



### Largely dry weather till Feb 24

The weather department has forecast largely dry weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir till February 24, with no major spell of rain or snowfall expected during this period.

According to MeT office, weather was expected to remain generally dry on February 15 and 16 across most parts of the Union Territory. However, there was a possibility of light snowfall at isolated higher reaches during the night of February 16 and early

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### Bhaderwah-Basohli road closed after being reopened

Hours after it was re-opened, Bhaderwah-Basohli road was today again closed to vehicular traffic after an avalanche occurred near Thanthera.

The road was thrown open to vehicular traffic earlier in the day but it was again blocked due to an avalanche that hit between Thanthera & Guldanda at about 5 pm, officials said.

Guldanda is a famous winter destination in

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### Minor killed in road accident

An 11-year-old boy was today killed in a road accident near Chowgund in Verinag area of the valley's Anantnag district.

According to officials, the minor was struck by a Tata Mobile as a result of which he sustained critical injuries.

He was rushed to primary health centre, Verinag, where doctors pronounced him brought dead, officials said.

He was identified as Numan Khursheed Itoo, son of Khursheed Ahmad

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### Debate to remove LS Speaker on Mar 9: Rijiju

**TAWANG, FEB 15:** The debate and subsequent vote on the no-confidence motion moved by the opposition against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be taken up on March 9, when the House reassembles after the recess, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said here on Sunday.

He stated that the second part of the Budget Session, scheduled from March 9 to April 2, will be "interesting" as several "important" legislations and a "critical" bill will be presented in Parliament for debate and passage.

He warned that if opposition parties continue

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### Kedarnath temple to reopen on Apr 22

**RUDRAPRAYAG, FEB 15:** The portals of the revered Kedarnath Temple in the Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand will reopen for devotees on April 22 after remaining closed for nearly six months during winter, a temple committee official said on Sunday.

Harish Gaur, Public Relations Officer of the Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee, said the auspicious date and time for re-opening the shrine were decided on the occasion of Mahashivratri on Sunday at the winter seat of Almighty Kedarnath - the Omkaresh

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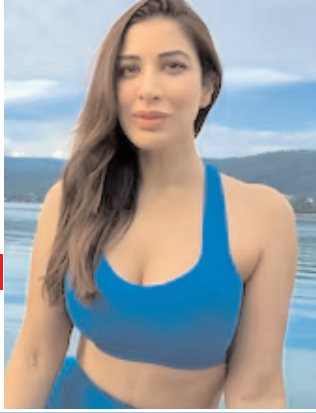
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**Nehru's message to Cong MPs during 1954 LS Speaker removal debate: 'Not bound by whip'**

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**Sophie Choudry, In Austria, Is Relaxing Like A True Water Baby**

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## In major success, 8,000+ 'mule accounts' identified, frozen in J&K

**Misuse by terror outfits not ruled out**

**NEW DELHI/ JAMMU, FEB 15:** In a major success, security agencies in J&K have busted an ever-growing ecosystem of 'mule accounts', that serves as financial backbone of global scam networks, with officials fearing their misuse by terror outfits and separatists.

It is strongly felt that funds routed through these mule accounts could be used for separatist and anti-national activities.

"More than 8,000 mule accounts operating in the region have been identified and frozen over a period of three years, exposing a sophisticated network of money laundering," officials said.

Officials described these accounts as the 'weakest yet most crucial link' in the cybercrime chain, as without them, the conversion of stolen money into untraceable cryptocurrency would be impossible.

"Central security agencies, looking into the cases of mule accounts, have asked J&K police and other law-enforcement agencies to hold consultations with banks to curb the mushrooming of 'mule accounts' and identify middlemen, commonly referred to as 'mulers', who facilitate such financial frauds," officials said.

Officials suspect that after the Na-

tional Investigation Agency's 2017 crackdown on the flow of illicit money into Jammu and Kashmir, anti-national elements may have shifted to the newer model of 'digital hawala', wherein commissions earned by mule account holders or mulers may be used for activities against the country.

A muler is typically not the person who contacts victims or sends fake links. Instead, their role is covert but critical - arranging and maintaining a steady supply of mule accounts that scammers use to receive and transfer stolen money without revealing their own identities.

