

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! ISRO’s “Bahubali” rocket...

youth, our space programme is getting more advanced and impactful," the prime minister said.

"With LVM3 demonstrating reliable heavy-lift performance, we are strengthening the foundations for future missions such as Gaganyaan, expanding commercial launch services and deepening global partnerships," he said.

ISRO said the LVM3-M6, nicknamed 'Bahubali' for its heavylift capability, injected the satellite into its intended orbit in a textbook launch.

LVM3-M6 carried the communication satellite as part of a commercial deal between NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) and US-based AST SpaceMobile (AST and Science, LLC).

NewSpace India is the commercial arm of the ISRO.

On Wednesday, the 43.5 metre tall rocket soared majestically at 8.55 am from the second launch pad here at the end of a 24 hour countdown.

After a flight journey of about 15 minutes, the spacecraft got separated from the launch vehicle and it was successfully placed into the orbit, bringing all-round cheers in the Mission Control Centre here.

On the successful launch, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said, "I am extremely happy to say that the LVM3M6 Bahubali rocket has successfully placed the Bluebird Block-2 satellite into the intended orbit. Let me congratulate NewSpace India and AST Space Mobile on the outstanding achievement."

The satellite was placed in a 518 km circular orbit against the planned 520 km altitude, he said, describing it as a "textbook launch".

The previous heaviest was the LVM3-M5 Communication Satellite 03, weighing about 4,400 kg, which was successfully launched by ISRO on November 2 in the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

According to Narayanan, this is the first time ISRO has launched two LVM3 rockets within just 52 days, following the earlier successful mission on November 2.

Addressing his team from the Mission Control Centre post the launch, he thanked them for one of the finest performances of any rocket and said this mission brings India's total to 434 satellites launched for 34 countries.

Narayanan hailed the successful launch of the Bluebird Block-2 satellite as a "New Year and Christmas gift to Bharat."

Listing the highlights of the LVM3-Bluebird Block-2 mission, he said, the placing of the satellite precisely into the intended orbit is the best accuracy so far achieved ever on Indian soil.

"Today's launch is also another important one. It is the heaviest satellite to be launched from Indian soil. That has been accomplished today.... that is the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil and we have achieved it in this mission," he later told reporters.

"It is one of the best launches made anywhere in the world. And this is the best accuracy so far achieved from the Indian launchers also," he said.

Narayanan reflected on a year of achievements, driven by high-stakes missions such as the NISAR mission, taken up with NASA, CMS-03 and the latest mission.

On the ambitious Gaganyaan mission, he said, "We have to accomplish uncrewed missions, and we are getting towards that."

One of the important commitments made by the central government is the commission of navigation satellites.

"That satellite series we are going to continue and we are going to start placing them in the intended orbit," he said.

Acting Chairman and Managing Director of NewSpace India Ltd, P Mohan pointed to the increasing global interest in LVM3.

Wednesday's mission is aimed at deploying the next-generation communication satellite designed to provide high-speed cellular broadband directly to smartphones.

AST SpaceMobile is building the first and only space-based cellular broadband network, which is accessible directly by smartphones and designed for both commercial and government applications.

The LVM3-M6, also known as the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-MkIII), is a three-stage rocket with a cryogenic engine designed and developed by ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.

The vehicle uses two S200 solid rocket boosters to provide the huge amount of thrust required for the lift-off. The booster has been developed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

According to AST SpaceMobile, it has launched five satellites, Bluebird 1-5 in September 2024, which provide continuous coverage across the United States and other select countries.

The company has planned to launch similar satellites to augment its network support and has partnered with over 50 mobile operators across the globe.

The LVM3-M6 is the sixth operational flight of LVM3 and third dedicated commercial mission to launch the Bluebird Block-2 spacecraft.

## LG, CM greet...

love and harmony amongst the people.

The festival, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, serves as a reminder to embrace Lord Christ's teachings of love, compassion, and forgiveness in our daily lives. This auspicious occasion inspires us to renew our commitment towards the welfare of each other for a prosperous future for all.

May the spirit of Christmas encourage us to help those in need and bring peace, prosperity and happiness to all".

Extending warm greetings to the people, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described Christmas as a festival symbolising peace, love and compassion. He said that the teachings of Jesus Christ continue to inspire humanity to uphold the values of kindness, forgiveness and harmony.

"Christmas is not merely a celebration; it is a reaffirmation of our shared values of harmony and mutual respect, where people from all communities come together in a spirit of unity," he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted the rich secular ethos and age-old tradition of brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir, and urged people to mark the occasion by extending support to the less privileged so that everyone can partake in the joy of the festival.

The Chief Minister wished peace, prosperity and happiness to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and prayed for a future marked by greater harmony and goodwill.

