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Year-end Celebrations

Srinagar Under Heightened Security Cover



Anti-Sabotage Drills, Surprise Checks Conducted

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Security forces on Tuesday carried out extensive anti-sabotage and area security operations across Srinagar, placing the city under a heightened security blanket ahead of the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Police, in close coordination with the Central Reserve Police

Force, conducted Area Security and Anti-Sabotage (AST) operations around major vital installations and sensitive locations, particularly in the north zone of the city, a police spokesperson said.

The joint exercise was aimed at strengthening preventive security measures, reinforcing the overall security grid, and countering any potential threats. "During the operation, thorough checking and sanitisation of identified areas were carried out, along with a comprehensive review of existing security | [More on P6](#)

Snowfall Breathes Life Into Kashmir's Winter Tourism

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The first spell of snowfall in Kashmir has re-kindled hopes of a revival in the Valley's tourism sector, which had suffered major setbacks this year due to security concerns and adverse weather conditions.

The tourism industry, which was hit hard following the April 22 terror attack on tourists at the Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam, had barely begun to recover when heavy rains during the August-September monsoon triggered flood-like conditions across Jammu and Kashmir. Prolonged closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway further impacted tourist movement, followed by fresh apprehensions after



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

a blast in Delhi in November that led many visitors to defer travel plans.

However, the recent snowfall, particularly after a prolonged dry spell, has brought renewed optimism. Moderate

Tourists visiting the Valley expressed excitement at witnessing snowfall. Sangeeta, a visitor from Jaipur, said it was her first experience of snow in Kashmir and described it as magical. Ritika, a tourist from Delhi, said the snowfall had enriched their visit and created a lively atmosphere across tourist hubs.

Several tourists said they had planned their trips keeping the weather forecast in mind. Kartik, a visitor from Maharashtra, said the experience had exceeded expectations and added that Kashmir felt safe and welcoming. His friend Arjun said the warmth of local people played a key role in shaping visitors' sense of security.

Tourism stakeholders said the snowfall | [More on P6](#)

Dry Weather Likely In Coming Days: MeT

Observer News Service

Parts of Kashmir witnessed fresh snowfall and intermittent rain, while minimum temperatures stayed above the freezing point at most places in the Valley, officials said on Tuesday. Higher reaches of north Kashmir, including

Gulmarg, received intermittent snowfall through the night, which continued into the morning hours. Snowfall was also reported from Gurez in Bandipora district, the Mughal Road, and parts of Shopian. The plains of the Valley experienced intermittent rainfall, officials said.

The minimum temperature | [More on P6](#)

Terror Funding Case

NIA Court Attaches US Based GN Fai's Property

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A special court of the National Investigation Agency in Budgam on Tuesday ordered the attachment of over 1.5 kanals of land belonging to a US-based Kashmiri lobbyist, who has been declared an absconder in a terror funding case.

The order was passed by Judge Yahaya Firdous after the prosecution moved an application seeking attachment of the property under Section 83 of the Criminal Procedure Code, corresponding to Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

The court noted that the accused had earlier been declared an absconder in a case

registered in 2020 under various provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

In its order, the court directed the District Collector Budgam to attach and take possession of the immovable properties, including land measuring one kanal and two marlas in Wadwan village and 11 marlas in Chattabugh village. It also directed that revenue authorities be involved to properly identify and demarcate the land before attachment.

The court further instructed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam, to provide necessary assistance to the district administration during the execution | [More on P6](#)

PILs Not Instruments For Gaining Political Leverage: HC

Dismisses Mehbooba's Plea; Terms Her 'Third-Party Stranger With No Locus Standi' | Petition Reflects Political Undercurrents Rather Than Genuine Public Cause'

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that the plea reflected "political undercurrents rather than a genuine public cause", the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday dismissed a petition filed by PDP chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti seeking the repatriation of undertrial prisoners from jails outside the Union Territory in "purported public interest". The court held that the plea lacked material documents and was founded on ambiguity.

Underlining that Public Interest Litigation cannot be used to advance partisan or political agendas, a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal said that PILs are not instruments for gaining political leverage or for converting courts into platforms for



electoral campaigns. "While political parties possess manifold legitimate avenues to engage with the electorate, courts cannot be employed as an instrument for achieving electoral advantage," the court said.

Dismissing the plea 35 days after reserving its verdict, the Court said the petition sought to invoke its writ jurisdiction on the basis of "incomplete and unsubstantiated facts".

It noted that Mehbooba's plea made only "general and vague averments" claiming that several families of undertrial prisoners had approached her, but failed to disclose their identities, the particulars of the undertrials, the nature of cases against them, or the specific transfer orders under which they were lodged outside the Union Territory.

The Court observed that the detention of undertrials outside J&K is not a universal practice, but is based on individual, case-specific orders issued by competent authorities.

