

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Railway Minister announces...

The Ministry's press note also highlighted a focus on safety, with a goal to reduce the number of accidents to a single digit, down from 11 in 2025-2026. Other reforms outlined include leveraging AI and technology, revamping talent and training programs, and upgrading food and catering services. The Railway Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to reforms, safety, technological progress, and passenger-centric growth, the press note said.

JK e-Pathshala major...

(via video conferencing), Commissioner Secretary School Education Ram Niwas Sharma, Project Director Samagra Shiksha Bhawani Rakwal, Director School Education Javid Naseem Choudhary, Special Director General BISAG-N Vinay Thakur, besides teachers, students and other senior concerned.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched two newly established digital studios, announced 14 districts of Jammu and Kashmir as fully literate, and dedicated 1010 works completed under Samagra Shiksha during the year 2025-26 to the people.

Addressing the gathering after the launch at Convention Center here, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that JK e-Pathshala represents a new beginning in the use of technology for strengthening school education.

Reflecting on the transformation in teaching methods, the Chief Minister recalled his own school days and said that even an overhead projector was once considered a major technological breakthrough. "In our time, we felt we had entered the 21st century just by sitting in a class with an overhead projector. Today, we are witnessing a real technological revolution in education," he remarked.

Congratulating the School Education Department for the initiative, the Chief Minister said that if used effectively, technology can truly change the lives of children. However, he made it clear that digital platforms are meant to supplement classroom teaching, not replace teachers.

"This channel is not to replace the classroom or the teacher. A teacher and a classroom can never be replaced. Technology is meant to fill gaps and support learning," he said, adding that the personal bond between a teacher and a student can never be created by any device or screen.

Sharing a personal anecdote, the Chief Minister recalled how a strict and dedicated teacher had helped him overcome his fear of science. "Good teachers help even the weakest students cross the limits of their abilities. No technology can compete with a good teacher," he said.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to continuously upgrade teachers' skills and encourage them to use technology as a support tool. He also underlined the importance of quality and regularly updated content on JK e-Pathshala and sought regular feedback from students and teachers to ensure the channel remains relevant and effective.

Highlighting the unique geographical and climatic challenges of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in its remote districts, the Chief Minister said that the channel would be especially beneficial for students living in isolated areas. "Our students can study in school and then continue learning at home through these channels," he said.

He also spoke about responsible use of digital screens, encouraging students to use mobile devices for educational and knowledge-based content while discouraging excessive gaming and non-productive activities.

Emphasising the importance of reading habits, the Chief Minister urged parents and teachers to instil in children the habit of reading books, newspapers and magazines. "If we open the world of books for our children, we open a whole new world for them," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that JK e-Pathshala would be the beginning of a larger digital education ecosystem in J&K. He said that in the future, dedicated channels for each class could be introduced to ensure adequate learning time for every grade.

"No matter how advanced technology becomes, physical teachers will never be replaced," he asserted, calling upon all stakeholders to work together for building a brighter future for the children of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Minister for Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo also addressed the gathering and described the launch of JK e-Pathshala as a historic and revolutionary step in strengthening the education sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

CB registers FIR...

Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu, and that higher compensation at the rate of Rs. 75,000 per Kanal would be paid. On verification at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Jammu, the complainant found that his name did not figure in the list of beneficiaries," Sanjay Parihar said.

Later, the accused allegedly issued two cheques towards repayment, which were dishonoured due to insufficient funds.

During Preliminary Verification, it was found that the accused has caused wrongful loss to the complainant and wrongful gain to himself.

The acts of omission and commission on the part of the accused prima facie disclosed the commission of an offence punishable under Section 420 RPC.

Accordingly, a formal case has been registered at Police Station Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch, Jammu, against the alleged accused, Sanjay Parihar said adding that the investigation of the case has been entrusted to Dy. SP Deepak Jasrotia, Investigating Officer, SCW Crime Branch, Jammu and further investigation is in progress.

EOW registers 11...

found to disclose the commission of serious cognizable offences, including fraud, impersonation, forgery, criminal conspiracy, and abuse of official authority.