These mule accounts often belong to ordinary people lured with promises of 'easy commission' and assured minimal risk. They are persuaded to hand over full control of their bank accounts, including net banking credentials, under the pretext that the accounts will be used briefly as "parking accounts".

A single scammer is often supplied with 10 to 30 mule accounts at a time, and in many cases, bank accounts are opened in the name of fictitious companies, enabling large transactions of up to Rs 40 lakh in a single day without immediately raising alarms.

Officials said the money trail was deliberately messy, with the scammed money rapidly shifted through several

accounts and broken into smaller transactions to avoid detection.

Central security agencies and other law enforcement organisations have emphasised that while mule account holders may not design the scams or speak to the victims, they are active facilitators of money laundering. By sharing credentials and accepting commissions, they knowingly provide the "financial infrastructure" for transnational crime.

"The entire scam ecosystem depends on these accounts. Without a destination for the money, the scam fails at the first step. Those renting out their accounts are not just victims of circumstance; they are the engines of the crime," a senior official said.

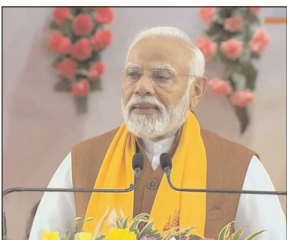
A detailed study done by the central security agencies has identified people in countries like China, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Cambodia directing people in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to create private crypto wallets, which are often set up using a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to avoid detection and require no Know Your Customer (KYC) or identity verification.

The J&K police have already suspended the use of VPNs in the valley and some parts of Jammu as it is a handy tool for the terrorists as well as separatists to avoid detection.

## Budget reflects yearning to be developed nation: Modi

**NEW DELHI, FEB 15:** Calling productive spending a hallmark of his government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the just unveiled Union Budget deliberately avoided short-term populism and instead channelled record capital outlays into infrastructure to drive jobs and sustainable growth.

He said this year's Budget was not a 'now or never moment' born out of compulsion but a 'we are ready' moment born out of preparation and inspiration. He asserted that it reflects India's "yearning" to



become a developed nation.

Modi said his government had used its years in office to plug "structural gaps left behind by earlier administrations", pursued bold reforms and laid the foundations for a developed India. He asserted that the latest Budget marks the "next level" of

that journey.

Describing the Budget for fiscal year starting April 1 as reflective of his governance approach, Modi said the document "is a good reflection of our governance style and priorities."

Modi added that none of his government's budgets have been made with an attitude of creating run-of-the-mill 'bahi khata' documents as "that is not our approach."

Recalling that a few years ago, he had declared from the ramparts of the Red Fort, that 'Yahi Samay

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## 6 AGMUT cadre IAS officers from J&K among 72 transferred

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 15**

In a major administrative reshuffle, the Delhi government today ordered the transfers and postings of 72 IAS officers, including six of the AGMUT cadre who have served in Jammu & Kashmir or are transitioning from the J&K segment to take up important assignments in the national capital.

As per an order, Bipul Pathak, AGMUT cadre IAS officer, presently serving as

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## India stepping forward to guide world towards peace, prosperity: LG



**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 15**

Saying that the world would turn to India for grounding in the face of civilisational threats, LG

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## T20 World Cup India flexes superiority over Pak with 61-run win



**NEW DELHI, FEB 15:** India today flexed their superiority over Pakistan with a comprehensive 61-run win to continue their domination in the T20 World Cup.

With the win, India became the first team to qualify for the Super 8 stage. Chasing 176 to win, Pak

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## Birla to represent India at Tarique's oath ceremony

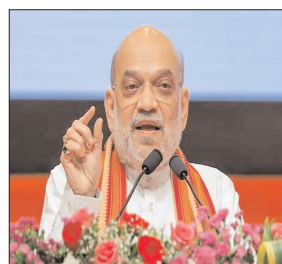
**NEW DELHI, FEB 15:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of Bangladesh's next prime minister, Tarique Rahman, on February 17.

It is learnt that Bangladesh had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the ceremony to be held in Dhaka.

Om Birla, the Lok Sabha Speaker, will represent the Government of India at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected government of Bangladesh led by Tarique Rahman, the external affairs ministry said

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## Farmers fully protected: Shah on US trade deal



**GANDHINAGAR, Feb 15:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah today launched a blistering political attack on Rahul Gandhi over US trade deal, saying farmers were fully protected.

