

03 **AIIMS Jammu launches advanced interventional Cath Lab services**

09 **Four flights cancelled, 38 delayed at Srinagar airport due to bad weather**

10 **37th J&K UT Senior Volleyball Championship begins**

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Pulse Polio Campaign
"Do B and Zindagi Ki"
"Stop polio at the doorstep - immunize every child."

Polio Day
21 December 2025 Sunday
In all districts
Ensure every child under 5 years of age gets polio drops everytime

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

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Omar unveils official logo of Jammu Marathon, to be held on March 29

Urges citizens to embrace fitness as 'way of life'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday expressed hope that the maiden edition of the Jammu Marathon, scheduled to be held on March 29, 2026, will emerge as one of the iconic events on the Indian running calendar. He was speaking at the official launch of the Jammu Marathon at a ceremony held at Hari Niwas Palace here.

The launch event was attended by Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma, MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi, former minister Ajatshatru Singh, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, international fitness icon, model and actor Milind Soman, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta, and other senior officers and stakeholders. On the occasion, the Chief



CM Omar Abdullah unveiling official logo of Jammu Marathon on Monday.

'Vote chori' raised by Cong, not by INDIA bloc: Omar

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday distanced himself from the "vote chori" issue raised by the Congress and said the "INDIA bloc has got nothing to do with it".

His remarks came a day after top Congress leaders attacked the BJP and the Election Commissioners at a 'Vote Chor Gaddi Chhod' rally in the national capital, alleging that "vote chori" is in the ruling party's DNA and its leaders were "gad-dar" who were conspiring to take away voting rights of people and should be removed from power. Abdullah's National Conference is a constituent of the

Minister unveiled the official logo, medal and merchandise of the Jammu Marathon. He also launched the marathon's official website, opened registrations, and released the teaser video for the event.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said he firmly believes that the Jammu Marathon will carve out a distinct place for itself among major running events in the country, owing

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Two arrested for attacking SI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two persons were arrested on Monday, a day after a sub-inspector of the Jammu and Kashmir Police was injured in an attack by a group here, officials said.

Sub-Inspector Nitin Khajuria, posted at the Bakshi Nagar police station, was attacked on Sunday evening by four people travelling in a Thar.

The accused -- Rishab, Munna D, and two unidentified individuals -- attacked him with a sharp weapon and also brandished a pistol, a police spokesperson said, adding that Khajuria sustained injuries and was rushed to Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu.

Taking cognisance of the incident, a case was registered at Bakshi Nagar police station, and special teams were formed to apprehend the accused, he said.

Police teams traced two of the accused to the Nikki Tawi area. While on the run in the darkness in the

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Recruitment fraud: 103 F&ES Deptt employees terminated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday ordered the termination of services of 103 employees in the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department after they were found to have been illegally appointed through a manipulated recruitment process five years ago.

The action followed the findings of an inquiry committee and subsequent investigation by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) into alleged irregularities in the 2020 recruitment process of firemen and drivers in the department.

In an order issued by J&K Home Department

Principal Secretary Chandraker Bharti said the government constituted an inquiry committee on December 12, 2022 to examine allegations of irregularities in the recruitment

process in the Fire and Emergency Services Department in 2020.

"The Committee, after detailed examination, recommended a criminal investigation by the ACB into allegations of paper leakage, manipulation of results, and other issues. Pursuant to these findings, the ACB registered an FIR on January 2, 2025 and submitted a preliminary verification report on January 9, followed by letters on November 21 and November 28," the order said.

The ACB report established large-scale tampering in OMR sheets, fabricated scanned images of answer sheets, and illegal manipulation of merit lists, conclusively confirming manipulation of results in favour of 106 candidates who were awarded marks far in excess of what they actually secured, and criminal conspiracy, it

said. Bharti said it has been established beyond doubt that the appointments of these 106 candidates were obtained fraudulently, through criminal means and result-manipulation, rendering their appointments void ab initio.

"The protection available to civil servants under Article 311(2) do not apply in cases where the appointment itself is illegal and where the foundation of employment is vitiated by fraud," the order said, citing past judgments by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh and the Supreme Court in separate cases.

Out of the 106 identified illegal appointees, the order said the appointment of three candidates has been cancelled by the Director, F&ES, for not fulfilling the requisite formalities required

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IPS Sarah Rizvi gets two-year extension

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, has approved two-year extension for DIG Udhampur Sarah Afzal Ahmed Rizvi, IPS (GJ:2008), for her inter-cadre deputation.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal

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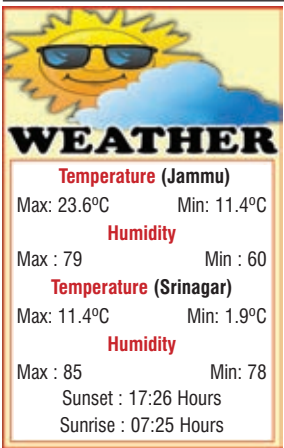
SC issues slew of directions to streamline criminal trials

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a bid to streamline criminal trials, the Supreme Court issued a slew of directions to trial courts on Monday to enhance the legibility of verdicts in criminal matters.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said all trial courts dealing with criminal matters shall, at the conclusion of the judgment, incorporate tabulated charts summarising the details of the witnesses examined, documents exhibited and material objects produced and exhibited. The court said these charts

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 23.6°C Min: 11.4°C

Humidity
Max: 79 Min: 60

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 11.4°C Min: 1.9°C

Humidity
Max: 85 Min: 78

Sunset : 17:26 Hours
Sunrise : 07:25 Hours

Policeman martyred, terrorist injured in Udhampur gunfight

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A policeman was martyred and a terrorist believed to be injured in a gunfight in a remote forest village in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday evening, officials said.

