

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Khelo India Winter...

alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, snowboarding, and ski mountaineering, athletes' rigorous training and unwavering dedication will shine through," he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the transformation in the sporting sector across Jammu and Kashmir over the past few years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said that the establishment of state-of-the-art sports infrastructure under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) and 100 Khelo India Centres have redefined the sporting landscape. He emphasized that modern infrastructure, coupled with the talent and dedication of J&K's youth and the proactive support of dedicated officials, has provided a massive impetus to the sector.

The Lieutenant Governor said the true character reveals itself not just in victory, but in adversity and a real athlete remains humble in triumph and dignified in defeat.

"On the 26th February, at the closing ceremony of 6th Khelo India Winter Games' success won't be measured by medals alone, but by the spirit of unity, mutual respect, and relentless pursuit of excellence," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The four-day Khelo India Winter Games at India's premier winter sports destination will witness the participation of around 1,000 athletes and officials from various states and UTs in different disciplines.

Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister; Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports; Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to Chief Minister; Farooq Ahmed Shah, Member of Legislative Assembly from Gulmarg; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Maj Gen Puneet Doval, Commandant, High Altitude Warfare School; Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, senior officials, representatives of Sports Authority of India and various sports organizations, prominent sports personalities and sports enthusiasts in large numbers attended the inaugural ceremony.

Omar bats for...

Winter Games or the Olympic Winter Games. Whether you are a skier, skater or associated with any winter sport, I hope one among you will change that narrative."

Highlighting the challenges posed by climate variability, he said, "The truth is we cannot rely solely on nature. We decide the dates for the Games at the beginning of the year without knowing when snowfall will occur or how much snow will be there. I request the organizers not to fix dates in advance. Let us decide to hold the Games 10 to 15 days after sufficient snowfall."

Stressing the need for long-term infrastructure, the Chief Minister called for investment in artificial snow generation systems. "Time has come for us to move towards artificial snow generation. I understand concerns about water and electricity usage, but if we do not create this infrastructure, a day may come when we will not even be able to ski in Gulmarg, and that would be truly unfortunate."

Reiterating his government's commitment, he said, "Not only it is our intention, but our full effort is to develop Gulmarg as an international ski resort. This will strengthen sports and provide economic security to all those connected with tourism."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah underscored the livelihood dimension of winter tourism. "People associated with tourism like sledge operators, ski guides, ski instructors, ATV drivers, all make their living from this snow. It is our duty to provide the means and infrastructure that promote tourism and ensure its sustenance."

Encouraging the participants, he remarked, "I once again welcome all players who have come from across the country. I hope the next three days are wonderful for you. As always said, winning is not as important as participating. You have come here to participate, and we thank you for that."

Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Commandant of the High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS) Major General Puneet Doval, Commissioner Secretary Youth Services & Sports Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, IGP Kashmir VK. Birdi, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa, delegates, participants and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Modi says change...

to fake voters, employment deficiency and women's safety.

The PM also promised citizenship to refugees through the CAA and pledged to stop infiltration through state borders as part of his pre-election promises.

"Bengal used to be the nation's vanguard in both financial and industrial sectors in post-Independence India. It pains me to witness the brittle and sick state it has turned into. It is impossible to describe the irreversible damage which six decades of misgovernance and appeasement politics have caused," Modi said.

"While on the one hand the youth are forced to migrate to other states for lack of employment opportunities, on the other, women of West Bengal are fearful and alarmed due to a lack of security," he added.

Naming Bengal's political and cultural icons such as Swami Vivekananda, Rishi Aurobindo, Subhas Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee at multiple points in his letter, Modi regretted the "darkness of chaos that grips West Bengal" in current times.

"The West Bengal visualised by its iconic forefathers, such as Swami Vivekananda and Rishi Aurobindo, is now riddled with vote bank politics, violence and anarchy. The son of the soil of this state, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, whose call for freedom had once stirred the whole country; that holy land is now blemished with infiltration and torture of women. Fake voters currently dominate Rabindranath Tagore's 'Sonar Bangla'.

