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STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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The School with a Difference

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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 LIC launches 'Jeevan Utsav Single Premium' plan

10 11th J&K UT Handball Championship begins

10 J&K's Umar, Hilal earn spots in India Deaf Cricket Association's T20I Asia Cup squad

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Chairs review meeting of Kathua Distt CM inaugurates, lays foundation stone of projects worth Rs 11.58 Cr

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday dedicated development works worth Rs 11.58 crore in Kathua district, including inaugurations and foundation stones, aimed at strengthening infrastructure, boosting local entrepreneurship and enhancing livelihood opportunities.

Chairing a District Review Meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex here, the Chief Minister inaugurated key projects spanning rural enterprise, agriculture and allied sectors, which are expected to generate employment and add value to local resources.

Among the major inaugurations were the Bamboo Crafts Common Facility Centre at Sallan (Rs 2.87 crore), Kathua Kirti



CM Omar Abdullah chairing District Review meeting of Kathua district on Wednesday.

Showroom (Rs 41.51 lakh) for marketing local products, and the Agarbatti Common Facility Centre at Billawar (Rs 3.39 crore) to support micro-entrepreneurs and self-help groups.

Further strengthening the agriculture sector, the Chief Minister inaugurated the

upgradation of Poultry and Hatchery Unit, Kathua, under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), with an outlay of ₹3.88 crore, aimed at improving productivity and farmers' income.

In the education sector, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for eight additional classrooms at Government Higher Secondary School, Kathua, at an estimated cost of Rs 1.768 crore, to ease congestion and improve learning facilities. The meeting was attended by Deputy

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CONTD ON PAGE 9

631 vehicles seized in action against illegal mining in Jammu last year

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Police have seized 631 vehicles involved in illegal mining and imposed fines amounting nearly Rs 1 crore last year, officials said on Wednesday.

"Jammu Police will continue its zero-tolerance policy against illegal mining and take stringent action against violators without exception," Jammu SSP Joginder

CONTD ON PAGE 9

SC to hear wife's plea challenging Sonam Wangchuk's detention today

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned to January 8 the hearing of a plea filed by Gitanjali J Angmo, the wife of jailed climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, against his detention under the National Security Act.

A bench of Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice P B Varale deferred the

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Police raids multiple locations across Valley in cyber terror case; 22 detained

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Counter Intelligence wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police detained 22 suspects on Wednesday following raids at multiple locations across the valley, officials said.

"They said the operation was part of an investigation into a cyber terror case involving the use of mule accounts."

The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) carried out simultaneous searches at 22 locations. These included 17 spots in Srinagar, three in Budgam and one each in Shopian and Kulgam districts.

The raids were conducted with an aim to dismantle the financial infrastructure of cyber frauds and terror networks, which exposed a syndicate operating across the valley, the officials said. The CIK undertook the operation after obtaining search warrants from the Special NIA



Court. According to the officials, the move is a significant blow to organised cyber-crime and its links to terror financing. The CIK intensified its crackdown on a criminal network that uses mule bank accounts to launder money from cyber frauds, illegal online gaming, betting rackets and other unlawful activities. Following specific intelligence, the CIK police registered a case under various sections of the Information Technology Act, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The investigation revealed a "sophisticated and well-entrenched" financial crime syndicate that posed a serious threat to national economic security and digital safety. Preliminary investigation led to the

CONTD ON PAGE 9

CB registers cheating case involving Rs 15.15 lakh

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Special Crime Wing (SCW), Crime Branch Jammu, has registered a formal case under Section 420 RPC in connection with an alleged cheating and fraud amounting to Rs 15.15 lakh, following a written complaint received from a resident of Shahedi Chowk, Bawe Wali Gali, Jammu.

According to the complaint, the accused has been identified as Mehraj Din, son of Late Abdul Gani, resident of Talab Khatikha, Jammu, who is reportedly associated with a meat supply business. The complainant alleged that the accused fraudulently induced

him to advance money on the pretext of running and expanding his business, repeatedly assuring early repayment.

