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**03 Dr Jitendra shares with Rajya Sabha Govt initiatives to boost Space StartUps**

**03 Prof. Amitabh Mattoo appointed Dean of SIS, JNU**

**08 Grade XI students bid adieu to outgoing batch of 2024 of JKPS Kunjwani amidst gaiety & splendor**

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## Diverse agro-climatic zones in J&K provide scope for adopting farm-level diversifications: LG



LG Manoj Sinha addressing at the inaugural session of the 6th J&K Agricultural Science Congress at SKUAST Jammu on Thursday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that Jammu and Kashmir has diverse agro-climatic zones, which provide ample scope of adopting farm level diversifications. "With this scientific solution, we can mitigate the impact of climate change and will be able to generate higher farm revenue from the same piece of land," the Lt Governor said while addressing the inaugural session of the 6th J&K Agricultural Science Congress on "Diversification of Agriculture for Self-Reliant Mountain Agro-Ecology" at SKUAST Jammu.

The Lt Governor welcomed the eminent scientists and researchers from across the country in the three-day conference. He said the exchange of ideas and discussions among the experts on critical aspects of alternative agriculture.

**ED nabs Kashmiri man for 'terror financing,' being involved in MBBS admissions in Pakistan**  
SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Directorate has arrested a man from Kupwara district in a money laundering case related to MBBS admissions in Pakistan. "ED has arrested Mohammad Abdullah Shah, a resident of Kupwara, J&K, on 06/02/2024 under the provisions of PMLA, 2002 in connection with money laundering case wherein accused persons involved in terror financing were hand in glove with Pakistani handler Manzoor Ahmad Shah, who arranged admissions in MBBS & other courses in the colleges of Pakistan for students from J&K," the ED posted on X. The probe agency said Shah was produced before the Court of the Special Judge ACB (CBI-Cases) Srinagar, Kashmir, which has granted the custody of the accused to it till February 13.

## LG lauds significant contribution of Police, SFs to society, nation

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday lauded the significant contribution of the Police and Security personnel to the society and the nation. "I am proud of Police and Security Forces. I bow to their magnificent heroism and selfless sacrifice to safeguard country's integrity and sovereignty," the Lt Governor said while speaking at the closing ceremony of 72nd All India Police Hockey (Men/Women) Championship at K.K Haku Hockey Stadium. The Lt Governor congratulated the J&K Police and all participating teams. He also felicitated the best performing teams and players on the occasion. Sports inspire the youth to be fearless. Sports challenges the youth to achieve the new milestones. Sports have the power to unite the people, society and the nations, the Lt Governor observed. He said the participation of more than 700 players from different states and UTs and strong display of Nari Shakti in this tournament signifies that with greater determination, teamwork and unity, we can overcome any challenge. "Sports create constant challenges in life so that in our journey of nation building there is no stagnation but dynamism and every moment something new

## Security tightened in Srinagar; second terror attack victim dies

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR/JAMMU: A worker from Punjab who was injured in Wednesday's terror attack in Srinagar's Habba Kadal area died at the SKIMS hospital here this morning, taking the toll to two in the first targeted killing of the year by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. The city is on alert following the attack with security measures being intensified and authorities asking people to be cautious and vigilant. Rohit Masih succumbed to injuries at the SKIMS Hospital here this morning. He was shifted to the tertiary care institution late Wednesday night after his condition worsened at the SMHS Hospital, officials said. On Wednesday, Amritpal Singh, also a worker from Punjab, was shot dead from point blank range at Shalla Kadal in uptown Habba Kadal. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and political parties in the Union Territory have strongly condemned the attack, the responsibility of which was taken by the banned 'The Resistance Front (TRF)', a shadow group of Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Taiba. Inspector General of Police (Kashmir Range) V K Birdi emphasised that security measures have been intensified and urged for caution. While police are actively working to solve the

State of Andhra Pradesh, in which it was held that the SCs and STs are homogeneous groups and hence, states cannot further sub-classify them to grant a quota within a quota for the more deprived and weaker castes in these groups. A seven-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said that while conferring reservation benefits on the most backward classes, the State cannot exclude others. "If there are a host of backward classes, can the

## Parliament approves both Appropriation Bills for J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Parliament considered the Revised Estimates for 2023-24 and Interim Budget 2024-25 of Government of Jammu and Kashmir starting from Tuesday. The two Appropriation Bills on the Supplementary Budget for 2023-24 and Vote on Account for 2024-25 were placed by Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman on February 5, 2024. The ongoing efforts of the UT Government were also appreciated by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Tuesday. Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh Vaidya and Secretary Planning Mohammad Aijaz represented Jammu and Kashmir before the Committee. This effort highlighted the developmental initiatives of the UT government before the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Lok Sabha considered the Bills on 6th and 7th February and passed both the Bills on Wednesday. After seeking approval of President of India, these Bills were then considered by the Rajya Sabha which approved them on Thursday. Finance Department of the UT Government had drafted both the Bills for Supplementary Budget for the current year and the Interim Budget for the next financial year. For this, the Department had assessed the revenue receipts of the UT Government from GST, motor spirit tax, excise, and stamp duty. Further, the non-tax revenue from electricity and water supply, mining royalty, timber sales, annual rent from industrial lands, etc were also examined. The own revenue of the UT Government has been estimated at Rs. 20,867 crore. The UT Government also pursued Government of India for getting central financial assistance. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo led the UT's efforts in this direction. Crucial meetings were held in August 2023, October 2023 and January 2024 in Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance to review these demands of the UT Government. Union Home Minister and Union Finance Minister personally reviewed the fiscal