"The whole country is worried about the darkness of chaos that West Bengal is sinking into," the PM wrote.

Insisting that the time has come to break the shackles of "silent suffering", the PM said that change is now "inevitable" in Bengal.

"How long should we continue to suffer in silence? Change is now inevitable. The standard of living has remarkably improved in other states. Smiles have returned to the lips of the poor. Ayushman Bharat has provided health cover, new employment is guaranteed for the youth and women's safety is ensured. Bengal too should be part of this growth and development," Modi said.

Stating that he "waited eagerly for a chance to serve the people," the PM quoted Tagore's 'Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high' and promised to bring an end to "corruption and mal-governance".

"We will ensure women's safety, curtail migration for work and restore the state's former glory. Religiously persecuted refugee brothers and sisters who took shelter here would be granted citizenship through CAA and we will establish the rule of law by stopping infiltration," Modi said.

The letter coincided with the Bengal BJP's ongoing house-to-house 'Griha Sampark Abhiyan' during which party leaders will distribute the PM's communication to households during their grassroots outreach programme.

Man posing as...

near Kathua station, they said.

They said he was questioned, but he couldn't provide satisfactory answers. During the investigation, his official identity card was also found to be fake, and he was handed over to the Kathua Government Railway Police.

The GRP has registered a case and initiated an investigation into the fake documents recovered from the accused, the officials said.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal, commended the staff for their vigilance and stated that passenger safety and protection of their rights are the Railways' priority.

He urged passengers to always travel with valid tickets and immediately inform the officials or the Railway Helpline number 139 if any suspicious person checks their tickets or demands a fine.

The Railway Administration is fully committed to ensuring passenger safety and transparent travel, Singhal said.

J&K: Road accidents...

inspected, with 81 found compliant while 21 were served notices, the officials said, adding that speed-limiting devices are also being checked during vehicle fitness certification.

The road safety policy, originally notified in 2016, was revised in 2025 to align with the national standards on the recommendations of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety. To bolster enforcement, the government procured 213 motorcycles, 19 mobile interceptor vehicles, 16 highway patrol vehicles, 23 cranes, 685 body-worn cameras, 64 breath alcohol analysers and other traffic control infrastructure through the Road Safety Fund, they said.

The Legal Metrology Department inspected 218 helmet sellers to ensure the sale of BIS-marked helmets, booked 69 cases and seized 4,750 substandard helmets.

Intelligent Traffic Management Systems are now operational in Jammu and Srinagar under the Smart City Mission. A 107.32-crore rupee project covering 25 junctions and 188 corridors has been planned for the rest of the Union Territory, the

officials said, adding that further road safety audits are now mandatory for new road projects.

The officials said compensation under the RAVF remains Rs 1 lakh for death, Rs 75,000 for permanent disability, Rs 50,000 for grievous injury and Rs 10,000 for minor injury.

The Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) continues to provide services to remote and interstate areas. While there is a proposal for an e-bus from Jammu to Patnitop and Sudhmahadev-Mantalai, officials deemed it presently "not feasible" due to a lack of charging infrastructure beyond Udhampur.

The JKRTC currently operates 20 electric buses on city routes with a 100-kilometre range, though a proposal to procure 200 more electric buses under the PM e-Drive scheme is underway, they said.

India unveils its...

and Jammu and Kashmir, the policy said.

"Increasingly, terrorist groups are engaging organised criminal networks for logistics and recruitment to execute and facilitate terror strikes in India. For propaganda, communication, funding and guiding terror attacks, these terror groups use social media platforms as well as 'instant messaging applications,'" it added.

The policy lists out technological evolution, which offers terrorists a cloak of invisibility, making it difficult to penetrate their nefarious scheming or track their funds.

"Technological advancements like encryption, dark web, crypto wallets, etc. have allowed these groups to operate anonymously. Disrupting/intercepting terrorist efforts to access and use CBRNED (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear; Explosive, Digital) material remains a challenge for Counter Terrorism (CT) agencies. The threat of state and non-state actors misusing drones and robotics for lethal purposes remains another area of concern, even as criminal hackers and nation states continue to target India through cyber-attacks," the document read.

