

Multi-layered security...

be held in different districts, with chief guests receiving salutes during the ceremonies. In Srinagar, the main event will be held at Bakshi Stadium, which police personnel, school children, and the public are expected to attend," the IGP Birdi said."Multi-layered security arrangements are in place in the valley and especially in Srinagar. The Jammu and Kashmir Police, its security wing, and paramilitary forces have tightened the whole security grid," he told reporters after paying tributes to the martyrs at the Balidan Stambh here.

J&K issues high-danger...

above 2,300 metres in Ganderbal district, in Central Kashmir, over the next 24 hours, the officials said.

They also warned that an avalanche with high danger level is likely to occur above 2,500 metres over districts, including Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Ramban in the Jammu region, and Kupwara in North Kashmir. The officials urged the residents to remain cautious and avoid venturing into avalanche-prone areas. Earlier in the day, most parts of Jammu and Kashmir received moderate to heavy snowfall, the officials said.

Pak prisoner dies...

sector of Samba district in 2024. He was lodged in high-security Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu, they said. Rafiq was facing trial under the Foreigners Act. He complained of intense stomach pain on Wednesday and was rushed to GMC hospital for treatment, an official said, adding that he died in the early hours of Thursday, the officials said. The body was shifted to the mortuary for post-mortem and other legal formalities, which will be conducted on Friday, they added.

Northern Army Commander...

Core Group Security Review meeting at Srinagar with senior officials of Army, police, CRPF and other security agencies," the Army's Srinagar-based Chinar Corps said.

It said the meeting held on Thursday focused on enhancing joint operations and strengthening coordination among various security agencies in the Kashmir Valley. It also discussed bolstering inter-agency intelligence sharing and strengthening coordination through Joint Control Centres for optimal operational effectiveness, the Chinar Corps added.

Snowfall disrupts life...

rains lashed the plains, including Jammu city, throughout the night, officials said. Intermittent snowfall continued in the upper reaches of Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Udhampur and Kathua districts, officials said.

Snowfall ranging from a few inches to over two feet accumulated in some areas. The higher reaches had recorded snowfall in the last week of December. The fresh precipitation brought relief to the people, especially farmers and tourism stakeholders, ending the dry-spell in the region.

A police official said that 70 people, stranded at Totagali in Mendhar area of Poonch district, were rescued despite adverse weather conditions, ensuring their safety and comfort. Another 30 passengers who were stranded due to heavy snowfall in the Krishna Ghati area were also safely evacuated, he said. Amid inclement weather conditions, police conducted another rescue operation and saved 12 persons, including women and children, who were stranded in a heavy snowstorm at Chochru Galla in the Basantgarh area of Udhampur district, the official said.

Meanwhile, in a post on X, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board said, "Season's first snowfall at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan (atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district). Devotees were blessed to witness breathtaking weather as fresh snow gently adorned the holy surroundings of Maa Vaishno Devi Bhawan and Bhairon Temple, filling the atmosphere with serenity, devotion, and divine bliss".

The yatra was temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure from both the Tarakote and Banganga tracks, but it has now been restored. The traffic on the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was suspended following fresh snowfall. Thousands of vehicles have been stranded.

"Traffic movement has been stopped in both directions -- from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice versa on Jammu-Srinagar national highway (NH-44) due to fresh snowfall in and around the Navyug Tunnel (in Banihal-Qazigund stretch)," a traffic department official said. "In addition, the Mughal Road, Srinagar-Leh national highway, and Srinagar Roads have also been closed owing to fresh snow accumulation," the official said.

The official advised commuters to avoid travel until these roads are fully restored and declared safe for traffic. Officials said the rail service between Jammu and Kashmir was also partially affected by heavy snowfall.

"Due to heavy snowfall, only one train each was operated from Sangidan and Banihal towards Srinagar, while no train could be run from Kashmir towards Banihal as large portions of the railway track remained covered with snow," Station Master Banihal, Abdul Baseer Bali, told. Railway authorities are closely monitoring weather conditions and tracking clearance operations. Services will be restored once conditions improve, he said.

Five flights were suspended this morning while several others got delayed at Jammu airport due to inclement weather, the officials said. A total of 32 flights are scheduled to operate to and from the airport during the day. The officials said the authorities have ordered the closure of all schools in the hilly

districts of Rajouri, Poonch and Kathua districts as a precautionary measure in view of the snowfall. Police have also established dedicated helpline numbers at all district headquarters, they said. Meanwhile, BSF rescheduled its recruitment drive at its Jammu headquarters from January 24 to February 6 due to waterlogging caused by rainfall.