## Govt's focus on capex, says FM as Parliament passes Rs 47.6 lakh Cr budget

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The government did not reduce allocations for any social welfare programmes and increased its focus on capital expenditure without compromising on fiscal prudence, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman said on Thursday. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Sitharaman asserted that "capital expenditure is not expenditure on capitalists" as she took a swipe at the Opposition, which has been criticising the government, saying it is favouring industrialists and neglecting common people. The minister was replying to the general discussion on the Interim Union Budget 2024-25, Finance Bill 2024 and the Interim Budget of Union Territory of

## Cabinet approves six rail projects worth Rs 12,343 cr

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved six projects of the railway ministry with an estimated cost of around Rs 12,343 crore, the government said in a statement on Thursday. The projects approved by the committee, which is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be funded by the central government. "Thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving six multi tracking projects in Rajasthan, Assam, Telangana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland worth Rs 12,343 crore," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw posted on X. The multi tracking project proposals will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much required infrastructural development on the busiest sections across the Indian Railways, the statement said. "The projects are in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'new India' which will make people of the region 'atmanirbhar' (self-reliant)' by way of

## 27 pc OBC representation not reflected in Group A, B, C posts in GoI: Parl panel

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Twenty-seven per cent representation of OBCs is not being reflected in Group A, B and C posts in the Government of India and such variance defies the welfare-oriented vision behind the reservation policy, a parliamentary panel has noted. In its report on "Measures undertaken in employment and for their welfare in various departments", the panel on Welfare of OBCs recommended the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to review the difference in percentage of posts that should be filled up by "OBC (other backward classes) recruitment" and ensure all possible methods for a stricter adherence. "The committee during the course of examination of the subject through the annual report of the DoPT (2022-23) found that 27 per cent representation of OBCs are not being reflected in the Group A, B and C posts of the Government of India," the report, which was tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, said. The members of the panel understand "the plausible reasons for variation ranging from promotion posts to that of backlog vacancies, but are still of the firm view that such variance defy the welfare-oriented vision behind the reservation policy and need to be taken care of", it added. The panel headed by Lok Sabha member Rajesh Verma has recommended the DoPT to review the difference in percentage

**WEATHER**  
Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 21.4°C Min: 3.6°C  
Humidity  
Max: 88 Min: 31  
Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 11.0°C Min: -5.2°C  
Humidity  
Max: 98 Min: 35  
Sunset: 18:08 Hours  
Sunrise: 07:20 Hours

## J&K witnessed driest, warmest January in 43 years

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar city, witnessed the warmest January in 43 years, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar's data said. In terms of snowfall or rains, Srinagar city witnessed the second driest January in the past four decades, recording a mere 3.0 mm of precipitation in the month this year, it said. The lowest precipitation in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir was recorded in January 2018 when only 1.2 mm of rainfall or snow took place. According to data, the mean Tmax (maximum temperature) recorded in January over Srinagar station was 11.9 degrees Celsius while for Gulmarg in north Kashmir and Banihal in Ramban district, it was 5.7 degrees Celsius and 16.9 degrees Celsius respectively. Jammu city recorded the lowest mean maximum temperature for the first month of the year in over four decades, it said. This is the highest mean maximum temperature for

## Avalanche hits Sonamarg

SRINAGAR: A massive avalanche struck the Sonamarg area on Srinagar-Leh Highway on Thursday, officials said. No loss of life has been reported so far, they said. The officials said the avalanche occurred near the workshop for Zojila tunnel construction in Sonamarg. However, there was no damage reported in the incident. The authorities have issued an avalanche warning for the higher-reaches of Kashmir valley following heavy snowfall in the first week of February. People have been advised to avoid venturing towards the avalanche-prone zones for the next 24 hours.

the month of January for these stations in the past 43 years, the MeT centre said in a post on X. "2024 January was one of the driest and warmest January in the last 43 years for most of the stations of J-K except the stations of plains of Jammu (Jammu, Samba and Kathua)," it added. It said Jammu station, on the other hand, observed a mean maximum temperature of 13.4 degrees Celsius in January, which is the lowest since 1983. The mean minimum temperature for January observed over Srinagar, Jammu, Gulmarg and Banihal were minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, 5.5 degrees Celsius, minus 3.9 degrees Celsius and 0.1 degrees Celsius respectively. "The 2024 mean Tmin is one of the highest for Gulmarg in the last 43 years," the MeT centre said. Meanwhile, Kashmir remained in the grip of a cold wave as the minimum temperature plunged several degrees below freezing point at most places in the