It described India's approach in preventing and countering threats as "proactive" and "intelligence-guided", noting that the country faces risks across air, land and water.

Under its prevention strategy, primacy is given to intelligence gathering and dissemination to executive agencies to neutralise threats, with a special emphasis on disrupting terror-funding networks through the legal framework under Indian laws.

Close partnerships have been established between central agencies and state police forces through the Multi-Agency Centre and the Joint Task Force on Intelligence in the Intelligence Bureau (IB), the document said.

"Operationalisation of Multi Agency Centre (MAC) along with the Joint Task Force on Intelligence (JTFI) in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) remains the nodal platform for efficient and real-time sharing of CT (counter terrorism) related inputs across the country and subsequent prevention against disruptions," it said.

The document highlighted the misuse of the internet for communication, recruitment, glorification of jihad and other terror-related activities, which are countered through proactive disruption of such cyber activities, online networks of terrorist groups and their propaganda and recruitment by intelligence and counter-terror agencies.

"Law enforcement agencies also regularly disrupt the overground workers (OGW) modules, through which terrorists are extended logistic, material and financial support. In recent times, a nexus between illegal arms syndicates and terrorist groups has emerged, and for combatting it, coordinated interventions are being made by the intelligence agencies along with the respective law enforcement agencies in various Indian states. Special emphasis is given to disrupting terror funding networks through the legal framework under Indian laws," it said.

Responding to a terror attack is a multi-stakeholder exercise involving various agencies at the central, state and district levels, with a standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for coordination at the apex level, including intelligence dissemination, analysis and follow-up action through the MAC platform.

The overall capacities of various law enforcement and CT agencies have been enhanced by identifying the resource gaps and suggesting necessary counter-measures.

"Indian laws, including anti-terrorism laws, give due importance to human rights. India adheres to the 'Rule of Law', where laws are just, applied evenly and protect fundamental rights," it said, highlighting that "multiple levels of legal redressal are available to any accused through an elaborate infrastructure of justice system from the districts, through states, right up to the higher judiciary at the central level".

The policy said issues of poverty and unemployment among vulnerable communities are addressed through various government schemes and initiatives to prevent inimical elements from misusing these conditions to their advantage.

International cooperation, which ranges from bilateral and multilateral treaties, has resulted in the disruption and indictment of many terrorist and radical entities in India and abroad, the deportation of wanted fugitives and support in the pursuit to designate wanted terrorists at the United Nations.

"The government engages a team of doctors, psychologists, lawyers and other members of civil society, including NGOs, religious and community leaders, to sensitise and reintegrate the affected community," the policy said.

Besides capacity building of the CT agencies, the document also highlights that the domestic counter-terrorism legal regime needs to be amended from time to time to respond to the emerging challenges and associate legal experts at every stage of investigation, right from the registration of an FIR to its culmination in prosecution, to make cases against perpetrators.

"Terrorist groups based outside, nowadays, use the infrastructure, logistics and terrain knowledge of local outfits for launching attacks. National actions, coupled with international and regional cooperation, are key elements in addressing transnational terrorism challenge," the policy said.

Expressing its commitment to continue its efforts with the international community and counter the global challenge of misuse of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for terrorist purposes, the document said investments in technology and partnerships with private enterprises have been included to mitigate futuristic terror threats.

Youth held for...

the injured woman to Rajiv Gandhi Hospital, Gangyal.

In view of the severity of her injuries, she was later referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu for advanced treatment.

As per the latest medical report, the victim is presently stable and undergoing treatment under close medical supervision, police said, adding that the entire operation was monitored by SSP Jammu.

Considering the gravity of the offence, an additional police team was deployed and successfully recovered the knife used in the attack.

During the course of investigation, the accused was identified as Amarjeet Singh alias Kaka, son of Prem Singh, resident of Model Town, Gangyal, Jammu.