"Due to continuous heavy rainfall, waterlogging has occurred in and around the BSF Jammu Paloura Camp, affecting the stadium and track. In view of this, the PST/PET (through RFID) for the recruitment of CT/TM in BSF, scheduled to be held on January 24, 2026, has been postponed. The revised date for the examination has now been fixed as February 6, 2026," a BSF spokesperson said. In anticipation to snowfall prediction, KPDCL had geared up the preparedness to tackle the snow fall aftermath on the electric infrastructure especially in hilly terrains and rural areas.

According to the official statement by KPDCL, severe gusty wind, incessant rainfall and heavy snowfall across various parts of the Kashmir Division, the power demand/load of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) witnessed an unprecedented decline and it dropped to the lowest level of 93 MW at around 10:00 PM, as against the normal average running load of approximately 1650 MW. The network was live until 10:00 PM of intervening night of 22th and 23th of January-2026 when the load abruptly crashed due to faults/ damage of various 33kV / 11kV feeders owing to high speed gusty winds. The roof tops of houses were blown off and smashed on to 33kV/11kV line causing damage to electrical line and adding extra difficulty in clearing the smashed roof structures hanging on lines.

At the sub-transmission level, 103 out of 135 numbers of 33 kV lines were down/under fault, reflecting nearly 24% active network at this level. Similarly, at the distribution level, 1275 out of 1302 numbers of 11 kV feeders were down/under fault till morning. Following established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), wee morning restoration had already started and is being monitored at all levels led by Managing Director/Chief Engineer and pursued by Superintending Engineers/Executive Engineers. The restoration picked up pace and by 6.00 PM, almost 80% network was charged back and load of 1050 MW was recorded by SLDC with prioritizing of essential and vital installations.

The heavy snowfall and high-speed winds have badly affected the electrical infrastructure particularly in Shopian, Kuglam, Baramulla and Budgam. Around 4.5Ft snow in high terrains of these areas is affecting the restoration work also as vehicular movement is severely impaired. The major affected areas include DHpora, Kund, Malwan and brancl-Lammars of Kuglam district; Sedow, Reshnagri, Herpora, Kaprain and Kuchdora of Shopian district; Khanshab, Beerwa, Doodhpathri and Yousmarg of Budgam district.

The official statement further said that the damage of Transmission tower at Sheeri in Delina-LJHP 132 kV Transmission line has also put hindrance in restoration of power supply, JKPTCL (Kashmir) is on job of restoring the network by erecting ERS (Emergency Restoration System). KPDCL is committed to restore the Power supply to all areas by the dusk of day and men and machinery has already been mobilized to the effected areas who are working on War footing basis for earliest restoration of power supply services to valley.

Power supply restoration...

including those feeding emergency services," the chief minister said on his official handle on X. The chief minister said teams are on the job for rectification, but extensive tree falls on the lines and the windy conditions are major hurdles to be overcome.

"Damage assessment is underway but would take some time owing to prevailing weather conditions," he added. High-speed winds swept many places in the valley, including Srinagar, last night, uprooting trees, electricity poles, and rooftops in a few areas, while also snapping power lines. Many houses and other structures, and vehicles, also suffered damage in a few places.

Electricity was snapped in several areas of the valley, including in the summer capital Srinagar, but restoration work was going on. Speaking to reporters here later, Abdullah said almost the whole electricity supply system in the valley was shut down due to the bad weather, but the department is working on its immediate restoration.

"There has been damage due to the weather. The damage can be gauged by the fact that while we used to supply 1700 MW of electricity in Kashmir, this morning it was only 100 MW because almost the whole system was shut down due to gusty winds. The department is working on it, and it is hoped that the system will be restored as soon as possible," he said. The chief minister said the focus of the government in the wake of snowfall is on restoration of electricity, roads and water supply. "First, the priority roads are being opened, after which B and C category roads (will be cleared of snow), but one by one, all roads will be reopened. The focus is on electricity, roads, and then water. All other things will be taken up later," he added.

He, however, welcomed the snowfall -- season's first in Srinagar -- saying that though it got delayed this winter, it is better late than never. "We had been waiting for this for a long time," he said, adding that the government prepares for the snow every year. Abdullah said the snow was very important because it benefits the people in the summer.

"The snowfall, especially in winters, and particularly during Chila-i-Kalan, benefits us later. The snow we get during Chila-i-Kalan benefits us in the summer. If it snows after the

Chila-i-Kalan, it melts suddenly. So, thank God that this month we have received this snowfall. And we pray to God that it snows more," he said.

