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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR ESTEEMED READERS

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

STATE TIMES

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SOWING SKILLS
SHAPING INDIA

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10 Qamran, Shubham dazzle with willow; Nasir led bowlers sparkle as J&K thrashes Chandigarh by 10 wickets

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ISRO's 'Bahubali' rocket places 6000 kg US communication sat into orbit

Success reinforces India's growing role in global commercial launch market: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRIHARIKOTA (ANDHRA PRADESH): In a historic Christmas eve mission, ISRO's "Bahubali" rocket on Wednesday successfully launched a 6,100 kg US communication satellite-- the heaviest by and Indian launcher, into the desired orbit, a feat described by the space agency as the season's gift to the country.

The BlueBird Block-2 satellite is part of a constellation of global Low Earth Orbit (LEO) mission to provide direct-to-mobile connectivity through satellite that would enable 4G and 5G voice and video calls, texts, streaming and data for everyone, everywhere at all times. The heaviest satellite to be launched from Indian soil was done so using the LVM3 rocket, ISRO said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated ISRO, saying that the success of the heavy-lift LVM3



rocket also reinforced India's growing role in the global commercial launch market.

"A significant stride in India's space sector. The successful LVM3-M6 launch, placing the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil, the spacecraft of USA, BlueBird Block-2, into its intended orbit, marks a proud milestone in India's space journey," PM Modi said in a post on X.

"It strengthens India's heavy-lift launch capability and reinforces our growing role in the global commercial launch market," the prime minister said.

PM Modi said the LVM3 launch was also reflective of efforts towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and congratulated hardworking space scientists and engineers.

"India continues to soar higher in the world of space! Powered by India's

LG, CM greet people on Christmas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have extended heartiest greetings to the people on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the joyous occasion of Christmas, I convey my warm greetings to the people. I hope that this occasion of festivity ushers in

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VPN ban clamped in Kathua for 2 months

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Authorities on Wednesday banned the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) in Kathua district for two months, citing national security concerns.

The order, issued by District Magistrate Rajesh Sharma, said that VPN services are being misused by certain individuals and groups to bypass cyber restrictions and access prohibited applications,

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Uninterrupted power supply benefitting 1.25 lakh households in Srinagar: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that 108 areas in Srinagar are now enjoying round-the-clock, uninterrupted electricity supply, benefitting about 1.25 lakh households.

He congratulated the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) for successfully bringing 83 more areas of Srinagar under 24-hour power supply.

"Chief Minister today congratulated KPDCL on suc-



cessfully making another 83 areas in Srinagar 24-hour power zones following a successful Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) trial with zero power

cuts," the Office of the Chief Minister, J-K, said on X.

With this, 108 areas in Srinagar now enjoy round-the-clock, uninterrupted electricity supply, benefitting 1.25 lakh households, nearly 48 per cent of the city, Abdullah said. "Similar upgrades are underway in other districts to ensure 24x7 power supply," he added.

The RDSS, launched by the central government in July 2021, aims to enhance the operational efficiency and financial

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CB files charge sheet in cheating, fraud case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Special Crime Wing (SCW) of Crime Branch Jammu on Wednesday filed charge sheet in a cheating and fraud case against Parvinder Singh, son of Inder Singh, a resident of Deoli, Bishnah.

A Crime Branch official said the charge sheet in FIR No. 09/2023, registered

under Section 420 RPC at Police Station SCW Jammu, was presented before the Electricity Court, Jammu, after completion of a detailed investigation.

"The investigation established that the accused had criminal intent from the very beginning and cheated the complainant for

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SFs recover explosives, ammunition from forest

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BARAMULLA: Security forces (SFs) on Wednesday recovered explosives and ammunition from a forest area in Baramulla district, officials said.

The forces carried out search operations in the Shalebuth forest in the Kreeeri area of the district following a tip-off,

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Centre stands with states in fight against drugs, human trafficking: Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
PANCHKULA (HARYANA): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the Narendra Modi government stands like a rock with the states in their fight against drug and human trafficking, cybercrime, and organised crime.