Meanwhile, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma also extended warm and heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially to the Christian community, on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

In his message, the Minister described Christmas as a festival that embodies the values of peace, love, compassion and selfless service. He said that the teachings of Lord Jesus Christ inspire humanity to walk on the path of truth, humility and harmony, which are essential for building a just and inclusive society.

"Christmas reminds us of the importance of caring for one another and strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and mutual respect. The spirit of this sacred festival reinforces our commitment to unity in diversity, which is the hallmark of Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage," Satish Sharma said.

The Minister also highlighted the need to reach out to the underprivileged and ensure that the benefits of development and welfare reach every section of society, especially during festive occasions.

Satish Sharma wished the people of Jammu and Kashmir peace, prosperity and happiness and prayed for continued harmony, progress and goodwill in Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education Sakeena Itoo, in her message, said that Christmas is a festival that symbolizes love, compassion, sacrifice and hope, values that hold immense relevance in today's times. She highlighted that Christmas like occasions remind us to rekindle the spirit of harmony and brotherhood.

The Minister also highlighted the importance of communal harmony and mutual respect, stating that J&K has rich tradition of coexistence.

She also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

## VPN ban clamped...

websites and digital content.

The preventive action has been taken under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

The ban applies to all individuals, institutions, cyber cafes and Internet Service Providers operating within the territorial jurisdiction of Kathua district, except those explicitly permitted by the government through a specific official order.

The Kathua senior superintendent of police has been directed to ensure strict enforcement of the order in letter and spirit.

Any violation of the directive will invite legal action under the relevant provisions of law, the order said. The order comes into force with immediate effect from December 24.

## Uninterrupted power supply...

sustainability of power distribution utilities, reduce technical and commercial losses, and ensure reliable power supply, officials said.

The project, implemented by the KPDCL and other agencies in Srinagar, the summer capital, involves extensive infrastructure upgrades and the installation of smart metres to reduce power losses.

## SFs recover explosives...

the officials said.

During the searches, the forces recovered four Chinese grenades, 19 UBGL rounds and 46 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition from a hideout under a tree.

## CB files charge...

wrongful gain," the official stated.

According to the Crime Branch, the case pertains to a fraudulent property deal in which the accused induced the complainant to purchase a shop along with land situated at Dabber, Bishmah. The official said the accused dishonestly obtained an amount of ₹6.50 lakh from the complainant despite having no ownership rights over the said property. "The accused knowingly misrepresented facts and deceived the complainant into parting with his hard-earned money," the official added.

The investigation of the case was conducted by Inspector Deepak Bharti of the Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Jammu, under the overall supervision of Sanjay Parihar, Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch (SCW) Jammu.

The Crime Branch official reiterated the department's commitment to curb the menace of cheating and fraud. "We appeal to the general public to remain vigilant and verify documents thoroughly before entering into property or financial transactions, and not to fall prey to fraudulent and lucrative offers," the official said.

With the filing of the charge sheet, the case will now proceed for judicial determination before the competent court.

## Centre stands with...

of your leadership."

"We stand like a rock with the states," he said, referring to the Union government. He said that the role of forensic science under the new criminal laws has been decided.

"In crimes in which punishment is more than seven years, a visit by forensic experts to the scene of the crime has been made compulsory, and the main objective of this is to ensure punishment for the guilty," he said.

Shah told the constables that they were joining the police force at a time when the Colonial-era laws had been replaced by the new criminal laws.

He said the batch is the first from Haryana since the implementation of the new criminal laws.

As many as 5,061 newly trained constables formally joined the state police force from the batch.

This is the first batch in which 85 per cent youth are graduates and above, with an average age of 26, Shah said.

When Haryana was formed, it had one police range and six districts, which have now increased to five ranges and 19 districts, in addition to railway police and cyber crime, the minister said. According to a Haryana Police statement, the recruits underwent rigorous training from December 16, 2024, to September 22, 2025.

The statement quoted A S Chawla, Director, Haryana Police Academy, Madhuban, Karnal, to say that the batch is noteworthy for its strong academic background. Of the 5,061 recruits, 969 are postgraduates, 3,324 are graduates, and 768 possess Class 12 or diploma qualifications, it said.

Many recruits are proficient in Hindi, English, and Punjabi.

The programme was a part of the series of events where Shah was the chief guest.

Before the event, Shah, who is also the Cooperation Minister, addressed a national cooperative conference here. The Haryana Police has a strength of 77,000 police personnel.

## J&K Bank wins...

flagship Mission YUVA program, which aims at creating 1.37 lakh enterprises in next 5 years resulting in employment opportunities for 4.25 lakh youth."

