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THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

# STATE TIMES

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Modi Govt's governance reforms included scrapping of 2,000 obsolete rules: Dr Jitendra

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BBAJK to hold selection trials today

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## Five soldiers martyred as vehicle falls into gorge in Poonch

LG, Omar, Chugh condole loss of lives of army personnel

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

MENDHAR: Five soldiers were martyred and as many others injured when an Army vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down a 300-feet deep gorge in Poonch district on Tuesday evening, officials said, while ruling out any terror angle.

A defence spokesperson said the cause of the accident is being ascertained but "possibly the driver lost control at the turn of the road". The accident occurred in the Gharoa area when a convoy of six vehicles was on its way to Banoi in the district.

The officials quoted above said rescue teams have recovered five bodies from the gorge which is 300-350 feet deep.

The injured soldiers have been shifted to the field hospital in Poonch, he said, adding one of them is in critical condition.

"One 2.5 Ton vehicle, part of a convoy of six vehicles, while moving on the operational track near Poonch, went off the road into a nallah. Operational track is on the home side of the LOC fence," the defence spokesperson said in a statement.

He said five soldiers died in the incident and as many are injured.

The Army, meanwhile, ruled out terrorism angle to the incident. "A terrorist Initiated Incident positively ruled out after confirming from ground sources. Own post approximately 130 m from the incident site and backup vehicle was barely 40 meters away," he said.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has condoled the loss of lives of army personnel due to tragic vehicle accident.

In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "I am deeply pained by the loss of lives of our brave army personnel due to a tragic vehicle accident in Poonch sector. My condolences to the bereaved

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## Education is process of self-discovery, art of sculpting individuality: LG

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

VARANASI: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday addressed the Annual Day Function of JS Group of Institutions at Varanasi. He congratulated and extended his best wishes to the management, teachers, students and everyone associated with the JS Group of Institutions.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the critical role of Science and Technology for a brighter future of India. He emphasised that modern education must touch every person of society for progress and prosperity of all.

Education is the process of self-discovery. It is the art of sculpting individuality.

Education not only trains the individual in a specific skill

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## J&K HC rules women lawyers cannot appear in court with covered faces

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: As per the Bar Council of India (BCI) rules, women lawyers are not allowed to plead in the courtroom with their faces covered. This directive was clarified in a recent judgment by the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court. The judgment, issued on December 13, 2024, addresses an incident from November 27, when advocate Syed Ainain Qadri appeared in court with her face covered while representing petitioners in a domestic violence case. She argued that covering her face was her fundamental right, but the court insisted that her identity needed to be verified.

The court expressed its inability to recognize her appearance as a legal representative because it could not confirm her identity. It stated that "this Court does not consider the appearance of the person calling herself Advocate Syed Ainain Qadri as counsel for the petitioners as this Court has no basis/occasion to verify

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## CM directs all departments to gear up for winter adversity

Stresses on smooth delivery of essential services

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure smooth and uninterrupted delivery of essential services and functioning of vital installations across the Kashmir Division, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting here at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting reviewed the preparedness of various departments to address challenges posed by harsh winter conditions, particularly in the snow-bound zones of Kashmir Valley and Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmad Rana, Minister for Agriculture and RDD

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## Fake appointment order: CB presents charge-sheet against habitual offender

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Carrying forward the drive against cheaters and fraudsters, Special Crime Wing (SCW) of Crime Branch Jammu on Tuesday filed a charge-sheet against one habitual offender namely Jameel Anjum Mir, son of Nazir Ahmed, resident of H.No. 45, Naraina Mohalla, Pacea Danga, Jammu, in a fraud and cheating case.

Giving details of the case, SSP Special Crime Wing Jammu, Sanjay Parihar said that a written complaint was lodged at Police Station

SCW Jammu regarding a fake selection-cum-appointment order issued by one of the government departments, adding that the order was completely fake and forged, without any number and date, likely to have been framed with mala fide intention to dupe the gullible youth, maligning the image of the department.

"On receiving the complaint, a case under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Special Crime Wing Jammu

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## LG, CM greet people on Christmas

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday greeted the people on the joyous occasion of Christmas. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ is an occasion to celebrate and imbibe Lord Christ's message of love, compassion and forgiveness.

I hope that the sacred occasion inspires us to build a future where all people love one another and live together in harmony and further strengthen our bond of brotherhood. Let us rededicate ourselves to imbibe the life and teachings of Jesus Christ for the welfare of humankind and work for the uplift of the needy and underprivileged.

May this Christmas fill the hearts of people all over the Union Territory with warmth, love and

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## New criminal laws becoming protectors of civil rights, basis of 'ease of justice': Amit Shah

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the three new criminal laws - "Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam -" are becoming protectors of civil rights and the basis of 'ease of justice'.

Chairing a review meeting here on the implementation of the three criminal laws in Uttarakhand, Shah asked Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to put into effect the new laws 100 per cent as soon as possible.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 respectively.

During the discussion in the meeting, Shah said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the three new criminal laws are becoming the protectors of civil rights and the basis of 'ease of justice', an official statement said.