"Lacking material documents and grounded in ambiguity, the petition seeks to invoke the writ jurisdiction on the basis of incomplete and unsubstantiated facts, clearly unveiling its political undercurrents," the Court said.

"We cannot lose sight of the fact that the | [More on P6](#)

Harwan Resident Gets 12 Yrs Jail for Abusing Boy

Asked to Pay Rs 7 Lakh Compensation To Victim

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A Fast Track Court for POCSO cases in Srinagar has sentenced a man to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a minor boy in 2018.

Presiding Officer Umi Kulsoom also awarded Rs 7 lakh as victim compensation for the rehabilitation of the child.

The case arose from FIR No. 45/2018 registered at Police Station Harwan on August 9, 2018, following a complaint by the victim's father. According to the prosecution, the accused—identified as Nazir Ahmad, a resident of Harwan—lured the minor boy to his house and sexually assaulted him.

During arguments on the quantum of sentence, the defence sought imposition of the statutory minimum punishment applicable prior to the amendment of the POCSO Act, citing mitigating circumstances and the need for a reformative approach. The prosecution,



however, pressed for a stringent sentence, stressing the seriousness of crimes against children and the deterrent purpose of the POCSO legislation.

After considering both aggravating and mitigating factors, the court held that awarding the minimum punishment would meet the ends of justice in the facts and circumstances of the case, while also emphasizing the need to safeguard societal interests and uphold the rule of law.

Accordingly, the court sentenced the convict to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment under Section 5(m,n)/6 of the POCSO Act and | [More on P6](#)

Intelligence-Led Policing Key To Crime Control: IGP Birdi Says Drug Menace Will Be Dealt With Firmly

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Inspector General of Police (Kashmir) V K Birdi on Tuesday stressed that intelligence-led and proactive policing remains crucial for effective crime control while reviewing the prevailing crime scenario in Baramulla.

During a high-level review meeting, police stations presented details of crime trends, detection rates, preventive policing initiatives, and measures taken to strengthen investigation and prosecution. Reviewing the performance, the IGP directed officers to maintain close supervision over crime-prone areas and habitual



offenders, and to ensure timely registration and professional investigation of cases.

The IGP laid special emphasis on tackling the drug menace, reiterating a zero-tolerance policy against drug

trafficking. He said firm action would continue against those involved in the narcotics trade, while preventive measures and public awareness initiatives would also be intensified. He further stressed the need for improving coordination among field units to enhance conviction rates and build public confidence in policing.

The visit reaffirmed the commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir Police towards strengthening crime control mechanisms and ensuring safety and confidence among the public.

The meeting was attended by the DIG North Kashmir Range, SSP Baramulla, SSP Sopore, | [More on P6](#)

AG's Post In J&K Vacant For Over A Year No Proposal Yet For New Appointment: RTI

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The post of Advocate General in Jammu and Kashmir has been lying vacant for more than a year following the resignation of senior advocate D C Raina, the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has said in a reply under the Right to Information Act.

In response to an RTI application filed by Jammu-based activist Raman Kumar Sharma, the Central Public Information Officer said that no proposal has so far been initiated to fill the post.

"The post of Advocate

General is presently lying vacant. The post is lying vacant from the date on which the last Advocate General tendered his resignation," the RTI reply, issued on Monday, said.

Raina submitted his resignation in October last year, two days after a National Conference-led government assumed office in the Union Territory. However, his resignation has not been formally accepted by the Lieutenant Governor, a situation that has highlighted tensions between the Raj Bhavan and the elected government in the absence of notified rules of business. | [More on P6](#)

2 Kupwara Men Held In Arunachal on 'Spying' Charges

Press Trust Of India

Itanagar: The Itanagar Police has arrested two persons from Jammu and Kashmir for alleged espionage activities in Arunachal Pradesh, an officer said on Tuesday.

Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) Chukhu Apa said the two persons were arrested from Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on December 18, and they have been brought to the state, where they are currently in police custody.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Aijaz Ahmed Bhat and Bashir Ahmad Ganai.

The IGP said that another person who was earlier detained from Miao in Changlang district has been released after investigators found no material evidence linking him to the

espionage activities. According to the police officer, the accused were allegedly involved in collecting sensitive information from different parts of Arunachal Pradesh and sharing it with handlers based in Pakistan.

The case first came to light on November 21, when police arrested Nazir Ahmad Malik and Sabir Ahmed Mir, both residents of Kupwara district in Jammu and Kashmir, following specific intelligence inputs about their suspected involvement in spying activities.

Malik was initially detained from Ganga village in Itanagar, and based on information obtained from him, Mir was arrested later the same day from Abotani colony, in the state capital.

West Siang police arrested one Hilal Ahmed, | [More on P6](#)