

**'Israel Group' of JeM neutralised after 18-month operation in J&K: IGP Jammu**

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**Alicia Keys Celebrates 25 Years Of Fallin': 'Very Proud Of My Younger Self'**

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**Pak balloons with foreign currency notes recovered**



Two balloons with a Rs 5,000 Pak currency note and a US dollar attached to them were recovered from a forward village in Akhnour sub-sector near here today.

The aeroplane-shaped white and red balloons were found stuck on a tree

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**Ambulance gutted in fire**

An ambulance was damaged after it caught fire in the parking area of Government Medical College (GMC) & Hospital at Rajouri in Jammu region today.

There were no injuries in the incident, officials said.

The fire began in the patient compartment of the parked critical care ambulance and engulfed it within minutes, the officials added.

Officials said the blaze

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**Road accidents decline 13 pc over 3 yrs to 5,287**

J&K has recorded a 13.6 pc decline in road accidents over the past three years, with the number of incidents falling from 6,120 in 2023 to 5,287 in 2025.

According to officials, the downward trend is attributed to improved enforcement, extensive road safety awareness programmes and the strengthening of road safety mechanisms across the Union Territory.

Official data showed that accidents dropped to 5,726 in 2024 before further decreasing in 2025. Several initiatives were

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**Omar bats for artificial snow at Gulmarg**



Himalayan Mail News  
JAMMU, FEB 23

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today advocated for the introduction of artificial snow at Gulmarg to bolster tourism and promote the destination as a winter sports hub.

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**Jitendra hails northeast's transformation**



GUWAHATI, FEB 23:

Union Minister Jitendra Singh today hailed northeast's development after 2014, saying that development and peace share a reciprocal relationship.

When peace prevails, development accelerates, and when development

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## Major shift in strategy

# MHA unveils comprehensive anti-terror policy to annihilate threat

**NEW DELHI, FEB 23:** The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today unveiled India's first comprehensive anti-terror policy called "PRAHAAR", marking a major shift in the country's strategy to counter terrorism in all its forms and setting out a multi-layered strategy based on "zero tolerance", intelligence-led prevention and disruption of extremist violence that aims to deny terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, weapons and safe havens.

This new doctrine recognises that terror threats have evolved beyond traditional attacks to include cross-border terrorism, cyber-based campaigns, and misuse of modern technology, and seeks to build a modern, proactive, and coordinated national response to safeguard the nation.

The policy is based on seven key pillars to counter the terror threats emanating from India or abroad - prevention, responses, aggregating internal capacities, human rights and Rule of Law-based processes, attenuating the conditions enabling terror-

ism including radicalisation, aligning and shaping the international efforts to counter terrorism and recovery and resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

"There has been a history of sporadic instability in the immediate neighbourhood of India, which has often given rise to ungoverned spaces. Besides, a few countries in the region have sometimes used terrorism as an instrument of State policy," the document said, without naming Pakistan.

"Notwithstanding this, India does not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilisation. India has always denounced terrorism and its use by any actor for achieving any stated or unstated ends unambiguously and unequivocally," it added.

Stating that India has consistently stood by the victims of terrorism and has been steadfast in its belief that there can be no justification whatsoever for violence in the world, the document said it is this principled approach that informs New Delhi's policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism.

"India has since long been affected

by sponsored terrorism from across the border, with Jihadi terror outfits as well as their frontal organisations continuing to plan, coordinate, facilitate and execute terror attacks in India. India has been on the target of global terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which have been trying to incite violence in the country through sleeper cells," it said.

Operating from foreign soil, terrorists have hatched conspiracies to promote violence in India, with handlers using latest technologies, including drones, to facilitate terror-related activities and attacks in Punjab 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

Cont. on P9 >

**World praised India's potential at AI Summit: PM**

NEW DELHI, Feb 23:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the entire world wholeheartedly praised India's potential at the just-concluded AI Impact Summit, demonstrating that the mindset of India's young talents in

Cont. on P9 >

## Birla takes major step, forms lawmaker groups with 60 nations

**NEW DELHI, FEB 23:** In a major step towards enhancing India's parliamentary outreach, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has constituted Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs) with more than 60 countries, establishing a structured platform for sustained engagement with legislatures worldwide.

Senior leaders from across party lines have been appointed to head these groups, underscoring what officials termed "the diversity and strength of India's democracy before the global community", says a Lok Sabha secretariat communique released on Monday.

