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Sakina Itoo reviews performance, functioning of SKIMS, Soura



The Earth News

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RS Ex-MP Shamsheer Singh dies

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Rajya Sabha member Shamsheer Singh Manhas died after a prolonged illness at his residence here on Monday, his party colleagues said.

Manhas, 65, is survived by his wife, son and a daughter.

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over Manhas's death. "Saddened by the demise of veteran leader and former MP Rajya Sabha... He was always committed to the well-being of the people," the LG said in a post on X.

Manhas, a former president of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of BJP, was sick for the past nearly six months and breathed his last at his Toph Sherkhani residence in Jammu late this afternoon, BJP's national executive member Ravinder Raina told PTI.

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said Manhas's death was a "significant loss" for the party.

Chugh said Manhas ► P11

Army soldier martyred; operation called off as ultras flee in Sopore



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: An army soldier was killed in an encounter that erupted in the Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday. The operation marks the first gunfight in Jammu and Kashmir in the year 2025.

The operation, conducted in Gajar Pati, Zaloor, under the jurisdiction of Sopore police district, was

based on intelligence inputs regarding the presence of terrorists, an official said.

He, however, said that after an extensive search, the terrorists managed to flee the encounter site. The operation was then called off.

The official said the operation began with a joint team of the Army, CRPF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police cordoning off the area. The search intensified after fire was ► P11

Security beefed up in Jammu ahead of R-Day

JAMMU: Security has been beefed up in Jammu ahead of Republic Day celebrations, with the police making the MA Stadium, the main venue of the function, out of bounds for public as a precautionary measure.

The security wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police has taken control of the stadium, where Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will preside over the Republic Day function with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as the chief guest.

"The security has been beefed up ahead of Republic Day. The security wing of police has taken charge of the main venue," a senior police official said.

Officials said that the venue has been restricted to the general public as a security measure. Sanitization of the main venue and its ► P11

Central team spends six hours in Badhaal hit by mysterious deaths

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A high-level inter-ministerial team on Monday conducted an investigation for nearly six hours in the Badhaal village of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district to ascertain the causes of deaths of 17 members of three families under mysterious circumstances, officials said.

The village also witnessed the burial of a 15-year-old girl who died in a Jammu hospital on January 19 and a subdued wedding of one inhabitant during the day amid massive activities surrounding the 16-member central team's visit.

The central team, headed by a director-rank officer in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and including several experts, reached Rajouri district headquarters on Sunday.

The team members received a briefing from senior district, health and police officers before heading to the village early on Monday.

Union Home Minister



Amit Shah ordered the constitution of the inter-ministerial team to ascertain the causes of the deaths in the three families related to each other in the remote village, about 55 kilometres from Rajouri town, between December 7 and January 19.

The officials said the team, accompanied by dozens of senior officers of various departments, reached Badhaal around 11.30 am and visited the bereaved families, even as gravediggers were preparing

the last resting place of Yasmeen Kousar (15) – the sixth child of Md Aslam who breathed her last at the SMGS Hospital in Jammu on January 19.

The central team divided itself into two groups and undertook an investigation, including collecting samples, they said.

National Conference leader and local MLA Javid Iqbal Choudhary said the team's visit was meant to carry forward the ongoing investigation to ► P11

JKEC adds 341072 new voters as PER concludes

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The J&K Election Commission, on Monday concluded annual revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls with publication of Final Electoral Rolls, with January, 1st 2025 as qualifying date.

During the annual revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls, which was started on 11-11-2024 with the publication of draft electoral rolls, several additions, deletions and changes in the entries of electoral rolls were incorporated.

A total of 341072 new voters have been added and



110768 names have been deleted because of death, shifting or other reasons. Besides, corrections were carried

out in details of 10726 voters and 31180 voters were transposed to other Panchayat Halqas/ ► P11

125 SPs promoted

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday accorded sanction to the promotion of 125 JKPS officers to the grade of Superintendent of Police Selection Grade (II).

The official order copy reads: "In terms of J&K Police (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules 2024 notified vide SO 500 of 2024 dated 10/10/2024 and as recommended by the Selection Committee-I, sanction is hereby accorded to the promotion of 125 officers in the Superintendent of Police Selection Grade (II) (Level 12 (78800-209200) of the Pay Matrix) w.e.f 24/12/2024."

The officers are: Kulbir Singh (JKPS: 1999), Mohammad Arif Rishu (JKPS: 1999), Shailender Singh (JKPS: 1999), Dalip Kumar (JKPS: 1999), Abdul Waheed Shah (JKPS: 1999), Javid Hassan Bhat (JKPS: 1999), Benam Tosh (JKPS: 1999), Showkat Hussain Shah (JKPS: 1999), Joginder Singh (JKPS: 1999), Mehmood Ahmad (JKPS: 1999), Shamsheer Hussain (JKPS: 1999), Ashok Kumar Sharma (JKPS: 1999), Stenzin Nurboo (JKPS: 1999), Ran-deep Kumar (JKPS: 1999), Pawan Kumar Parihar (JKPS: 1999), Wasim Qadri (JKPS:2001), Atul Sharma (JKPS:2001), Harmeet Singh Mehta (JKPS:2001), Shiv Deep Singh ► P11

Chinar trees get Geo-Tag

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The iconic chinar tree, a cultural and ecological symbol of Jammu and Kashmir; the J&K Forest Department, in collaboration with the J&K Forest Research Institute, has initiated a GIS-based, QR-enabled conservation project.

