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STATE TIMES

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Inaugurates 6th Khelo India Winter Games

Khelo India Winter Games evolve into national festival of sports at Gulmarg: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS
GULMARG: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated the 6th edition of Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg.

The Lieutenant Governor welcomed and conveyed his best wishes to all participating athletes and team officials.

He said the Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg has evolved from a simple sporting event into a true national festival.

"Khelo India Winter Games revive the sporting spirit's ideals of peace, equality, and camaraderie. In our vibrant, diverse nation of myriad languages, cultures, and traditions, the Winter Games at Gulmarg is serving as a universal language and shared heritage.

Winter Games at Gulmarg mirror life's raw challenges, building the resilience that propels future triumphs. Falling, analyzing errors, rising improved—these are



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at inaugural ceremony of 6th edition of Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg.

sports' true lessons, ones Skiers will live here," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the broader aim of Khelo India Winter Games is strengthening national unity.

He said that the mega winter sports event is a celebration of our nation's sporting legacy, its unity and the transformative power of sports that binds every citizen and athlete, igniting their drive and forging unbreakable character.

"Intense rivalry yields shared conversations and lasting friendships, proving healthy competition and mutual respect coexist. Our people need this ethos now more than ever. As you race these Ski slopes, remember: diversity is our strength, not division. Khelo India reminds us our language may differ, but our goals and values unite us.

When athletes from diverse states train together, com-

Omar bats for artificial snow in Gulmarg to counter climate change, boost tourism

GULMARG: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reaffirmed that it is not merely the government's intention but its consistent and sustained effort to develop Gulmarg into an international ski destination, emphasizing that this vision will create opportunities and benefit all sectors associated with sports and tourism in the region.

The Chief Minister was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 6th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, which were formally inaugurated earlier in the day by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the picturesque ski resort of Gulmarg. Welcoming athletes, officials and guests from across the



country, the Chief Minister said, "In this 6th Khelo India Winter Games, I welcome all players, team members, ladies and gentlemen to your beautiful flowery valley-Gulmarg. A few weeks ago, we witnessed intense cold here. We had no idea that when the Games begin, there would be such warmth that skiing would become challenging. We may have to make some adjustments."

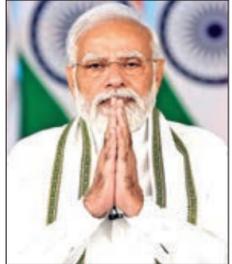
Referring to global winter sporting events, he said, "In the last few days, we were watching the Winter Olympics in Cortina, Italy. I congratulate India's skier, our own Arif Khan, who proudly waved the national flag and represented the country. I hope that from this edition of Khelo India Winter Games, a new Arif Khan will emerge."

The Chief Minister expressed concern over India's performance in international winter sporting events. "It is a matter of regret that despite our vast population, we have not yet secured a medal in the Asian

Modi says change 'inevitable' in West Bengal

STATE TIMES NEWS
KOLKATA: In a public appeal to West Bengal voters, weeks before the declaration of Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he was "heartbroken by the deceit and anguish" faced by the cross-section of the state's citizens under the current Mamata Banerjee regime and vowed to correct it by building a "Viksit Pashchim Banga".

Modi said while a political change was "inevitable", a "judicious choice" by voters could align the state with the accelerated development seen in the rest of the country.



In an open letter written in Bengali, which began with the slogan 'Jai Maa Kali', Modi targeted the TMC government on issues ranging from lack of governance and appeasement politics

India unveils its first counter-terrorism policy

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The government on Monday unveiled the country's first counter-terrorism policy, "Prahaar", setting out a multi-layered strategy based on "zero tolerance", intelligence-led prevention and disruption of extremist violence that aims to deny terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, weapons and safe havens.