According to Crime Branch officials, the complaints relate to a broad spectrum of fraudulent activities. These include the irregular issuance of Permanent Resident Certificates (PRCs) in District Doda, bank loan frauds through forged KYC documents, cheating by promising government jobs, issuance of fake appointment letters, and illegal diversion of funds sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

Other cases involve the use of forged educational certificates to secure government employment, preparation and circulation of fake government communications, visa-related frauds, and manipulation of revenue and service records to obtain compassionate appointments under SRO-43. The allegations further include misuse of official position by public servants, tampering with public records, obtaining illegal financial gains, issuing threats to complainants, and causing wrongful losses to the government exchequer and financial institutions.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu, Mohd Fiesal Qureshi-JKPS, said, "The Crime Branch is committed to safeguarding public trust and taking stringent action against those involved in economic offences. Such crimes not only harm individuals but also undermine the integrity of public institutions."

He advised citizens to remain vigilant and promptly report any instances of economic offences to the Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu for timely legal action.

Op resumes in...

hideout during the joint operation, they added.

The action by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security forces was launched at Kahog village in Billawar on Wednesday evening, leading to an encounter, the officials said. "The search operation to track down the hiding terrorists has been resumed after a nightlong cordon," a senior security official said.

The searches are being conducted in the Dhanu Parole-Kamadh nallah area. Additional forces have been called in, along with aerial surveillance, to pin down the terrorists hiding in the dense forest, the officials said.

"Despite darkness, thick vegetation and treacherous terrain, the SOG is relentlessly engaging the terrorists. Teams of the CRPF are also participating in the joint operation," Bhim Sen Tuti, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Zone, said in a post on X.

The firefight broke out at Kahog on Wednesday evening after the forces launched a search operation based on information about the presence of two to three terrorists in the area.

During the exchange of fire, a security personnel suffered a minor injury after a bullet hit his leg. He has been hospitalised, the officials said.

"The SOG has engaged the terrorists in the forest area of Kamadh nallah, Kathua," the IGP said in another post on X.

According to the officials, the firing between the two sides lasted for more than an hour. It was not immediately known if any terrorist was hit in the firefight.

There are reports of the movement of three groups of infiltrating terrorists in the region.

The officials said during the search operation, a well-constructed terrorist hideout was busted near the Kamadh nallah on Thursday.

Utensils, food items and clothes were found from the hideout.

The Army, the Border Security Force (BSF), police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) are continuously carrying out search operations in the area, identi-

fying border dwellers and intensifying patrols along the International Border in Samba and Kathua districts and the adjoining areas of Punjab for the last one month, the officials said.

A multi-tier security grid comprising the BSF, border police and Village Defence Guards (VDGs) has been put on alert ahead of the Republic Day on January 26.

Kathua has witnessed several encounters between security forces and terrorists over the last two years, resulting in the killings of 16 people -- 11 security personnel and five terrorists.

While seven security personnel and two terrorists were killed in 2024, when ultras revived their activities in the district after more than a decade, seven persons -- four security personnel and three terrorists -- were killed in 2023.

In addition, four civilians died under mysterious circumstances, with locals suspecting that terrorists killed them.

Indian AI startups...

that Indian AI models should be distinct and should promote local and indigenous content and regional languages, an official statement said.

The prime minister said startups and artificial intelligence entrepreneurs are the co-architects of the country's future.

As many as 12 Indian AI start-ups that have qualified for the 'AI for ALL: Global Impact Challenge' summit to be held next month attended the roundtable and presented their ideas and work.

During the meeting, Modi highlighted the importance of artificial intelligence in bringing about transformation in society.

He noted that India will host the India AI Impact summit next month, through which the country will play a major role in the technology sector.

The prime minister highlighted that India is making efforts to bring about a transformation by leveraging AI.

He emphasised that startups and AI entrepreneurs are the co-architects of India's future and said the country has immense capacity for both innovation and large-scale implementation. India should present a unique AI model to the world that reflects the spirit of 'Made in India, Made for the World', Modi said.

