and termed him a key accused in the conspiracy. According to the NIA probe, Malla knowingly provided logistical support to Dr Umar-un-Nabi, the suicide bomber who was driving the explosive-laden i20 car that blew up outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people. Malla is also accused of destruction of evidence related to the terrorist attack, the agency said on December 9. The NIA has arrested nine people in the case so far, including three doctors - Muzammil Ganaie, Adeel Rather and Shaheen Sayeed - and a religious preacher named Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagay. The other five are Malla, Amir Rashid Ali, Soyab, Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish and Yasir Ahmad Dar.

Minor Ladakhi girl case: NHRC notice to Leh DC, police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The NHRC has issued a notice to the Leh civil administration and its police authorities over charges that a minor Ladakhi girl belonging to a tribal Buddhist community who had gone missing from her home late December, was subsequently "found in Srinagar with a Muslim boy," according to the proceedings of the case.

Presently, the girl is under the supervision of a Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and is suffering from "mental trauma," the proceedings dated January 2 said.

The complainant is Sagar Bhante, from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, it said.

"The complainant alleged that on December 26, a minor Khalatse Ladakhi girl belonging to a tribal Buddhist community went missing from her home. The complainant further alleged that her family immediately lodged a missing complaint with the PS Khalatse, FIR No.39/2025 dated 28.12.2025, u/s 137(2) BNS and under the POCSO Act. During the police investigation, the said girl was found in Srinagar with a Muslim boy," it said.

"Presently, the girl is under the supervision of CWC, and she is now in mental trauma," the proceedings said.

The complainant had sought the intervention of the commission and requested an "impartial investigation into the role of other individuals involved in the crime, justice for the victim girl and her family, protection, counselling with medical, psychological, and legal assistance.

"Due to social pressure at the local level, this sensitive case is not receiving the seriousness it warrants. A detailed action-taken report should be sought from the police and the administration, in accordance with the law," it said.

The allegations made in the complaint prima facie seem to be violations of the human rights of the victim, the rights panel said.

A bench of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), presided by its member Priyank Kanoongo, has taken cognisance under section 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

"The Registry is directed to issue a notice to the DC (Deputy Commissioner), Leh and the SSP/DIG, Leh, Ladakh, with directions to get the allegations made in the complaint inquired into and to submit an action taken report within seven days for perusal of the Commission," it adds.

Two FIRs lodged over unauthorised VPN use in Budgam, 11 persons 'bound down'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police have registered two FIRs and initiated "security proceedings" against eleven people in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district for not complying with orders prohibiting the use of Virtual Private Network (VPN) in the Union territory for security reasons, an official said on Saturday.

A police spokesman said, to maintain law and order and prevent misuse of digital platforms, Jammu and Kashmir Police have taken action against the unauthorised use of VPN services across Budgam. He said following prohibitory orders issued by the district administration banning VPN usage, police carried out systematic verification and monitoring in the district. Between December 29 and January 2, a total of 24 individuals were identified for violating these orders, the spokesman said. Based on investigation and technical analysis, two FIRs were registered against individuals with adverse terror-related backgrounds, he said, underscoring the security risks posed by misuse of encrypted platforms.

Additionally, security proceedings were initiated against eleven individuals, aged between 18 and 40 years, for non-compliance with the prohibitory orders, he added. The spokesman said these 11 persons were bound down under sections 126 and 170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and later released after due warning.

7 landlords booked for violating tenant verification guidelines

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police booked seven landlords here on Saturday for allegedly keeping tenants in their premises without police verification, police said.

The drive to verify tenants has been intensified in view of the upcoming Republic Day celebrations, the police said.

Police Station Bahu Fort has registered five FIRs under Section 223 of the BNS against house owners for violating the orders of the District Magistrate, Jammu, by keeping tenants in their residential premises without mandatory police verification, they said. Additionally, two similar FIRs were registered at the police station Channi Himmat, they said.

The cases have been registered as part of a routine verification and enforcement drive to ensure strict compliance with tenant verification norms, especially in view of the Republic Day celebrations and associated security measures, the police said.

The police reiterated its appeal to all house owners to strictly adhere to the tenant verification guidelines and cooperate with the force.

Drug peddler arrested with Heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: Police Station Sunderbani recovered 04 grams of heroin-like narcotic substance from an individual during naka checking at ITI Naka Sunderbani. During the checking a Tempo Traveller bearing registration number PB01D-8780 en route from Jammu to Rajouri was stopped for Checking. While checking the passengers, one person was found behaving suspiciously. On his personal search 04 grams of heroin like substance was recovered from his possession.

The accused has been identified as Sikander Shah S/O Munawar Hussain resident of Draj Kotranka Rajouri. In this regard a Case FIR No. 01/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Sunderbani and further investigation is underway.

Bootlegger arrested with 36 bottles of illicit liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda Police, during routine naka checking at Premnagar Market, apprehended a bootlegger and recovered illicit liquor from his possession.

During the checking, a police team from Police Post Premnagar, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Thathri, intercepted one person identified as Ajay Kumar S/o Sarjeet Singh R/o Dron Kerani, Premnagar. Upon search, 36 bottles (250 ml each) of JK Special Whisky were recovered from his possession.

The recovery revealed the commission of an offence under Section 48(a) of the Excise Act. Accordingly, FIR No. 02/2026 U/S 48(a) Excise Act has been registered at Police Station Thathri, and cognizance of the offence has been taken.

Missing lady recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH : Police Station Gursai has successfully traced and recovered a missing lady resident of Batadurian, Gursai, Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch.

The lady had been reported missing from her home, following which Police Station Gursai promptly initiated a search operation and undertook all necessary investigative and technical measures to trace her whereabouts. Due to the sincere, sustained and professional efforts of Gursai Police, the missing lady was safely recovered from Surankote. After completing all required legal formalities, the recovered lady was handed over to her legal heirs. The missing case has accordingly been closed as recovered.

Two bovine smuggling attempts foiled, 12 bovines rescued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police has successfully foiled two bovines smuggling attempts in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal and rescued 12 bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers.

Acting on information received from reliable sources, a Police team of Police Station Ghagwal, intercepted an auto load carrier bearing registration No. JK02DDB-3088 near Jatwal NHW for its checking. During checking, 05 bovines were found inside the vehicle which were tied in cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the bovines have been rescued and shifted to a safer place. The vehicle used in the illegal transportation of bovines has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 01/2026 u/s 223 BN5, 11PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.

In another incident, a Police team of Police Post Rajpura of PS Ghagwal has successfully foiled bovine smuggling attempt and rescued 07 bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers near ditch road Rajpura which were being smuggled by foot via border road.

A case FIR No. 02/2026 u/s 223 BNS, 11PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and Investigation started.