The policy unveiled by the home ministry is based on seven key pillars to counter the terror threats emanating from India or abroad -- prevention, responses, aggregating internal capacities, human rights and "Rule of

Law"-based processes, attenuating the conditions enabling terrorism including radicalisation, aligning and shaping the international efforts to counter terrorism and recovery and resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

"There has been a history of sporadic instability in the immediate neighbourhood of India, which has often given rise to ungoverned spaces. Besides, a few countries in the region have sometimes used terrorism as an instrument of State policy," the document said, without naming Pakistan.

"Notwithstanding this, India does not link terrorism

to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilisation. India has always denounced terrorism and its use by any actor for achieving any stated or unstated ends unambiguously and unequivocally," it added.

Stating that India has consistently stood by the victims of terrorism and has been steadfast in its belief that there can be no justification whatsoever for violence in the world, the document said it is this principled approach that informs New Delhi's policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism.

"India has since long been affected by sponsored terrorism from across the border,

with Jihadi terror outfits as well as their frontal organisations continuing to plan, coordinate, facilitate and execute terror attacks in India. India has been on the target of global terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which have been trying to incite violence in the country through sleeper cells," it said.

Operating from foreign soil, terrorists have hatched conspiracies to promote violence in India, with handlers using latest technologies, including drones, to facilitate terror-related activities and attacks in Punjab

Youth held for stabbing woman multiple times in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Police have arrested a youth on Monday for stabbing a woman multiple times with a sharp-edged weapon, officials here said.

According to a police spokesperson, Police Station Gangwal received telephonic information regarding a brutal assault inside Rajiv Gandhi Park, where an unidentified male youth had attacked a woman with a sharp-edged weapon. Acting promptly, police teams rushed to the spot and verified the incident.

The injured woman was identified as Rafia Bano, wife of Arif Jamal, resident

of Ward No. 57, House No. 03, Gangwal, Jammu. Police said the accused inflicted multiple grievous stab injuries, including critical wounds to the neck and other vital parts of her body, indicating serious criminal intent.

On the directions of SP City South Jammu, multiple teams from PS Gangwal and PS Satwari were deputed to the scene to secure the area and apprehend the accused. The SDPO South Jammu personally supervised the on-ground operations. One team preserved the scene of crime, while another shifted

Man posing as TTE held on board a train in Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The ticket checking staff of Northern Railway's Jammu Division on Monday apprehended a man for allegedly impersonating as a Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) on board a train in Kathua district, officials said.

The accused was illegally checking tickets on the Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Katra-Hapa train when he was noticed by a member of a ticket checking staff

J&K: Road accidents decline 13 pc over 3 years to 5,287 in 2025

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has recorded a 13.6 per cent decline in road accidents over the past three years, with the number of incidents falling from 6,120 in 2023 to 5,287 in 2025, officials said on Monday.

The downward trend is attributed to improved enforcement, extensive road safety awareness programmes and the strengthening of road safety mechanisms across the Union Territory. Official data show that accidents dropped to 5,726 in 2024 before further

decreasing in 2025. Several initiatives were undertaken during 2024 and 2025, including over 10,000 awareness programmes each year, health and eye check-ups of drivers, and first-aid training. The government also implemented the Good Samaritan and Road Accident Victim Fund (RAVF) schemes to provide cashless treatment for victims.

According to the officials, traffic enforcement agencies have shifted fully to the e-challan system. In 2024, authorities issued 40,197 e-challans, seized 429 vehicles

and suspended 2,259 driving licences. Enforcement intensified in 2025 with 52,543 e-challans issued, 1,528 vehicles seized and 1,641 driving licences suspended. Additionally, 10,439 vehicles were blacklisted and 1,192 registration certificates were cancelled in 2025.

Preventive measures included an audit of 4,545 registered school buses in 2025. Officials found that 472 buses were defective, 450 of which rectified the issues following formal notices. Similarly, 102 driving training schools were

Ashwani Kumar assumes charge as Addl CS PDD

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Ashwani Kumar on Monday assumed the charge as Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of Power Development Department at Civil Secretariat here today.

The ACS held an introductory meeting with senior officers to review the functioning, ongoing projects and key issues of the department.