The gunfight has stopped but the area has been put under tight security cordon and all escape routes have been plugged to neutralize the holed-up terrorists, the officials said.

The encounter erupted at village Soan in Majalta area of the hilly district when security forces launched a search operation following information about the presence of three terrorists believed to be affiliated with Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit,



they said.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti said the contact was established with the terrorists after police received precise input about them in the remote village.

"Joint team of Special Operations Group (SOG) of police along with Army and CRPF are on job," the officer said.

In another post, the IGP said "a very small SOG team engaged the terrorists! Combing of the forest has been impeded due to darkness and treacherous terrain."

The officials said the encounter took place in the besieged village around 6 pm and continued for sometime, resulting in injuries

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India and Jordan share common & clear stance against terrorism: PM tells King Abdullah II

■ AGENCY

AMMAN: India and Jordan share a common and clear stance against terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he met King Abdullah II and discussed bilateral ties and exchanged perspectives on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Modi, who arrived in Jordan on a two-day visit at the invitation of Abdullah II, was warmly welcomed by the king at the Hussein Palace, where they held a one-on-one meeting before the delegation-level talks.

The two sides agreed to further deepen their partnership, especially in the fields of trade and investment, defence and security, counter-terrorism



PM Narendra Modi receives warm welcome by King of Jordan Abdullah II bin Al Hussein at the Hussein Palace on Monday.

and de-radicalisation, fertiliser and agriculture, renewable

energy, and tourism. Both leaders reaffirmed

their united stand against terrorism.

"We hope that peace and stability will prevail in the region. We share a common and clear stance against terrorism. Under your leadership, Jordan has sent a strong and strategic message to the world against terrorism, extremism, and radicalisation," Modi said, reaffirming India's support for efforts being made to achieve a durable peace in the region.

Abdullah II conveyed strong support for India's fight against terrorism and condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Prime Minister Modi appreciated King Abdullah II's leadership in tackling terrorism, extremism

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BSF DG reviews security situation, counter infiltration grid in Jammu frontier

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) Praveen Kumar, visited forward areas along the International Border to review overall security arrangements, the counter-infiltration grid and operational preparedness, and lauded the unwavering commitment and resilience of the troops.

During his two-day visit beginning Sunday, the DG inaugurated 20 newly constructed Mahila Barracks at various Border Out Posts (BOPs), aimed at providing improved accommodation and welfare facilities for women personnel deployed along the border.

"The Director General, BSF, visited the Jammu



DG BSF Praveen Kumar interacting with troops.

frontier to review the security situation along the Jammu International Border (IB) on December 14 and 15," a BSF spokesperson said.

Inspector General, BSF, Jammu frontier, Shashank Anand, briefed the DG on the prevailing security scenario and operational preparedness along the border,

he said.

During the visit, the DG BSF, accompanied by Additional Director General (Western Command) Satish Khandare and IG BSF Jammu, visited the Samba and Kathua border areas on Monday, he said.

He was briefed by field commanders on the prevailing border situation, opera-

tional challenges and security measures in place, he said.

The DG BSF reviewed border management, the counter-infiltration grid and overall security arrangements along the International Border, assessed operational preparedness and lauded the commitment, operational excellence and resilience of BSF troops.

The DG also reviewed Smart Border Technology projects focused on strengthening surveillance, operational efficiency and overall border security along the International Border, the spokesperson said.

On Sunday evening, the DG BSF addressed a Prahari Sammelan at the frontier headquarters in Jammu, praising the

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Chugh demands NIA investigation into threat to Punjab school children

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday

took strong exception to the manner in which a sense of terror is being spread among school children in Punjab by forces that the AAP government has failed to control.

Demanding investigation by the NIA, Chugh said it appeared to be a deliberate and calculated design by subversive forces to intimidate children and their parents, reflecting the complete collapse of the law and order machinery in the border state. He questioned whether the Bhagwant Mann govern-

ment was playing into the hands of the ISI or had simply failed to control disruptive forces.



In a statement, Chugh said the entire Punjab already knows that gangsters and mafias are enjoying a free run, spreading an atmosphere of terror and panic across the state. Everyone is aware of how bullets are fired almost

daily and how extortion calls are made to paralyse every section of society, he added.

"But it is extremely alarming that school-going children are now being subjected to terrorism and panic at a time when the Bhagwant Mann government continues to make deceptive claims about improving standards of school education," Chugh said.

Calling it an inhuman and criminal failure on the part of the Bhagwant Mann government, Chugh said the matter needs a thorough investigation.