Shah said the new laws are victim and citizen centric and they need to be implemented promptly with this spirit.

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## Manipur, Kerala, Bihar get new Governors

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Former Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed the Governor of strife-torn Manipur, ex-Army chief Vijay Kumar Singh is the new Mizoram Governor while Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has been shifted to Bihar as part of gubernatorial appointments effected by President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday.

Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has been named the Governor of Kerala in place of Khan, according to the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

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## Construction work stopped

### Proposed dispensary at Vivekanand Chowk; Waqf Board, JMC dispute over land ownership

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Tensions between the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and the Waqf Board have escalated after the JMC uprooted and discarded the signboard of the Waqf Board at the site of a proposed dispensary at Vivekanand Chowk in the heart of Jammu City.

This move led to halt in the ongoing work for the dispensary project, which was expected to serve the local community.

The dispute centered around the ownership and jurisdiction over the land where the dispensary was being setup.

The Waqf Board, which is responsible for managing properties donated for religious or charitable purposes, claims the land as part of its assets, while the JMC insists that the project falls under its domain for urban development.

The JMC personnel, in the presence of officials, removed the Waqf Board's signboard from the site, further intensifying the ongoing conflict. The dispute has drawn the attention of both local authorities and the public, with many residents concerned about the delay in the development of essential healthcare infrastructure. Efforts to mediate between the two parties are underway, but no official resolution has been reached yet.

As the standoff continues, the fate of the dispensary and its potential impact on public health services in the area remains uncertain.

The J&K Waqf Board officials said that the place, where construction work on the proposed dispensary at Vivekanand Chowk,

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# Enough of lip service; 2025 year of real work for Jammu

**ANCHOR**  
DOST KHAN

JAMMU: Jammu is standing at a critical juncture as it prepares to enter 2025 in a few days' time from now. Like all other people, the region is looking forward to a great year ahead in which it seeks to move forward and reverse all the reversals of fortunes it has suffered all along.

This kind of hope is tempered at the end of each year while waiting for New Year.

There was a time when Srinagar used to be considered as political capital of the erstwhile state, and Jammu strutted as the financial capital. It was hub of all the trade and nerve centre of economic activities in business and industry. It was a big destination of the goods coming from other parts of the country before moving to the Valley, and likewise Kashmir fruit passed through Mandis of Jammu. Certain developments over the years have changed profile of Jammu. It is now struggling to retain its position as the financial capital, which was its original strength.

Economic activities flourish and gain momentum only when there is an unshakable peace and political stability. At a time when Kashmir was rattled by all the terror-violence and its politics was consumed by the terror attacks, many in Kashmir sought refuge in Jammu to escape the life-threatening violence over there. Jammu hosted them - not only Kashmiri Pandits, who were victims of an organized campaign by Islamists but all others who were deemed to be obstacle in fulfilling their design to establish an anti-India zone in Kashmir. Pakistan was backing this campaign.

That was the time when the political system should have used it as an opportunity to develop an all-time development, keeping its business interests and enterprise in mind. That also was the time when Jammu made several sacrifices - it suffered from an unwelcome tag of being part of the terror-hit state. The national media, in its over enthusiasm to tell how dangerous J&K has become because of Pakistan-backed terrorism, displayed a massive ignorance of the state's geography and the demographic character, and announced that terror attacks were taking place in J&K even when such incidents were confined to some remote area of the Valley. Despite protestations by the business community and others, particularly some of the leaders of Jammu, neither the national media nor some of the responsible sections of political leadership pronounced the exact geography. This has been the bane of Jammu.

The tragedy is that approach has not changed. Jammu is seen on the map of trouble-hit J&K, but when it comes to showcasing the virtues, a squinted view is played out. Everything is seen except Jammu, its beauty, business capabilities and entrepreneurship. Jammu is the lesser spoken region, the whole thing is phrased in one word while describing the whole of J&K. This is deliberate. Jammu is not only marginalized but pushed to brink. This has added to the challenge as some of the positive developments, because of the pursuit of positive initiatives of the Government, have missed the aspirations of the people. For example, a big initiative and which will soon see the world watching train moving to Kashmir from all parts of the country, is also a project that Jammu would have wanted its halt at day-time and Jammu projected as a destination. The Expressway is good but better it would have been had this city and its needs also taken into consideration. Jammu is supportive of these developments and it went out of its way to extend its helping hand, but its own aspirations have not been fully realized.

So at the turn of the year on calendar, Jammu should make its own calendar of the work- what to achieve in 2025 so that it can become self-sufficient on its own. In thus digital and inter-connected world, of which India has become a leader, Jammu will have to work in this matrix. The business and political leadership should not get pleased by the gratitude that others pay to its unending hospitality rooted in Dogra traditions, but work to carve out its own space in this matrix. Flood the policy makers with suggestions and persuade them to recognize Jammu's potential and translate that into reality. Jammu has had enough of lip service.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 21.2°C Min: 7.6°C

Humidity  
Max: 74 Min: 63

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 7.6°C Min: -6.6°C

Humidity  
Max: 96 Min: 70

Sunset : 17:32 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:30 Hours