Relying on these assurances, the complainant advanced an amount totalling Rs 15,15,000 to the accused at different intervals. However, after receiving the money, the accused allegedly started avoiding repayment on one pretext or another. In an attempt to clear his liability, the accused later issued a cheque to the complainant but subsequently requested him not to present it for encashment,

CONTD ON PAGE 9

SFs tighten cordon after gunfight with terrorists in Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Security forces on Wednesday strengthened the cordon in a remote forest area following an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Wednesday, officials said.

The gunfight took place at Kahog village of Billawar this evening when security forces launched a search operation following information about the presence of two to three terrorists, they said.

"SOG (Special Operations Group of local police) has engaged terrorists in the forest of Kamadh Nullah, Kathua," Inspector General



of Police, Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti said in a post on X.

In another post, he said despite darkness, thick vegetation and treacherous terrain, the SOG is relentlessly engaging the terrorists.

"Teams of CRPF are also participating in the Joint Operation."

According to official sources, the intense firing between the two sides lasted for over an hour before the

guns fell silent.

It was not immediately known whether any of the terrorists was hit during the gunfight, the officials said.

"At around 4 pm, one terrorist was sighted by locals at Kamad Nullah under the Billawar police station area, triggering a search operation. He could be the same terrorist who was also spotted this morning at Dhannu Parole," an official said.

He said two more of his associates are believed to be hiding in the forest area and reinforcements from the Army including paratroopers were rushed to the scene.

The cordon around

CONTD ON PAGE 9

GDP to grow at 7.4 pc in FY26: Govt

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: India is likely to grow at a faster pace of 7.4 per cent during 2025-26, compared to 6.5 per cent in the previous year, driven by a strong performance in the services and manufacturing sectors, thus retaining its position as the world's fastest growing major economy.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had expanded by 9.2 per cent during 2023-24.

The First Advance Estimates of national income released by the government on Wednesday, also showed that Gross Value Added (GVA) is estimated to grow

at 7.3 per cent during the current financial year as against 6.4 per cent in the year-ago period.

The manufacturing sector is expected to post a 7 per cent growth (GVA) in the current fiscal, up from 4.5 per cent in 2024-25.

The growth in the services sector has been estimated at 9.1 per cent versus 7.2 per cent in 2024-25, according to the data released by National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

Growth in the agriculture and allied sector

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Fresh snowfall covers higher reaches of Baderwah

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH/JAMMU: Fresh snowfall in the high-altitude areas of Baderwah in Doda district delighted tourists, who had flocked to the picturesque valley in anticipation of the precipitation, turning their long-awaited wishes into reality.

Visitors from different parts of the country, particularly Maharashtra, said they witnessed snowfall for the first time, describing it as a pleasant surprise.

Tourists converged in large numbers at Guldanda (9,555 feet), Panj Nallah (10,200 feet) and Chhattargalla (10,500 feet) along the Baderwah-Pathankot highway to enjoy the snow-clad alpine landscape.

The New Year day's snowfall ended a dry spell of over two months and raised hopes for a revival of tourism in the Baderwah valley, with hundreds of tourist vehicles reaching key destinations daily.

Many tourists described the snowfall as magical and breathtaking, with the

BJP, Sangarsh Samiti welcome NMC decision on SMVDIME

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU/SRINAGAR: The NMC's decision to withdraw permission granted for setting up a MBBS course in a Jammu college over its non-compliance of "minimum standards" has evoked mixed reactions, with the BJP and Sangarsh Samiti welcoming the move.

The Sangharsh Samiti, a recently formed conglomerate of right-wing organisations backed by the BJP, has been spearheading an agitation in Jammu since November last year, demanding the cancellation of admissions to Shri Mata Vaishno

Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) and seeking reservation of seats exclusively for students professing faith in Mata Vaishno Devi.

The Samiti emerged soon after admissions for the inaugural MBBS batch of 50 students was completed through the NEET merit list. Of these, 42 students are Muslims-mostly from Kashmir-along with seven Hindu students from Jammu and one Sikh candidate, a composition that triggered demands for scrapping the admissions and reserving all seats for Hindu students.

