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STATE TIMES

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RNI No. : 66908/96
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

Vol. 31 Issue 53 • Jammu • Monday • February 23, 2026 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00
Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

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3 JeM terrorists killed in Kishtwar encounter

Army reaffirms resolve for terror-free J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Three members of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror outfit were killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Sunday, officials said.

The bodies of all the slain terrorists were charred beyond recognition as the mud house they were hiding in caught fire during the gunfight, they said, adding that preliminary assessments by security agencies suggest that one of the deceased is Saifullah, a notorious JeM commander.

He had reportedly infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir nearly five years ago and had since remained active in the region, allegedly masterminding several deadly attacks on security forces, including one in July 2024 that left four soldiers dead.

Saifullah had escaped a number of encounters in the past.



The officials said the body of the third terrorist, along with a weapon, was retrieved from the gutted hideout of the ultras in the evening.

Earlier, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma complimented the White Knight Corps troops for their "swift and precise" action to neutralise the terrorists.

"The Army Commander commends the commanders and troops on ground for

intelligence inputs collated from J-K Police, IB (Intelligence Bureau) and own intelligence sources, a deliberate joint operation was launched in the Kishtwar region under operation Trashi-I to track and neutralise terrorists operating in the area.

"Following successful contact established earlier, troops of CIF (Counter-Intelligence Force) Delta, in close coordination with police and CRPF, re-engaged the terrorists today at approximately 11 am in challenging terrain," the White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

Displaying tactical precision, seamless synergy and resolute aggression, the troops dominated the encounter site, the Army said.

"The hunt continues -- those who seek to disturb peace will find no sanctuary," it added. Sharing preliminary information, the officials said the terrorists

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8 LeT operatives with Bangladesh links held

"Trained Kashmiri terrorist Shabir Lone handled module from Bangladesh"

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: In a major counter-terror operation spanning three states, the Delhi Police has dismantled a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) module comprising eight operatives, including seven Bangladeshi nationals who had illegally entered India and procured forged identity documents, an official said on Sunday.

The arrests followed coordinated raids in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, after investigators traced the group's involvement in putting up pro-Pakistan and pro-terror posters, featuring photographs of terrorist Burhan Wani, at multiple locations in Delhi.

The module was being handled from Bangladesh by Shabir Ahmad Lone alias Raja alias Kashmiri, a trained LeT terrorist from Jammu and Kashmir who was previously arrested by the Delhi Police's Special Cell in 2007 in a case involving the recovery of arms and



ammunition, including an AK-47 rifle and grenades. Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said.

He said Lone, who hails from Kangan in Srinagar, had fled to Bangladesh after his release from Tihar Jail in 2018 and was working to revive the LeT's terror network in India by activating sleeper cells of Bangladeshi operatives residing illegally in the country.

"The investigation began on February 8, after a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) shift in-charge submitted a written complaint at the Supreme Court Metro police station regarding pro-Pakistan and pro-terror posters pasted at the Janpath metro station. Similar posters were later found at other locations in Delhi," Kushwah said.

The posters featured photographs glorifying slain Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist Wani and carried messages, such as "India stop genocide" and "Free Kashmir", along with Urdu slogans translating to "Hum Pakistani Hain, Pakistan Hamara Hai" and "Kashmiri Ek Jut-ta Divas".

An FIR was registered and

further investigation launched by the Special Cell. The initial groundwork was carried out by a team of the Delhi Police's Metro unit and the probe was later transferred to the Special Cell.

Kushwah said the Special Cell, already tracking activities of LeT operatives with Bangladeshi connections in the wake of recent developments in Bangladesh, intensified human intelligence and technical surveillance. Based on analysis, a team traced two suspects to Majherpara at Hatia Gote in Kolkata.

On February 15, a raid was conducted and two accused -- Umar Faruk (31), a resident of West Bengal's Malda, and Robiul Islam (31), a native of Bangladesh -- were arrested.

"On February 21, simultaneous raids were carried out in Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu, leading to the arrests of six more operatives, identified as Mohammad Mizanur Rehman (32), Mohammad Sefayat Hossain

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'Continued delay' in restoration of statehood to J&K is concerning: Farooq

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Ruling National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday expressed concern over the "continued delay" in the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, Abdullah said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have waited patiently and placed their faith in democratic institutions, yet the promise of restoring statehood remains unfulfilled.

