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Captain among 2 soldiers martyred in IED blast in Akhnoor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two Army personnel, including a captain, were martyred and another was injured when suspected terrorists set off an improvised explosive device (IED) near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Akhnoor sector near here on Tuesday, officials said.

This was the third incident of cross-border action by terrorists in the Jammu region in four days. It came a day after the general officer commanding of the Jammu-based White Knight Corps unit of the Army, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, reviewed "hostile activities" along the LoC in Rajouri district.



The Army confirmed the fatalities in the blast and said "own troops are dominating the area and search operations are underway". The officials said the troops

were on patrolling duty when they were hit by the powerful explosion near a forward post in the Bhattal area of Akhnoor in Jammu district at around 3:50 pm.

Nation stands firmly with martyrs' families: LG

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to Army Bravehearts, who laid down their lives in the line of duty in Akhnoor Sector.

"I salute the supreme sacrifice of our Army bravehearts who laid down their lives in the line of duty. Their valour and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The entire nation stands firmly with the families of the martyrs in this hour of grief," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The injured personnel

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Police launches SIM card verification drive in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police have launched a SIM card verification drive in several districts of Kashmir with the aim of ensuring that mobile phone connections are issued in compliance with the established procedures, officials said here on Tuesday.

"In a proactive effort to curb the rising instances of fraud and misuse of mobile phone SIM cards, police have initiated a comprehensive SIM card verification drive in several districts of Kashmir," the officials said.

They said the drive is aimed at ensuring that all SIM cards are issued in full compliance with established procedures. For this,

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HM holds high level security review meeting

Centre committed for terror free J&K: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah on Tuesday chaired high level meetings in New Delhi to review security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

These meetings were in continuation of the High Level meetings with Indian Army and J&K Police on February 4 and 5, 2025.

Union Home Secretary, Director (IB), Director Generals of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF) and other senior officers attended the meetings. The Union Home Minister



Home Minister Amit Shah chairing security review meeting for J&K on Tuesday.

- ▶ Monitoring of terror-financing, tightening grip over Narco-terror cases and dismantling entire terror ecosystem are priority of Modi government
- ▶ Directs BSF to ensure 'zero infiltration' by strengthening border grid and use of advanced technologies; also directs all security agencies to remain alert and continue work in a synergies mode to eliminate terrorism in J&K
- ▶ Strong steps are being taken for 'Zero Terror Plan' in J&K

Over 45 Cr people have taken dip at Sangam: UP Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: With just 15 days to go for the Maha Kumbh to end, over 45 crore people have taken a dip at Sangam since the grand event began on January 13, the Uttar Pradesh government said on Tuesday.

The Maha Kumbh will end on February 26 with the last major 'snan' on the occasion of Mahashivratri. In a

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Mortar shell defused in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A mortar shell was found and subsequently defused by a bomb disposal squad in Akhnoor sector here on Tuesday, police officials said. The mortar shell was noticed by locals in Partap Canal near Namandar village around 10 am, the officials said. They said a police party rushed to the scene on getting the information and later summoned a bomb disposal squad which safely defused the explosive substance.

Omar engages with stakeholders for pre-budget deliberations Consultations key to shape Govt's policies & allocate resources efficiently: CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing his engagement with various stakeholders, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a pre-budget consultation meeting at the Civil Secretariat.

The session focused on understanding the perspectives of representative bodies from various sectors ahead of the upcoming Budget Session of the J&K



CM Omar Abdullah chairing pre-budget consultation meeting.

Assembly. Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary

Higher Education Shantamanu, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh

D Vaidya, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce, Commissioner Secretary Youth Services & Sports along with heads of departments and senior officers from various departments, attended the meeting both in person and virtually.

During the discussions, stakeholders from diverse sectors including industrialists, traders, hoteliers,

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This move aims to boost the availability of raw materials vital for key industries, thereby supporting the growth of sustainable manufacturing processes.

Shipping:

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Electronics:

In line with our 'Make in India' policy, and to rectify the inverted duty structure, the Basic Customs Duty on Interactive Flat Panel Display (IFPD) is increased from 10% to 20%. Also duty on open cells and other components used in the manufacture of interactive flat panel display module is reduced to 5%. Further, for the manufacture of open cells of LED/LCD TVs, Basic Customs Duty on parts of open cells has been reduced to zero.

Telecommunication:

Basic Customs Duty reduced from 20% to 10% on carrier grade Ethernet switches to make it at par with non carrier grade Ethernet switches in order to prevent classification disputes.

Lithium-Ion Batteries:

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