Asked whether he expects the tourist footfall to increase in the wake of the snowfall, the chief minister said, "It is obvious that after the snow, we can expect more tourists to come". "There was a little delay in snowfall. That caused a little loss to tourism. But, this was all over north India. It is not like only we were deprived of snow. Uttarakhand, Himachal, and all places did not receive snowfall this time," he said.

"But today, the good amount of snowfall that occurred, I have heard that Gulmarg has received more than two feet of snow. We hope that more tourists will come here and we will be able to properly run our ski courses," he added. To a question about his pre-budget consultations, Abdullah said discussions with MLAs will take place on Friday. "This morning, the suggestions and advice of all the stakeholders, including industry, horticulture, agriculture, tourism, and higher education, have been received by us. We will implement those in the budget as far as possible," he said.

Schools closed in...

by the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri.

Similarly, the Chief Education Officer Poonch said that all schools in Poonch district will remain shut today as per the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, owing to adverse weather conditions. In Reasi district, the Chief Education Officer informed that all government and private schools shall remain closed today due to inclement weather, except for those institutions falling within municipal limits, keeping in view the safety of students and staff.

Meanwhile, the Chief Education Officer Udhampur said that, as per verbal directions received from the Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, all schools including primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools will remain closed today due to heavy rain and weather conditions. The authorities have advised parents and students to follow official advisories and avoid unnecessary travel until weather conditions improve. Further updates will be issued as per the situation.

Top JeM terrorist...

Jammu range, Bhim Sen Tuti, said the terrorist was gunned down during a joint operation in the general area of Billawar.

"A Pakistani Jaish terrorist has been neutralised by a small JKP (J&K Police) team in a joint operation with the Army and CRPF in the general area of Billawar," the Jammu police chief said in a post on X. Officials identified the deceased terrorist as JeM commander Usman alias "Abu Maiya". They said that a large quantity of arms and ammunition, including an M4 automatic rifle, were recovered from him during the operation in a remote village in the Parhatar area.

"Acting on specific intelligence inputs, Joint Operation was launched by Army and Police on 23 Jan in general area Parhatar. Area was cordoned and contact established. In a precise strike by the joint forces, 1 (one) foreign terrorist has been eliminated," Army's Rising Star Corps said in a separate post on X.

It said the search operations are continuing when the last reports were received. The officials said Usman was one of the most wanted JeM terrorists active in the Udhampur-Kathua belt for the last couple of years after infiltrating into this side from across the border. He had escaped several encounters in the past, the latest being on January 7 and 13 in Kahog and Najote forests, respectively, they said.

The officials said that the joint search party raided a house but came under fire from a hiding terrorist late this afternoon. The search parties reacted swiftly and shot him dead in close combat. The encounter lasted for a few minutes only, the officials said, terming the killing of the dreaded terrorist a major breakthrough for the security forces.

Meanwhile, security forces continued their anti-terror operation to hunt down three JeM terrorists in Sonnar, Mandar-Singhpura and adjoining forest areas in the Chatroo belt of Kishtwar district for the sixth day on Friday. The operation was continued despite snowfall in the area, the officials said.

Named by the Army as 'Operation Trashi-I', the operation was launched in the area on Sunday, leading to a gunfight that left one paratrooper dead and seven soldiers injured, primarily due to splinter injuries caused by a sudden grenade attack from the hiding terrorists.

After four days of lull, another encounter took place between the holed-up terrorists and security forces on Thursday, but the success eluded the forces as the terrorists managed their escape, taking advantage of thick vegetation and challenging topography. A major terrorist hideout was busted during the operation on Monday.

The encounters followed a major counter-terrorist operation launched in the forest belts of the Jammu region in December last year to flush out nearly three dozen holed-up terrorists. Operations have been further intensified in the run-up to Republic Day to ensure peaceful celebrations, amid intelligence inputs about desperate attempts by Pakistan-based handlers to push more terrorists, the officials said.

UFM Committee meeting...

Division. The meeting shall be chaired by the Joint Secretary, UFM, JD here at JKBOSE Rehari Colony. The candidates of SSE (Class 10th) & HSP-I (Class 11th) of session Bi-Annual 2025 of Jammu Division, whose cases were deferred shall also be heard in the said meeting. The stakeholder candidates have been informed to attend the proceedings and plead their cases with the committee through evidence. The details of the candidates bearing examination Roll Nos. can be surfed on the official website, www.jkbose.nic.in. and also at their respective Sub/Branch Offices of JKBOSE.