He accused the Congress leadership of "misleading the nation" and asserted

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## Fervour, gaiety mark Mahashivratri celebrations across J&K

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 15**

Religious fervour and gaiety today marked Mahashivratri celebrations across J&K, with thousands of devotees visiting the temples of Almighty Shiva to offer special prayers.

All the Shiva temples and city markets were tastefully decorated with colourful lights and bunting. Elaborate security arrangements were made for the peaceful conduct of the festival.

Huge gatherings were witnessed at Aap Shambhu temple at Roop Nagar, Ranbireswar temple at Parade, Peer Kho temple on Circular Road and other Shiva temples in & around the winter capital city of Jammu.

A huge fair was organised outside the Roop Nagar Aap Shambhu temple, where several stalls had been put up for the visiting devotees. Such stalls had also been put up on both sides of the main Roop Nagar road.



On almost half a kilometer Janipura-Roop Nagar road stretch, people had put up several stalls of eatables for devotees.

Similar fairs were witnessed outside Ranbireswar temple and Peer Kho also, where thousands offered special prayers.

In the districts of Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch also, Mahashivratri was cele-

brated by people with full religious fervour.

In the valley also, Kashmiri Pandits visited temples to offer prayers.

The largest gathering took place at Shankaracharya Temple which overlooks Dal lake in the heart of Srinagar city. Multi-coloured lights illuminated the temple, and air resonated with 'Bum-Bum Bholey' chants from the

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## Doctors formed 'Ansar Interim' to carry out terror attacks

**NEW DELHI, FEB 15:** The 'white-collar' terror module recently busted by the J&K police indicates that the doctors arrested in the case had been radicalised since 2016 and formed a new terror organisation named "Ansar Interim" to carry out subversive activities in the Union Territory as well as in the hinterland.

The case, which is now being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), also brings to light that Dr Umer Nabi, the terrorist behind the wheel of

the explosive-laden car that exploded outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people, had unsuccessfully attempted to join terror groups in 2016 and 2018, officials said.

Piecing together evidence gathered so far, officials said the accused doctors - Muzamil Gannie, Umer-un Nabi (now dead), and Adeel Rather, along with his brother Muzzafar Rather (absconding), as well as Maulvi Irfan, Qari Aamir, and Tufail Gazi met at Eidgah in downtown Srinagar in April 2022.

During the meeting, they decided to form a terror organisation "Ansar Interim," with Adeel named as the 'Ameer' (chief) of the group, Maulvi Irfan as 'Deputy Ameer,' and Gannie as treasurer, officials said, adding that among militant groups, "Ansar" is commonly associated with the globally banned terror outfit Al-Qaeda.

The arrested doctors and preachers told the interrogators that the need to form a new group emerged because all their contacts

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## India 'very successful' emerging economy: UN Chief



**UNITED NATIONS, FEB 15:** India is a "very successful" emerging economy with a bigger influence in global affairs, and is the "right place" to host the AI summit, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said.

In an exclusive interview with news agency at the UN Headquarters ahead of the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, Guterres underscored that Artificial Intelligence should benefit the entire world and not just be a privilege reserved for developed nations or two superpow-

ers.

"I strongly congratulate India for organising this Summit. It's absolutely essential that AI develops itself to the benefit of everybody, everywhere and that countries in the Global South are part of the benefits of AI," he

said. The high-powered event being held from February 16 to 20 will be the first-ever AI summit hosted in the Global South and is anchored in the three guiding principles of 'People, Planet and Progress'.

Guterres, who will be travelling to India to attend the Summit, asserted "it would be totally unacceptable that AI would be just a privilege of the most developed countries or a division only between two superpowers", an apparent reference to the US

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## Today's India represents land of opportunities: Kavinder

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 15**

Stating that young minds are the real changemakers of society, Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today said that 'today's India represents a land of opportunities'.

"Ladakh Students Welfare Association is not merely an organisation, but a reflection of determination, discipline and dreams of Ladakhi youth striving for a brighter future," he said while addressing LSWA's 27th annual day function



here.

The LG congratulated the association for its sustained contribution towards the welfare, unity and holistic development of Ladakhi students.

He appreciated the asso-

ciation's role since 2015 in providing academic guidance, nurturing cultural unity and effectively representing students' concerns before the administration. "Student life is the foundation of a nation's future," he said.

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