The National Medical Commission's (NMC) Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) on Tuesday withdrew the letter of permission granted to the institute in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi for non-compliance with minimum standards.

An order issued by the MARB on Tuesday said all students admitted to the college during the counselling for the academic year 2025-26 shall be accommodated in other medical institutions in Jammu and Kashmir as supernumerary seats

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Shah to inaugurate national IED data platform this week

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to launch an NSG-made national IED data management platform this week, officials said.

The portal has been developed by the National Security Guard, a federal counter-terrorist commando force.

The ambitious project had been in the works for some time now and would be a part of the forces' National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC) that analyses all types of bombings that take place in the country, and some

CONTD ON PAGE 9

'Act of terror' under UAPA not confined only to final execution: SC

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday

ruled that an "act of terror" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act is not confined only to the final execution but extends to those who contribute to the commission of such acts through planning, coordination, mobilisation or other forms of concerted action.

Section 15 of the UAPA defines a terrorist act as an act done "with intent to threaten or likely to threaten

the unity, integrity, security, economic security or sovereignty of India or with intent



to strike terror or likely to strike terror in the people or any section of the people in India."

However, the provision qualifies that striking terror is by use of "bombs, dynamite or other explosive substances or inflammable substances or firearms or any other means."

While refusing bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria, in its judgment spanning 142 pages, referred to Section 15(1)(a) of the 1967

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Flags off J&K's Contingent for 29th NYF

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday, virtually, flagged off a 53-member Youth Contingent from UT of Jammu Kashmir for New Delhi to participate in the 29th National Youth Festival-Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue-2026.

"To commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on 12th January, the National Youth Festival (NYF) dedicated to youth empowerment and unity for the youth is organised annually. In the year 2025, the National Youth Festival was restructured as Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue to align with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The contingent selected for the Viksit Bharat Challenge Track and Cultural/Innovation Track will represent J&K at the prestigious national event at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 10th to 12th January

2026.

Interacting with the participating youth through virtual mode, the Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes for the prestigious event.

He congratulated the participants for emerging from local competitions

Flags off J&K's Contingent for 29th NYF

Courage, curiosity, youth power key to developed India: LG



LG Manoj Sinha flagging off JK UT Contingent for 29th National Youth Festival from Jammu on Wednesday.

to reach the national stage, noting that their journey reflects the immense potential inherent in the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Youth is not a matter of age. It is the mindset. It is about courage, curiosity, and the power to bring

about change. I have complete faith in our Youth's potential and their resolve to shape a developed India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Invoking Swami Vivekananda's iconic clarion call, "Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached," the Lieutenant Governor urged the youth to make their dreams the sole purpose of their lives and to consider every challenge on the way as a lesson in discipline and patience.

He emphasized that true leadership is defined not by personal achievements, but by the ability to create opportunities for others.

"Your greatest responsibility is towards society and the nation. True progress is about creating opportunities for others to move forward.

Develop future capabilities, focus on character building and embrace lifelong learning. Be bold, be fearless, think beyond boundaries. Your

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Israeli PM calls Modi; briefs on Gaza Peace Plan status

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday received a phone

call from his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, who shared an update on the Gaza Peace Plan and reaffirmed their shared resolve to fight terror.

"The two leaders warmly exchanged New Year greetings and wished the people of both countries peace and prosperity," a statement from the prime minister's office said.

It said Netanyahu briefed the prime minister on the implementation of the Gaza

Peace Plan.

"The Prime Minister reaffirmed India's consistent support for efforts towards a



just and durable peace in the region," the statement said.

Modi and Netanyahu identified shared priorities to further strengthen the India-Israel Strategic

CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 14.8°C Min: 8.7°C

Humidity
Max: 92 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 10.0°C Min: -1.6°C

Humidity
Max: 90 Min: 83

Sunset: 17:39 Hours
Sunrise: 07:33 Hours