This innovative initiative aims to safeguard chinar trees from threats such as urbanisation, deforestation, and habitat degradation.

The project, spearheaded by the Research Forest Division Srinagar, involves geotagging and QR coding of chinar trees to enable precise ► P11

E-Rickshaw controversy: Authorities assure fair fare

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The ongoing controversy between E-rickshaws and the transport department was finally settled on Monday after a meeting between authorities and representatives from the E-rickshaw association.

Officials from the E-rickshaw association stated that they met with the RTO Kashmir and SSP Traffic Srinagar, who assured them that the matter would be resolved within two to three days.

As per the reports, the dispute escalated earlier when the Transport Com-

missioner announced the fare structure for E-rickshaws. Many E-rickshaw drivers disagreed with the rates and subsequently stopped operating.

In a tweet on X, (formerly twitter), Transport Commissioner J&K, Vishesh Mahajan wrote: During the day while interacting with the media the rate of e rickshaw was elaborated. "I would like to clarify that it is 10 rupees per Km per vehicle and not per passenger. I have asked the RTOs Jammu/Kashmir to further clarify and issue rate lists." Notably, the ► P11

SC: Video-conferencing facilities for Yasin's trial

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Supreme Court on Monday directed the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to install functional video-conferencing facilities in the Jammu Court immediately.

The Court's directions were made to facilitate the ongoing trial of Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik and others accused in the 1989 assassination of four Indian Air Force personnel.

A Bench comprising Justice Abhay S. Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan passed the order while hearing a petition by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which challenged

a Jammu trial court's order requiring Malik's physical production for trial.

The court noted that the accused could effectively participate in the trial through video conferencing and stayed further proceedings in the trial until further orders.

During the hearing, Justice Oka suggested that the accused, including Malik, could appear via video conferencing (VC).

However, Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta informed the court that Malik had refused to appear through VC and had declined to engage legal counsel.

Justice Oka asked Mehta, "Except for accused ► P11

NCC cadets should contribute to Viksit Bharat dream: DM Rajnath



NEW DELHI: Noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an ex-cadet of the NCC, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday exhorted cadets to contribute to PM Modi's dream of making India a 'Viksit Bharat' by

2047. Addressing a gathering of cadets and officers during his visit to the ongoing Republic Day National Cadet Corps (NCC) camp at Delhi cantonment, Singh also said that he sees an image of India in NCC

cadets. A total of 2,361 NCC cadets from across the country are taking part in the month-long camp, which began on December 30, and will culminate with the PM rally on January 27.

The annual event is also witnessing the participation of 917 girl cadets, the largest contingent so far.

Appreciating the unity and discipline shown by cadets at the NCC camp, the defence minister said, "India has many bodies but one soul, many branches but one root, many rays but one light".

In his address, Singh also recalled that before foraying into politics, he ► P11

Sanjay gets life term till death for rape

KOLKATA: A Kolkata court on Monday sentenced Sanjay Roy to life imprisonment until death after he was convicted of raping and murdering an on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, rejecting demands for the death penalty saying it was not a "rarest of the rare" crime.

Additional District and Sessions Judge in Sealdah, Anirban Das, had on Saturday found Roy guilty of committing the crime against the postgraduate trainee doctor on August 9 last year. The heinous crime triggered nationwide outrage and prolonged protests in ► P11

J&K Bank's Q3 Net Profit Increases by Rs 110.43 Cr YoY to Rs 531.51 Cr

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: J&K Bank on Monday announced robust financial results for the October-December quarter (Q3 FY 2025), with net profit surging by 26.2% year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 531.51 Cr compared to Rs 421.08 Cr reported during the same period last fiscal.

The Bank's Board of Directors approved the numbers for the quarter and nine-months during a meeting held today at the Bank's Zonal Office in Jammu.

Well on its course to meet annual profitability target, the Bank's net profit for the first nine months of current financial year has jumped 32.7% YoY to Rs 1497.92 Cr, compared to Rs 1128.60 Cr recorded for the same period last



year, reflecting its sustained growth trajectory.

The Bank's operating metrics reflected steady growth, with Net Interest Income (NII) growth of 17.8% YoY and 5.1% QoQ for the quarter to Rs 1508.68 Cr, while NII for Nine-months rose by 10.7% YoY to Rs 4313.83 Cr. Other income for the quarter has also surged by 32.9% YOY.

Net Interest Margin (NIM) for the quarter has improved to 4.04%, up 14 bps QoQ. Return on Assets (RoA) increased by 19 bps YoY to 1.34% for the quarter, while as, Cost-to-Income Ratio reduced for the quarter to 57.28% YoY from 62.36%.

Commenting upon the operating numbers, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "These Q3 results ► P11

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