Among those selected to



lead various Friendship Groups are P Chidambaram, Shashi Tharoor, Ravi Shankar Prasad, T R Baalu, K C Venugopal, Akhilesh Yadav, Asaduddin Owaisi, Abhishek Banerjee, Supriya Sule and Anurag Thakur.

They will be joined by other senior parliamentarians including Ram Gopal Yadav, Gaurav Gogoi, Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, Man-

ish Tewari, Derek O'Brien, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Sanjay Singh, Baijayant Panda, Nishikant Dubey, Bhartruhari Mahtab, D Purandeswari, Sanjay Kumar Jha, Hema Malini and Praful Patel, who will steer engagement with key partner nations.

A senior Lok Sabha official said the initiative "brings together leaders cutting across party lines to represent India's collective democratic voice on the global stage," highlighting its bipartisan character.

The move builds on the prime minister's multi-party outreach following Operation Sindoor and aims to formalise parlia-

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## Will respond 'ferociously' to any US attack, says Iran

**PARIS, FEB 23:** Iran said Monday that a US attack of any scale would spur the Islamic republic to respond "ferociously", after President Donald Trump said he was considering limited strikes against the country.

The United States has built up forces in the Middle East to pile pressure on Iran to make a deal at negotiations due to restart on Thursday, with Trump weighing a limited strike if no agreement is reached.

On Monday Iran's foreign ministry reiterated that any strike, even lim-

ited, would be "would be regarded as an act of aggression. Period".

"And any state would react to an act of aggression as part of its inherent right of self-defence ferociously so that's what we would do," ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said at a briefing in Tehran.

The two countries concluded a second round of indirect talks in Switzerland on Tuesday under Omani mediation.

Further talks, confirmed by Iran and Oman but not by the United States, are scheduled for Thursday.

The European Union, which has been sidelined in mediation on Iran, called for a diplomatic solution ahead of the talks.

"We don't need another war in this region. We already have a lot," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said ahead of a meeting of EU foreign ministers.

"It is true that Iran is at its weakest point that they have been. We should be really using this time to find a diplomatic solution," he said.

Iran's clerical authorities have faced recent steep

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## Kavinder assures delegation to look into land allotment issue

Himalayan Mail News  
LEH, FEB 23

Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today assured a delegation, that called on him at Lok Niwas here, that he would look into the issue of land allotment to societies.

The delegation, comprising members & representatives of 11 societies from Ladakh, was led by former LAHDC Leh chairman Tashi Gyalsong.

The delegates told the LG that land was allotted to the societies by LAHDC



Leh last year for setting up their offices.

They alleged that the vigilance office had recently objected to the land allotment, and requested Gupta for regularisation

and confirmation to enable them to render services efficiently for societal benefits.

The LG gave them a patient hearing and assured to look into the matter.

## Khelo India Winter Games

# Broader aim is to strengthen national unity: LG Sinha



Himalayan Mail News  
JAMMU, FEB 23

LG Manoj Sinha today said the broader aim of Khelo India Winter Games, which had evolved from a simple sporting event into a true national festival, was to strengthen national unity.

"The broader aim of Khelo India Winter Games is strengthening national unity," he said in his address after inaugurating the 6th edition of the games at Gulmarg in Kashmir.

The LG welcomed and conveyed his best wishes to all the participating athletes and team officials.

"The games have evolved from a simple sporting event into a true national

festival, reviving the sporting spirit's ideals of peace, equality and camaraderie. In our vibrant, diverse nation of myriad languages, cultures, and traditions, the event at Gulmarg is serving as a universal language and shared heritage," he said.

"The games mirror life's raw challenges, building the resilience that propels future triumphs. Falling, analysing errors & rising improved are the sports' true lessons," he added.

"The mega winter sports event is a celebration of our nation's sporting legacy, its unity and the transformative power of sports that binds every citizen and athlete, igniting their drive and forging unbreakable character," he said.

"Intense rivalry yields

shared conversations and lasting friendships, proving healthy competition and mutual respect coexist. Our people need this ethos now more than ever. As you race these ski slopes, remember that diversity is our strength, not division. Khelo India reminds us our language may differ, but our goals and values unite us," he added.

"When athletes from diverse states train together, compete fiercely, and cheer one another, barriers of language, culture, and region dissolve before the sporting spirit," the LG said.

"The winter games pit skiers against nature itself, where excelling demands extraordinary prowess, and

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