Ashwani Kumar had detailed discussion with the Chief Engineers and senior functionaries, focusing on strengthening power infrastructure, improving transmission and distribution efficiency besides ensuring

Pak balloons with foreign currency notes attached recovered in Akhnoor

Drone found inside school campus in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Two balloons with a Pakistani Rs 5,000 currency note and a US dollar attached to them were recovered from a forward village in the Akhnoor sector near Jammu on Monday, officials said.

The aeroplane-shaped white and red balloons were found stuck on a tree at Gunara village in the Khour border belt, they said.

The balloons, also carrying a Pakistani mobile number and a QR code, appeared to have



drifted to this side of the International Border from the Pakistan side, the officials said.

While balloons landing from

Pakistan are a routine occurrence in the border belts, this is the first time that foreign currency notes were found attached to them.

On Sunday, the BSF seized 16 red balloons that had crossed over from the Pakistan side and landed in the fields in the Rangarh sector of Samba district,

ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME: 05:42 (FEB 24)
IFTAAR TIME: 06:25 (FEB 24)

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 27°C Min: 13°C

Humidity
Max: 85 Min: 40

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 21°C Min: 1°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 83

Sunset: 18:23 Hours
Sunrise: 07:05 Hours

'Israel Group' of JeM neutralised after 18-month ops in J&K: IGP

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Inspector General of Police (Jammu Zone) Bhim Sen Tuti said on Monday that in a joint operation, security forces have neutralised a seven-member Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror module, dubbed the "Israel Group", bringing an end to a year-and-a-half-long operation in the Kishtwar belt of Jammu and Kashmir. Three members of the module, including its self-styled commander, Saifullah, were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Kishtwar district on Sunday.

"The group of seven JeM terrorists had infiltrated into Indian territory in April 2024. Since then, this group was engaged on 17 different occasions. Over the last year and a half, we have success-



IGP Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti addressing a press conference on Monday.

fully neutralised all of them. Sunday marked the culmination of this year-and-a-half-long operation," the IGP told reporters at Kishtwar.

Describing the module as a "hardcore terrorist group", he said, "The group was known as the Israel Group. It was a hardcore terrorist module that inflicted significant damage on security forces

and also caused harm to civilians."

Tuti said acting on precise intelligence, the last three members of the group, including Saifullah, were neutralised in the Chatroo area of Kishtwar.

The IGP asserted that the campaign against terror would continue.

"This operation will continue.

Our pursuit is long and in the coming time, we expect more successful operations. This fight will continue until the entire terror network is completely dismantled," he said.

Meanwhile, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Counter-Insurgency Force Delta, Major General A P S Bal, issued a stern warning to anti-national elements,

saying they would be identified and neutralised wherever they are.

"My message to anti-national elements is clear -- anyone who is an enemy of the nation, wherever they may be and in whatever form, will be identified, targeted and neutralised," he told reporters in Kishtwar.

The officer asserted that intelligence-based operations would continue with sustained momentum.

"To the Awam, I want to say -- no matter how grave the challenges are, our courage will never diminish. Whatever we have achieved has been possible because of the support of every single person in the region," he said.

The GOC said recent successes in anti-terror operations are the results of

months of sustained and coordinated efforts by security forces. "We have been collectively working on this for months. Despite challenges of terrain, rain, snowfall and landslides, operations were carried out relentlessly," he said.

The GOC highlighted the extraordinary coordination among the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), stating that seamless collaboration at every level ensured operational success even in confined and rugged areas.

"We were conscious that such prolonged operations can lead to fatigue among the troops. Therefore, we had planned in a manner that ensured adequate rotation

HC reserves order on MLA Mehraj Malik's PSA case

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Monday reserved its order on a petition contesting the detention of AAP MLA Mehraj Malik.

Malik, who is the AAP's Jammu and Kashmir unit president, was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) on September 8 last year for allegedly disturbing public order and was subsequently lodged in the Kathua jail.

On September 24, he filed a habeas corpus petition in the high court, challenging his detention and seeking Rs 5 crore as compensation.

Malik's case came up for hearing before Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani and the court has