He emphasised that statehood is not a privilege, but a constitutional right that



reflects the democratic aspirations and identity of the people.

"Repeated assurances have been made at the highest levels regarding the restoration of statehood at the earliest. However, the absence of a clear timeline has created uncertainty and

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Sixth Khelo India Winter Games to begin at Gulmarg today

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The famous winter destination of Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir is decked up to host the sixth Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) in which over 400 athletes will participate.

The officials on Saturday said all arrangements have been put in place for the four-day event from Monday at a famous ski-resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The event will be flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Secretary of the J-K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul said registration process has been completed.

"Participants from 30 states and UTs have registered, and 400 athletes are participating in the games. There is a good snow cover (in Gulmarg) and we hope the weather supports us," Gul said.

Nuzhat Gul conducted a detailed review of the arrangements for the forthcoming prestigious event at a meeting attended by officers of the J&K Sports Council entrusted with the successful conduct of the games scheduled to be held at Gulmarg from February 23-26, 2026.

The review meeting was attended by officers of the J&K Sports Council entrusted

with the successful conduct of the prestigious national winter sports event.

The J&K Sports Council, in close coordination with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India and the Department of Youth Services & Sports, has put in place elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of competitions across disciplines including Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Snowboarding and Ski Mountaineering.

The Council has ensured seamless planning for technical conduct, athlete logistics including food and accommodation, transportation and ceremonial arrangements.

Hosting the games at Gulmarg since their inception, the J&K Sports Council continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening Jammu & Kashmir's stature as India's premier winter sports destination with participation of over 1000 athletes and officials from 25 States and Union Territories.

The first leg of KIWG for ice events was held in Ladakh's Leh, from January 20 to 26 this year, while the second leg of the games, for snow events, is being held at Gulmarg from February 23 to 26. All six editions have been held in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

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DM Jammu orders strict verification drive for firearm license holders

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Office of the District Magistrate, Jammu has issued a formal notice directing strict verification and compliance by all firearm license holders in the district who possess more than two weapons.

Acting under the provisions of the Arms Act, 1959, as amended in 2019, the district administration has reiterated that no individual is permitted to acquire, possess, or carry more than two firearms. The notice states that those found in possession of more than the prescribed limit must comply with statutory provisions and deposit excess firearms within the stipulated period.

According to the official communication, scrutiny of available records indicates that certain license holders in Jammu district are currently in possession of more than two firearms. An indicative list of such individuals has been prepared based on official records, though authorities clarified that the list remains subject to verification and correction.

The order directs all concerned license holders - including those whose names appear in the enclosed list - to produce their

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India Post holds Rs 22 lakh Cr across 38 crore savings accounts

STATE TIMES NEWS
GUNTUR (ANDHRA PRADESH): India Post has about 38 crore savings accounts with a fund of Rs 22 lakh crore, while there are 3.8 crore Sukanya Samridhi Yojana accounts with deposits of Rs 2.27 lakh crore, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Sunday.

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana is a government-backed savings scheme for parents of girl children to build a

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ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME: 05:43 (FEB 23)
IFTAAR TIME: 06:24 (FEB 22)

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 24.8°C Min: 13.2°C

Humidity
Max: 71 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 6.8°C Min: 2.8°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 83

Sunset : 17:27 Hours
Sunrise : 07:23 Hours

NHPC enacts plan as Salal reservoir's capacity shrinks 96 pc due to siltation

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Decades after key sediment-management facilities were rendered inoperable under the Indus Waters Treaty, the reservoir of the Salal power station has suffered a dramatic loss of storage of up to 96 per cent, prompting NHPC to launch a silt management plan at the facility to ensure sustained operational efficiency.

According to official documents, the NHPC-run Salal concrete dam was originally designed with six under-slucers (gates located at the base of a dam) and six silt-excluder gates (silt-stopping structures) to manage sediment. However, following the treaty signed in 1960 and a subsequent agreement in 1978, the six under-slucers were permanently plugged, and operation of the silt-excluder gates was prohibited, it said.

"In the absence of any sediment-management facilities, silt started accumulating in the reservoir thereafter," an official said.

As a result, the reservoir's original storage capacity of 284 million cubic metres (MCM) has dwindled to just 9.91 MCM, as recorded in a bathymetric survey conducted in May 2025, it added.

Officials said that a three-pronged plan is being undertaken for the first time after the suspension of the treaty last year.