These start-ups are working in a diverse set of areas, including Indian language foundation models, multilingual LLMs, speech-to-text, text-to-audio and text-to-video; 3D content using generative AI for e-commerce, marketing, and personalised content creation; engineering simulations, material research and advanced analytics for data-driven decision-making across industries; healthcare diagnostics and medical research, among others.

The AI start-ups commended India's strong commitment to advancing the artificial intelligence ecosystem in the country. They highlighted the rapid growth and vast future potential of the AI sector, observing that the centre of gravity of artificial intelligence innovation and deployment is beginning to shift towards India.

The leaders said India now offers a robust and enabling environment for AI development, firmly placing the country on the global AI map.

The meeting was attended by CEOs, heads and representatives of Indian AI start-ups, including Avataar, BharatGen, Fractal, Gan, Genloop, Gnani, Intellihealth, Sarvam, Shodh AI, Soket AI, Tech Mahindra and Zenteiq.

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav and Minister of State Jitin Prasada were also present in the meeting.

Centre launches 'Pankhudi'...

and empowerment. Through this portal, individuals, non-resident Indians, Non-Governmental Organisations, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributors, and corporate entities can make contributions.

The government agencies working in the domain of women and child development can also make contributions through this portal.

Speaking after launching the portal, the WCD Minister said the portal is a "non-monetary, transparent, and result-oriented" platform.

"Our effort is that corporates, NGOs, and individuals can connect with the centres without any hassle, and can make a real impact, and can also monitor the progress," the minister said.

The portal will strengthen the implementation of the Ministry's flagship missions -- Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti -- through a structured and transparent digital mechanism, Devi said.

The portal will also support improved implementation, monitoring, and accountability of the initiatives, she said, adding that "The portal will provide end-to-end tracking with transparency."

Anti-law elements will not be spared, public order cannot be compromised: Chugh

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday issued a strong warning against anti-law and anarchic elements, asserting that no form of violence, encroachment, or defiance of the law will be tolerated in the country.

Tarun Chugh said, "No aggressive or anarchic element is acceptable in a democratic society. Those involved in encroachment and standing against the law will not be spared under any circumstances. There can be no compromise with public order."

Condemning incidents of violence against lawful administrative action, Tarun Chugh said that stone-pelting on police and administration during the execution of legal duties is not democracy but sheer anarchy. "Attacking police or administrative machinery during lawful action amounts to lawlessness, not democratic dissent," he asserted.

The BJP National General Secretary cautioned against attempts to incite violence through social media platforms or under the shield of political patronage. He made it clear that spreading unrest by misusing digital platforms or political influence will invite strict action. "Provoking violence through social media or political protection will not be allowed to succeed," he said.

Emphasizing the supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law, Chugh said that the nation will be governed strictly in accordance with law and not at the dictates of any individual or group. "India will be run by the rule of law, not by the signals of self-styled leaders or instigators," he remarked. Reaffirming the BJP's commitment to maintaining peace, order, and democratic values, Tarun Chugh expressed full support for the police and administration in taking firm and lawful action against those disrupting public order. He stressed that ensuring safety, security, and discipline in society is essential for democracy to function effectively and for citizens to live without fear.

Suspected IED recovered, defused in Rajouri

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/JAMMU: Security forces recovered and safely defused a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) during a joint cordon and search operation in Rajouri district, officials said on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off regarding suspicious movement in the forest area of Kallar in Dori Maal of Thanamandi, the Army and police launched a joint operation on Wednesday, they said.

During the search operation, some suspected material was found, which was closely examined by the forces and identified as a suspected IED weighing around 4 kg, they said. The device was later destroyed through a controlled mechanism, they said. Some empty shells were also recovered from the site and taken into possession. The area is being thoroughly searched, and the operation is ongoing, they said.

Two fatal hit-and-run cases solved

STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: J&K Police have successfully solved two separate fatal hit-and-run cases registered at Police Station Tarzoo and Police Station Sopore through thorough and systematic investigation, leading to the identification and arrest of the accused persons involved. In the first case registered at Police Station Tarzoo under relevant sections of the law, information was received regarding a hit-and-run incident at Seer Crossing, where an unknown vehicle struck a scooter rider, namely Nazir Ahmad, resulting in critical injuries.