Police further stated that during the operation, the accused attempted to inflict injuries upon himself with a blunt knife, apparently to mislead the investigation.

However, timely intervention by police personnel prevented any serious consequences. He was subsequently shifted to GMC Jammu for medical examination and remains in police custody.

In this connection, FIR No. 25/2026 has been registered at Police Station Gangyal under Sections 4/25 of the Arms Act and Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The motive behind the crime and other relevant aspects are being thoroughly investigated.

Jammu Police reiterated their commitment to maintaining law and order and assured that strict action will be taken as per law.

Pak balloons with...

the officials said.

On Sunday evening, a rusted grenade was found in the Dharyalla forest area in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri district, they added.

Meanwhile, a drone was found on the lawns of a private school in Domana area of Jammu, officials said.

The drone was found by a security guard of G D Goenka School, who informed the local police station, officials said.

A police party rushed to the spot and seized the drone, they said, adding preliminary investigation suggests it is a toy drone.

The drone has been sent to a forensic laboratory for further analysis.

Meanwhile, police have launched a hunt for four persons who snatched a private car near Rakh Barotian in Vijaypur area in Samba district early Monday.

The car, bearing Punjab registration number, was on its way to Jammu when it was reportedly snatched by the unidentified persons before they fled in the vehicle towards Ring Road Jammu, the officials said.

A high alert has been sounded and a hunt launched to nab the accused and recover the vehicle.

Ashwani Kumar assumes...

reliable and quality power supply to consumers across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Power sector has a critical role in driving economic growth and public welfare", asserted the ACS.

He underscored the need for enhanced coordination, timely execution of projects and adoption of modern technologies to improve the operational efficiency. He

stressed on the importance of minimizing transmission and distribution losses, accelerating implementation of ongoing power projects and ensuring prompt redressal of public issues.

Ashwani Kumar expressed confidence in department's capabilities, urging all stakeholders to work with dedication and collective responsibility to ensure efficient, reliable and consumer-friendly power services in J&K.

'Israel Group' of...

of forces. We always had sufficient troops in the reserve -- either to be air-dropped by helicopters or to move on foot across extremely difficult terrain. Sometimes it would take six to eight hours to reach a location, but we ensured that we got there."

The JeM module was under pursuit since April-May last year. Three of its members -- all hardcore terrorists -- were eliminated in April 2025, while the remaining members - including Saifullah, Adil and two others -- were on the run, the GOC said.

Based on intelligence inputs from police, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and other sources, a joint counter-terrorist operation, codenamed Operation Trashi-I, was launched on January 14 in the Chhatroo area by CIF Delta troops under the aegis of White Knight Corps. Contact with the terrorists was established on January 18 and their well-stocked hideout was busted, the GOC added.

Relentless pursuit led to the elimination of one terrorist, codenamed Adil, on February 4, he said.

The security forces re-engaged the remaining terrorists at around 11 am on February 22. The final encounter site, located on steep mountain slopes, was cordoned off on the intervening night of February 21 and 22. In the ensuing operation, the three hardcore terrorists were eliminated, completing the dismantling of the group, the GOC said.

He said the large-scale operation showcased high tactical precision, real-time drone surveillance, the use of night-vision equipment and swift mobilisation of reinforcements, including special forces. He added that despite harsh weather and challenging terrain, there was no casualty among the security personnel.

Major General Bal also made a special mention of Army-trained dog Tyson, who was injured after the terrorists opened fire. Tyson was deployed to verify the presence of the ultras inside the "dhok" (hut).

"The injured elite German Shepherd, who was the first to charge at the terrorist hideout and sustained a bullet injury in the exchange of fire, was immediately airlifted for medical treatment and is reported to be safe and stable," an official said.

During the search operations, war-like stores, including three AK-47 rifles, were seized.

The operations were conducted on both extremes of the area of responsibility - one in the Udhampur sector and the other in the Kishtwar sector.

The IGP said action would be taken against those who supported the terrorists.