JKAACL celebrates Vasant Panchami with musical and literary evening

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS

JAMMU, JAN 23:

Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Friday organised a function to celebrate the auspicious occasion of Vasant Panchami with a colourful musical and literary evening here at K. L. Saigal Hall. The event marked the arrival of spring and paid reverent homage to Maa Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, music and arts.

Special Secretary in the Office of the Chief Secretary, J&K, Nagendra Singh Jamwal graced the occasion as the Special Guest. The programme commenced with the lighting of the traditional lamp, followed by floral tributes to Maa Saraswati, symbolising the pursuit of wisdom and creativity. The occasion also coincided with the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, who was remembered with deep respect by paying floral tributes in his honour.

At the outset, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Sonali Arun Gupta welcomed the dignitaries, artists and audience.

She highlighted the cultural and spiritual significance of Vasant Panchami and underscored the relevance of the day as the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, recalling his immense contribution to India's freedom struggle, his ideals of patriotism, sacrifice and selfless service to the nation. She further emphasized JKAACL's sustained efforts to promote art, culture and literature while keeping alive the memory of great national icons through cultural platforms.

The cultural segment began with a soulful Saraswati Vandana, presented by Ridima Bajpai, Tejasvi Verma and Vanshika Kaw, which set a serene and devotional tone for the evening. This was followed by a melodious presentation of Raag Bahar by Ridima Bajpai. The audience was then treated to the classi-

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS

REASI, JAN 23:

District Magistrate Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting of the District Level Narcotic Coordination Centre (NCORD) to comprehensively review enforcement measures and initiatives aimed at curbing drug abuse and promoting a tobacco-free environment across the district.

During the meeting, the District Magistrate conducted a detailed review of cases registered under the NDPS Act, including those under investigation and cases disposed of during the past year. It was informed that the highest number of FIRs were registered in the previous year, indicating intensified enforcement efforts. The District Magistrate directed the Police Department to further strengthen enforcement and organize extensive awareness programmes, particularly targeting youth, to educate them about the harmful consequences of drug abuse. Emphasizing the need for enhanced inter-departmen-

tal coordination, the District Magistrate stressed greater synergy among enforcement agencies. She directed the Police and other concerned departments to strengthen information sharing and adopt a coordinated strategy to identify, track and dismantle networks involved in illegal drug trafficking. Special focus was laid on intensified surveillance and targeted interventions in identified drug-prone spots across the district.

While reviewing the progress under the Nasha Mukt J&K campaign, the District Magistrate also assessed the status of anti-drug awareness programmes conducted in schools and colleges. She directed the Education Department to continue organizing extracurricular, awareness and theme-based activities to sensitize students about the dangers of drug addiction and encourage healthy lifestyle choices.

The Chief Medical Officer informed that six training programmes were conducted dur-

ing the current month and that trained resource persons are actively engaged in counselling activities. The District Magistrate instructed the Health Department to further strengthen counselling services and prepare effective presentations to enhance the impact of awareness and rehabilitation efforts. She also reviewed the status of drug addiction patients reporting for counselling and directed the department to collect inputs from patients regarding sources of drugs to assist enforcement agencies in breaking the supply chain.

The Drug Inspector apprised the meeting that regular inspections are being conducted to ensure compliance with drug control norms. The District Magistrate also reviewed the availability of drug testing kits distributed among various departments and directed the Excise Department to provide additional funds for procuring more kits to strengthen on-ground enforcement.

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DC Reasi reviews anti-drug measures at NCORD meeting; Calls for coordinated action to curb drug menace

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12 stranded in...

videos, the department wrote: "Udhampur Police successfully rescued 12 persons stranded due to heavy snowfall in the upper ridges of Basantgarh area."

Due to inclement weather and heavy rainfall, all government and private schools of Udhampur district, including primary, middle, high, and higher secondary schools have been shut today. In view of the existing weather conditions, Srinagar Police has established dedicated emergency helpline services to provide immediate assistance and timely response. The following 24x7 emergency contact numbers have been made operational across the Srinagar district: Landline: 0194-2477567, 0194-2477568, Mobile: 959622550, 959622551.

True faith reflected...

Amarnath Ji Yatra has bridged the faith and action and set societal example with selfless service."For 25 years, Shri Baba Kashi Vishwanath Seva Samiti has embodied the principle that true faith manifests through selfless service," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"In today's era, spiritual consciousness provides