"The Bank remains committed to support entrepreneurs through tailored financial solutions, simplified processes, digital interventions and continuous handholding, especially in our core geography, while steadily expanding its MSME portfolio across the country", he added. On CSR, MD & CEO noted that the Bank's initiatives are closely aligned with national development priorities, focusing on education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, skill development and livelihood generation, thereby ensuring that the Bank's growth also translates into meaningful social impact for the people it serves. Pertinently, former Supreme Court Judge Justice Deepak Verma chaired the jury for the awards organised by the Chamber of Indian Micro Small and Medium Enterprises with the evaluation carried out by its knowledge partner CareEdge Ratings.

## Avalanche warning issued...

been issued for Doda, Ganderbal, Kishtwar, Poonch and Ramban districts. The avalanche is likely to occur 2,800 metres above these districts during the next 24 hours, they said. People have been asked to avoid avalanche-prone areas and follow official advisories. Most of the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir have received moderate to heavy snowfall this week. Meanwhile, the cold conditions eased across Kashmir as the minimum temperature rose at most places and settled above the freezing point, officials said. Owing to the overcast night skies after the recent snowfall and rains, the cold conditions eased across Kashmir and the night temperature rose at most places, officials said. They said the minimum temperature stayed above the freezing point, barring in Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, and the famous skiing resort of Gulmarg in the north. The minimum temperature in Srinagar on Tuesday night was recorded at 3.0 degrees Celsius, up from 2.7 degrees Celsius the night before and 5.4 degrees above the season's normal, according to the officials. Other places in the valley also registered above-normal minimum temperatures ranging from 1.8 to 5.6 degrees Celsius. The tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam recorded sub-zero temperatures, with the mercury settling at minus 4.2 degrees Celsius and minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, respectively. In south Kashmir, Qazigund recorded a low of 3.2 degrees Celsius and Kokernag 2.9 degrees Celsius. Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of 2.0 degrees Celsius. The Meteorological Department has forecast generally dry weather over the next few days.

## SSP Doda presides over finals of Cricket Tournament at Gandoh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2024-25, Doda Police organized a Cricket Tournament at Helipad Ground, Gandoh, which commenced on 21st December 2025 and concluded on Wednesday. SSP Doda, Sandeep Mehta, graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest. The event was organized under the supervision of Lov Karan, SDPO Gandoh, who also served as the Nodal Officer for the tournament and welcomed the participating teams. Senior officers, including SDM Gandoh, were present on the occasion. While addressing the gathering, SSP Doda appreciated the players and organizers for their enthusiastic participation and reiterated that Doda Police regularly organizes sports and community-oriented programmes under the Civic Action Programme to promote positive engagement among youth. He emphasized that such sports activities at the sub-division level provide a valuable platform for young talent and help channel their energy towards constructive pursuits.

The SSP Doda further urged the youth to actively participate in the special campaign launched by J&K Police to eradicate drug abuse and other social evils, with the aim of building a peaceful, crime-free society. A total of 16 teams from across Sub-Division Gandoh participated in the tournament. The final match was played between Walli Cricket Club, Gandoh and Lions Cricket Club, in which Walli Cricket Club emerged as the winner. On the occasion, the winning team was awarded a cash prize of ₹25,000, while the runner-up team received Rs 15,000, along with trophies and certificates of participation. A large gathering witnessed the final match and highly appreciated the efforts of Doda Police in organizing such youth-centric sports initiatives. Later in the day, SSP Doda, Sandeep Mehta, also conducted a Police-Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting at Gowari, Kilhotran. The meeting was attended by a large number of respectable citizens from the area. Public issues raised during the interaction were patiently heard by the SSP, who assured that police-related matters would be resolved promptly, while issues pertaining to other departments would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate action.



## Drug peddler absconding for 5 years arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police team from Police Station Udhampur led by its SHO successfully apprehended a narcotics absconder who had been evading arrest since 2020.

The arrested absconder namely Akhter Hussain S/O Mohd. Ayoub R/O Sial Sallan Udhampur District Udhampur, had been absconding in connection with case FIR No. 576/2020 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act registered at PS Udhampur. An arrest warrant under Section 299 CrPC was issued by the Additional Sessions Court Udhampur in order to bring the absconder to justice. Acting on the warrant, the police team of PS Udhampur arrested the said absconder and produced him before the Court after which the accused was lodged in District Jail Udhampur by the order of the Court.