The injured was shifted to SKIMS Srinagar for treatment, where he later succumbed to his injuries. During the course of investigation, the Investigating Officer carefully examined and analysed CCTV footage from the vicinity of the incident, which led to the identification and arrest of the accused involved. In another hit-and-run case registered at Police Station Sopore under relevant sections of the law, a pedestrian, namely Abdul Majeed Dar, sustained grievous injuries after being struck by an unknown scooter rider at Hatlangoo Crossing.

The injured was immediately shifted for medical treatment but later succumbed to his injuries. Through sustained efforts, technical analysis and field verification, Sopore Police successfully traced, identified and arrested the accused involved in the incident. Both cases were solved through thorough investigation, technical inputs and coordinated field work, ensuring accountability in serious road accident cases.

MLA supporters, DDC member clash during inaugural ceremony in Doda

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An event to start work on a link road in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district turned chaotic on Thursday after MLA Shakti Raj Parihar's supporters and District Development Council member from Kashtigarh, Santosha Devi, were involved in a minor clash amid protests against the two leaders.

However, the MLA, District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Dhananter Singh and Santosha Devi later jointly inaugurated the project, officials said.

The incident occurred during the inaugural function of the PMGSY Sooli-Zadan link road in the Kashtigarh block of Doda district, when supporters of the two leaders shouted slogans and clashed over the issue of whether the inauguration should be carried out by the MLA or the DDC leadership.

The supporters of Parihar alleged that the DDC member slapped one of their leaders during the event, triggering protests against her.

Santosha Devi admitted that she slapped a person after he allegedly tried to snatch the plate meant for the inauguration and misbehaved with her.

Police and the administration intervened promptly and prevented the situation from deteriorating, officials said.

Later, a joint foundation stone-laying ceremony was conducted.

Parihar said the 5.4-km-long project, sanctioned at Rs 1,660.20 lakh and being constructed using waste plastic technology, will benefit nearly 950 residents by improving access to essential services and supporting socio-economic development in the region.

Singh, Parihar and Santosha Devi congratulated the people from the area for the start of the work.

"Once completed, it will benefit thousands of people here. For this, I want to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh," Parihar said. Santosha Devi belongs to the Congress, while Parihar is the BJP MLA from Doda West.

Elderly Kashmiri Pandit couple assaulted in Srinagar; ex-IRS officer among 3 held

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three people, including a dismissed IRS officer, were arrested on Thursday for allegedly assaulting an elderly Kashmiri Pandit couple here, official sources said. They said police took cognizance of the alleged assault incident involving an elderly Kashmiri Pandit couple in the Rajbagh area of the city.

Police found that Vivek Batra, a former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer who was dismissed from the service, along with his six associates, allegedly entered the residence of Ashok Toshkhanai in Rajbagh and assaulted the family members, the sources said. They said the accused also attempted to set the house on fire.

During the incident, several women sustained injuries and were shifted to a hospital, they added. Acting promptly, the police arrested three accused persons and initiated legal proceedings under relevant sections of law, the sources said.

Further investigation in the case is underway, they added.

Missing lady traced, reunite her family

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda Police have successfully traced a missing lady and reunited her with her family. A lady named Nour Jahan, W/o Muzaffer Hussain, R/o Chilly Balla, Tehsil Gandoh, had gone missing from her residence on 25.04.2024. Accordingly, a missing report was registered at Police Station Gandoh vide DD No. 14 dated 25.04.2024. On the directions of SSP Doda, a special district-level technical team was constituted to trace missing persons and absconders. On 07.01.2026, through sustained technical surveillance and human intelligence, the missing lady was successfully traced. After completion of all legal formalities, the missing report was closed vide DDR No. 28 dated 07.01.2026, and the lady was safely reunited with her family.

Notorious drug peddler apprehend with heroin

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking, Jammu (Rural) Police achieved a major success on 06.01.2026 at about 15:30 hours, when a police party from Police Station Nagrota established a naka near SDH, Jagti Colony.