"Those who provided shelter and support to this group will soon see decisive action against them as well. In the coming days, you will witness how firmly we act against their collaborators," he said, adding that the efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem would be intensified.

"More operations are in the pipeline and you will see the results for yourselves," he said.

The IGP said there are only three local terrorists in Kishtwar district now. "These are the same three individuals who have been active in the region for nearly two decades. During 2018, 2019 and 2020, some new recruits had joined terror ranks, but all of them have been neutralised," he added.

Tuti appreciated the public support for the success of the operations. "I believe the society is not supporting them. Otherwise, such successful operations would not have been possible. Most of the intelligence inputs we receive come through civilians. The public stands with us, the public stands with India and these terrorists will never succeed in their nefarious designs," he asserted.

HC reserves order...

reserved the matter for pronouncement of orders, Advocate Appu Singh Slathia said.

Slathia, who is also AAP spokesperson, said the court has granted both parties -- Mehraj Malik's legal team as well as the State -- one week's time to file a written synopsis or any additional submissions, if they wish to do so.

Slathia said it has been a long and challenging legal journey but "we remain hopeful and confident in the judicial process".

She asked Malik's supporters and AAP activists to remain calm and positive.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, one arrested, five bovines rescued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its crackdown against bovine smuggling, Samba Police foiled an attempt to illegally transport cattle in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal and arrested one accused during a naka checking operation.

According to police officials, acting on specific information, a team from Police Station Ghagwal laid a checkpoint at NHW Tappal and intercepted a load carrier bearing registration number JK02DT-3849. During inspection of the vehicle, five bovines were found tied in a cruel manner and being transported without valid permission.

The accused has been identified as Amit Kumar, son of Thoru Ram, a resident of Phinder, Tehsil R.S. Pura, District Jammu. Police rescued all the bovines and seized the vehicle used in the illegal transportation.

A case FIR No. 21/2026 under sections 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal, and further investigation has been initiated.

Police reiterated their commitment to strict action against bovine smuggling and related illegal activities in the district.

FIR filed against accused in Forest Damage Case in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The Forest Division Ramban has registered a new First Information Report (FIR) against Aqeel Ahmed Ganai, an individual already facing trial in a separate forest damage case.

Earlier, the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department has sought registration of an FIR against three individuals for allegedly assaulting and intimidating officials at the Forest Range Office in Gool area of Ramban district.

In a written communication addressed to the Station House Officer, Police Station Gool, the Office of the Range Forest Officer, Gool, requested registration of a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

According to the complaint, on February 19, 2026, Aqeel Ahmed Ganai, son of Mohd. Yusuf Ganai; Fareed Gul, son of Hamedullah Ganai; and Sajid Fareed, son of Fareed Gul Ganai, allegedly committed serious cognizable offences within the premises of the Forest Range Office during official proceedings.

The complaint states that Aqeel Ahmed Ganai is already involved in a case related to illegal green felling and forest damage and has been booked both at the Forest Range Office Gool and Police Station Gool.

On the day of the incident, the accused persons reportedly arrived at around 1:10 PM in connection with the verification of complaints submitted by Aqeel before an inspection team.

During the proceedings, the accused allegedly used abusive and threatening language, criminally intimidated the Range Officer and staff members, obstructed the discharge of official duties, and physically manhandled the officer, causing injury.

The incident allegedly created an atmosphere of fear and disrupted official functioning at the office. Two of the accused reportedly fled from the spot after the incident. The occurrence was stated to have been witnessed by officials present at the office at the time.

The complaint further alleged that Aqeel Ahmed Ganai has been filing baseless and frivolous complaints against reputed persons in Gool with mala fide intent and has allegedly been demanding money by threatening individuals with false complaints in an attempt to extort unlawful gain.

The Forest Department has urged police to register an FIR under Sections 121 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from duty), 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant), 221 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 351 (criminal intimidation), 308 (extortion), and 3(5) (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Police said the matter is under examination and appropriate action will be taken as per law.