Shah said that a few years ago, there were three big challenges in the country in the matter of law and order - left-wing extremism, terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and armed groups in the northeast.

"But after 10 years from the formation of the Modi

government, there is peace in these three areas, and the country is safe on these three fronts," he claimed. Shah was addressing the Passing



Out Parade (POP) of the Recruit Basic Course (RBC) Batch-93 here.

Addressing the recruits, he said, "Your leadership is ready for it, and you will have to strengthen the hands

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Bribing Ex-SP South: ACB files charge-sheet against businessman

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday produced a charge-sheet against Chander Shekhar Vohra, Proprietor of M/s Asian Associates, for allegedly offering bribe to the then Superintendent of Police, City South, Jammu. The complaint alleged that Chander Shekhar Vohra approached her seeking undue favour for the extension of the exhibition-cum-sale being held at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The accused allegedly attempted to influence the official by offering a bribe amount of Rs 30,000 for extending the exhibition date. Acting swiftly on the complaint, the ACB consti-

tuted a special team to verify the allegations and lay a trap. "During the operation, the accused was caught red-handed inside the office of the Superintendent of Police, City South, while offering the bribe," the ACB official said. The bribe money of Rs 30,000 was recovered and seized on the spot in the presence of independent witnesses, he added. ACB reiterated its commitment to maintaining transparency and integrity in public offices. "We have zero tolerance towards corruption and will continue to take strict action against anyone attempting to misuse public office or influence officials through illegal means," the official emphasized.

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Avalanche warning issued for five districts in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: An avalanche warning was issued in five districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday in view of the recent heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of the Union territory, officials said. The low danger avalanche warning has

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 20.5°C Min: 8.2°C

Humidity
Max: 92 Min: 79

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 12.9°C Min: 3.0°C

Humidity
Max: 90 Min: 75

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

J&K Bank wins 'Best MSME Bank' at MSME Banking Excellence Awards 2025

Secures second place in 'CSR Initiative & Business Responsibility' category

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Bank has won the prestigious 'Best MSME Bank - Winner' award at the MSME Banking Excellence Awards 2025, while also securing the Runner-Up position in the 'CSR Initiative & Business Responsibility' category. The MSME Banking Excellence Awards recognise banks for exemplary performance and best practices in promoting MSMEs, corporate social responsibility and sustainable business models.

Notably, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal presented the awards at a high-profile ceremony held in New Delhi. On behalf of the Bank the



Chief General Manager (Business Development) Sunit Kumar and GM/Divisional Head (ROI) Khursheed Muzaffar receiving the award at New Delhi.

awards were received by Chief General Manager (Business Development) Sunit Kumar and GM/Divisional Head (ROI) Khursheed Muzaffar.

sector as well as for our CSR initiatives. I sincerely thank the organisers and the distinguished jury for this recognition. And I place my appreciation on record for our MSME team and CSR functionaries, whose dedicated efforts and efficient on-ground engagements have been instrumental in achieving these milestones."

Calling MSMEs a focus area for J&K Bank, MD & CEO further said, "In line with the national development objectives and regulatory expectations, MSME financing has been our strategic priority. As of now, we are exclusively implementing the UT Government's

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Merry Christmas

The message of Christmas is a message of hope.

In the birth of Jesus, we are reminded that light shines even in the darkest moments. God's promise is fulfilled not through power, but through love, humility, and service.

As we celebrate Christmas, may we look beyond ourselves and respond with compassion to the suffering around us. Let this season inspire us to nurture peace, promote dignity, and uphold the values that unite us as one human family.

May Christmas bring renewed courage, lasting peace, and hope for a better tomorrow.

Rt. Rev. Ivan Pereira
Bishop of Jammu-Srinagar

DIOCESE OF JAMMU-SRINAGAR
Bishop's House, Jammu Cantt, Jammu & Kashmir - 180003