"We are working under an effective silt management plan to ensure the operational effectiveness of the power station. One of the activities under this is dredging, through which we are trying to remove silt from the dam," Salal Power Station Executive Director Anish Gouraha told PTI.

He said that the plan focuses on three key

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EU-India FTA opens doors to trade, AI, resilient supply chains: Austrian official

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The landmark EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is a transformative win-win pact that offers immense opportunities in trade, artificial intelligence (AI) and resilient supply chains, Austria's State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery Alexander Proll has said.

In an interview with PTI Videos, Proll has described the EU-India FTA as the "mother of all deals" that stands to benefit nearly 200 crore people and create one of the world's largest

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Embraer CEO pledges to make India global manufacturing base for KC-390 aircraft

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Brazilian aerospace giant Embraer on Sunday signalled its readiness to set up a major production hub for its KC-390 Millennium aircraft to support the broader Asia-Pacific market if it wins the Indian Air Force's contract for up to 80 transport planes.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, Embraer's President and CEO Francisco Gomes Neto pitched KC-390 Millennium as the "best" option for India, leveraging a wave of NATO acquisitions to position the plane as the new 'global benchmark' for



tactical airlift.

By choosing our aircraft, the Indian Air Force will have an alignment with a rapidly expanding, interoperable alliance of modern air forces, he said as the force intensifies its hunt for a satellite tactical airlifter.

Describing the KC-390 as a much superior multi-mission workhorse, Neto said if awarded the Indian contract, the company will turn India into its primary

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World leaders impressed with India's achievements in AI: Modi

"Lutyens' statue in Rashtrapati Bhavan to be replaced with C Rajagopalachari's"

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted strides made by India in the field of artificial intelligence, saying the AI summit showcased how animals were being treated in the country with the help of AI and how farmers were keeping track of their livestock and dairy.

Addressing his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi also asked people to remain vigilant against online financial fraud and digital arrest.

Referring to the recently concluded AI Summit, Modi said two products impressed leaders from around the world - the first was at the Amul booth where it was showcased how AI is helping treat animals and how, with AI assistance, farmers are keeping track of their dairy and livestock 24x7.

Modi said the second was related to Indian culture.

Leaders from around the world were amazed to see how, with the help of AI, the country is preserving ancient knowledge and manuscripts, and adapting them to suit today's generation, he said.

Several heads of state, global leaders in artificial intelligence (AI), academicians and researchers, heads of global tech giants and philanthropists attended the just concluded India AI Impact Summit here.

On the growing incidents of digital frauds, the prime minister said when people receive messages from banks asking them to update KYC or do re-KYC, a question naturally arises in why it should be done again since it was already done.

"My request to you is: please don't get annoyed. This is only for the security of your own money," he said, adding KYC is crucial for



an individual's bank account's safety.

Modi also noted that numerous players of Indian origin are bringing pride to the countries they represent and this is clearly visible in the T20 World Cup.

"The Canada team has the highest number of players of Indian origin. Team captain Dilpreet Bajwa was born in Gurdaspur, Punjab. Navneet Dhaliwal is from Chandigarh. This list includes many names like Harsh Thaker

and Shreyas Movva, who are enhancing the pride of both Canada and India. Many faces in the USA team have come from India's domestic cricket," he said.

The prime minister also paid tributes to former chief minister of Tamil Nadu J Jayalalitha, whose birth anniversary falls on February 24.

"Amma Jayalalitha ji lives in the hearts of people across Tamil Nadu," he said.

Modi also mentioned about the centuries-old Mamangam tradition, often called the Kerala Kumbh, which has come alive again after nearly 250 years.

The Prime Minister announced that a statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens, which has stood in Rashtrapati Bhavan, will be replaced by a statue of C Rajagopalachari, the first Indian governor-general of independent India.

Modi noted that, unfortunately, even after independence, statues of British administrators remained in the Rashtrapati Bhavan, while those of India's great leaders were not honoured with a place there.

However, the country is moving away from symbols of colonial rule and is beginning to embrace symbols of Indian culture, the prime minister stated.

"A statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens also stood in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Now, this statue will be replaced by a statue of Rajaji (C Rajagopalachari)," he said.

Modi mentioned that during the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,' he had discussed the 'Panch-Pran' from the Red Fort, highlighting the importance of freeing oneself from the mentality of slavery. Affirming that the

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