## Crackdown on illegal mining; 7 dumpers, 3 tractors trolley seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/POONCH: Continuing crackdown on illegal mining in the district, Samba Police has seized seven dumpers in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Samba and Ghagwal which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material. Police teams headed by SHO PS Samba, Incharges of Police Posts Supwal & Rakh Amb Talli of PS Samba and Incharge Police Post Rajpura of PS Ghagwal while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas, have seized seven dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK21G-9749, JK02CJ-5591, JK21H-5888, JK21G-7817, JK21D-6431, JK21B-1526, JK21K-7385 which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

The above-mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to the Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

District Police Poonch, as part of its sustained efforts to curb illegal mining activities, seized three tractor trolleys involved in unlawful extraction/transportation of minor minerals within the jurisdiction of Police Station Poonch.

During routine patrolling and checking, police personnel noticed the tractor trolleys engaged in illegal mining activity in violation of prescribed laws and guidelines. Acting swiftly, the vehicles were intercepted and seized on the spot as per due legal procedure.

## 2 drug peddlers nabbed with 10 grams heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers/peddlers, Samba Police has arrested two drug peddlers in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ramgarh and recovered approximately 10 grams of heroin (chitta) like substance from their possession. Acting on information received from reliable sources, a Police party of Police Station Ramgarh established a vehicle checking naka near Khanpur and intercepted a Innova Car bearing registration No.JK14A-5081 for its checking which was on way from Koulpur side towards Ramgarh via Keso. During checking, approximately 10 grams of heroin like substance was recovered from the possession of the two persons travelling in the said car.

The drug peddlers identified as Surinder Singh S/O Prem Singh R/O village Parthar tehsil Katra district Reasi and Jasvir Singh S/O Jagdish Singh R/O Chann Khatrian tehsil Hiranagar district Kathua have been arrested and contraband item has been seized. The Innova Car has also been seized in the instant case.

A case FIR No. 93/2025 u/s 8/21/22/25 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Ramgarh and investigation started.

## PoK woman repatriated after inadvertent LoC crossing in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR/JAMMU: A 35-year-old woman from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) was repatriated from Poonch district to Pakistan on Wednesday, nine days after she inadvertently crossed the Line of Control (LoC), officials said.

Shahnaz Akhter, a resident of village Mohra Shareef in Kotli district, was apprehended by Indian troops soon after she intruded into the Indian side near Dabi post in Mendhar sector on December 16. The woman was later handed over to police for questioning, the officials said.

Her questioning revealed that she had inadvertently intruded into this side after getting lost in the forest while grazing her sheep, they said.

Accordingly, the Army contacted their Pakistani counterparts and confirmed her antecedents, the officials said. They said she was handed over to the Pakistan army at Chakan-Da-Bagh border crossing point in presence of police and civil officials after completion of legal formalities Wednesday evening.

## Police attaches drug peddler's properties worth Rs 3 Cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday attached properties worth Rs three crore of a notorious drug peddler here, alleging they were acquired through the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking. In its sustained efforts to eliminate the menace of drugs and dismantle the infrastructure supporting illegal narcotics trade, Srinagar Police has attached double-storeyed residential house and double-storeyed shopping complex, along with land measuring over one Kanal, worth approximately Rs three crore, a police spokesman said. He said the properties belong to notorious drug peddler Ajaz Ahmad Mir, a resident of Palpora Noorbagh locality of the city here, adding that he is allegedly involved in a case registered under the NDPS Act. During the course of the investigation, it was established that the accused had allegedly acquired the properties through illicit proceeds generated from drug trafficking, the spokesman said.

## CRPF jawan injured in leopard attack at camp in south Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A CRPF jawan was injured after a leopard attacked him at a camp of the paramilitary force in Anantnag district on Wednesday, officials said. The leopard strayed into the CRPF camp in Kapran area of Verinag in south Kashmir while personnel were having breakfast in the mess, they said. The animal attacked one jawan before fleeing into the nearby forest, the officials said. The injured jawan was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, they added.

## LG Ladakh extends Christmas greetings

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta has extended warm Christmas greetings to the people of Ladakh, especially to the Christian community, on the joyous occasion of Christmas. In his message, the Lt Governor said that Christmas, which commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, is a festival that symbolizes love, compassion, peace, and goodwill. He emphasized that the teachings of Jesus Christ inspire humanity to follow the path of selfless service, harmony, and mutual respect. Kavinder Gupta highlighted that Ladakh is known for its rich cultural diversity and tradition of communal harmony, where people of different faiths live together in peace and brotherhood. He expressed hope that the festival would further strengthen the bonds of unity and promote the spirit of coexistence in the Union Territory. The Lt Governor prayed for peace, prosperity, and happiness for all residents of Ladakh and wished that the festive occasion brings renewed hope, joy, and well-being to every household. "May the spirit of Christmas fill our hearts with kindness and guide us towards building a more inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Ladakh," the Lt Governor said.



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