During naka checking, the police party signalled a motorcycle (Super Splendor) without a registration number plate coming from the NHW-44 side towards Jagti Township to stop for checking. The occupants of the motorcycle were found behaving suspiciously.

Upon enquiry, the rider disclosed his identity as Fareed S/o Haji Zahoor, R/o Gosain Chak, Phallian Mandal, Jammu, while the pillion rider disclosed his identity as Younis Alam S/o Tahir, R/o Simble Bari, District Purnia, State Bihar, presently residing at Gosain Chak, Phallian Mandal, Jammu.

In the meantime, the rider of the motorcycle fled from the spot and, despite a chase, managed to escape. During the personal search of the pillion rider, one small transparent polythene packet containing heroin-like substance weighing 7.3 grams was recovered from the left pocket of his pants.

On questioning, the pillion rider failed to give any satisfactory explanation regarding the recovered contraband and further disclosed that the absconding rider, Fareed, was also carrying heroin-like substance. It was revealed that both individuals, in criminal conspiracy, were in possession of the contraband for the purpose of distribution/sale among the youth, and the motorcycle was being used for transporting the illicit substance.

Accordingly, both accused have committed offences punishable under Sections 8/21/22/25/29 of the NDPS Act. In this regard, a case has been registered at Police Station Nagrota vide FIR No.03/2026 under Sections 8/21/22/29 of the NDPS Act. Further investigation is underway to identify and apprehend other persons involved in the drug supply network in the area.

Overloaded mini-bus seized

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of its drive to tighten the noose against traffic violators, Jammu (Rural) Police at Police Station JhajarKotli have registered a case after an overloaded mini-bus with passengers loaded on terrace was found being driven in a rash and negligent manner at Dansal Market. The mini-bus bearing registration No. JK02AD-1265, plying from Manwal towards Domail, was found carrying passengers in a dangerous manner, thereby endangering human life and public safety.

Accordingly, FIR No. 02/2026 under Section 281 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered at Police Station JhajarKotli, and further investigation is underway. Jammu (Rural) Police have reiterated that strict action will continue against traffic violations to ensure road safety and discipline.

2 house owners booked for failing to register their tenants

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHITWAR: District Police Kishtwar conducted a special drive for tenant verification across different areas of Kishtwar town to ensure compliance with the directions issued by the District Magistrate, Kishtwar, regarding mandatory disclosure and verification of tenants by house owners. During the drive, it was found that certain house owners had violated the standing orders by failing to submit the mandatory details of their tenants to the local police authorities. Accordingly, two separate FIRs have been registered FIR No. 09/2026 & FIR No. 11/2026 under relevant sections of law have been registered against the violators namely Ghulam Mustafa S/o Abdul Latif R/o Gurdiazaan, Kishtwar and Abdul Kabeeer S/o Mohd. Akbar Butt R/o Umar Mohalla, Kishtwar at Police Station Kishtwar. Meanwhile, SSP Kishtwar Kishtwar, Naresh Singh has urged the general public, especially house owners, landlords, and property managers, to strictly adhere to tenant verification norms and ensure timely registration and verification of their tenants at the concerned police stations.

Illicit timber seized; accused arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: In a swift and well-coordinated operation against timber smuggling, J&K Police successfully seized a consignment of illicit timber along with a Load Carrier and arrested the accused involved in the commission of crime.

During routine naka checking near Wussan, a police team of Police Station Ganderbal intercepted a suspicious load carrier vehicle bearing Registration No. JK16B-4440. Upon inspection, the vehicle was found carrying Eight (08) Logs of illegally felled Kail Timber. The driver fled the spot after seeing the police party, abandoning the vehicle. A thorough search of the vehicle revealed that the seized timber was being transported without any valid permit or legal documentation, following which the vehicle and timber were seized as per law. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 04/2026 under Section 303 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 26 of the Forest Act stands registered at PS Ganderbal. Subsequently, on the directions of SSP Ganderbal Shri Khalil Ahmad Poswal-JKPS, a Special Police Team was constituted. After sustained and strenuous efforts, the accused Irshad Ahmad Dar, son of Mohd Qasim Dar, resident of Nilahnajwan, Kangan was apprehended.