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DIGITAL E-PAPER

CRIME

Kashmiri Pandit Activist Rakesh Hando Arrested on Cyber-Terrorism Charges; Daughter Launches Support Campaign



Jammu and Kashmir police detained Kashmiri Pandit activist Rakesh Hando on October 17, alleging that he distributed threatening online content falling under cyber-terrorism laws. According to the police, Hando used digital platforms to spread messages that could incite violence, leading to his arrest.

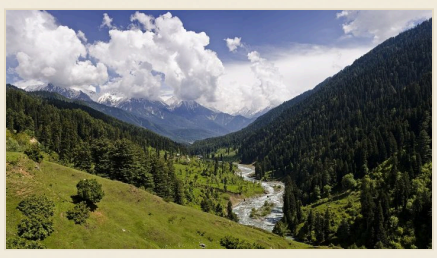
Hando's defense team has expressed its intention to file a petition with the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, challenging the factual basis of the police report and the validity of the cyber-terrorism charges. Lawyers argue that the evidence is merely circumstantial and that the allegations do not meet the legal threshold for terrorism.

Meanwhile, Hando's daughter, Anjani Hando, has launched a public support campaign seeking assistance from community leaders, civil society groups, and the Kashmiri Pandit diaspora. She has appealed for legal aid, media coverage, and moral support to secure her father's release during the judicial process.

This case adds to a series of high-profile arrests related to digital security laws in the region, raising questions about the balance between anti-terrorism measures and civil liberties. No further details regarding the investigation have been disclosed, and the case is currently under judicial review.

EDUCATION

Practical Exams to Commence in Jammu & Kashmir Polytechnics from 21 December



The Jammu & Kashmir government decided to start practical examinations for all polytechnic courses from 21 December. The exams will cover mechanical, electrical, civil and computer engineering subjects and will be conducted across 14 polytechnic institutions in the state. Students are advised to review the detailed timetable and venue information in the official notification. The move aims to complete semester assessment before the winter holidays.

DEFENCE

J&K DGP Prabhavati says local terrorist recruitment is near zero



Deputy General Police officer Prabhavati told the media on Thursday that there has been a sharp decline in new recruitment by local terrorist organizations in Jammu and Kashmir. She stated that intelligence inputs and ongoing security operations have limited the new recruitment capacity of insurgent groups to near zero.

This statement comes amid extensive efforts by the Central Home Ministry and state authorities aimed at dismantling recruitment networks that have historically fueled the insurgency in the region. Officials have intensified surveillance, community engagement, and counter-radicalization programs, which Prabhavati credited for the current trend.

While highlighting the positive shift, Prabhavati emphasized the need to remain vigilant, noting that external influences and online propaganda can still pose risks. She urged local communities to cooperate with the police and report any suspicious activities to sustain the decline in recruitment.

Security analysts welcomed these comments, viewing them as a sign of stability in the Valley. However, they cautioned that sustained political engagement and socio-economic development are essential to prevent any resurgence.

The police department plans to release periodic updates on recruitment figures to maintain transparency and reassure the public about ongoing security measures.

TECHNOLOGY

National Conference on Emerging Technologies Concludes at IUST



A two-day national conference on emerging technologies concluded at IUST on Sunday. Experts from across the country participated in the event, discussing the latest developments in fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and renewable energy. Organizers emphasized the importance of fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and government. While no specific outcomes were disclosed, the conference highlighted the growing significance of emerging technologies in shaping India's future.

DEFENCE

Only a Few Terrorists Remain in Jammu and Kashmir, LG Manoj Sinha Promises Swift Elimination



Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha informed the media on Thursday that security forces have significantly reduced the number of active terrorists. He stated that the remaining few terrorists are under close surveillance and a coordinated action will be launched soon to eliminate them.

The Lieutenant Governor mentioned recent successes where the army and police have dismantled several terrorist networks in the valley. He explained that intelligence information played a crucial role in identifying the remaining few groups, and the situation is now stabilizing.

Sinha urged the public to remain vigilant and cooperate with security agencies, assuring them that the final phase of the anti-terrorism campaign will be "concluded soon". The statement did not specify any particular timeframe or casualty figures.

This statement comes amidst the central government's continuous efforts to curb cross-border infiltration and militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, where the army has maintained a heightened deployment along the Line of Control.

SARKARI YOJANA

Jammu and Kashmir to unveil new industrial policy, says CM



The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir stated that the state will soon unveil a new industrial policy, marking a step towards attracting investment.

The policy is expected to include incentives such as tax exemptions, subsidies, and simplified procedures to facilitate the establishment of manufacturers and entrepreneurs in the region.

The government said that special focus will be placed on sectors such as tourism, agro-processing, and renewable energy, in line with a broader economic development plan.

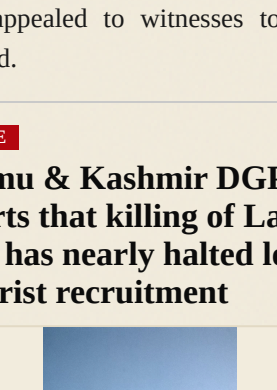
A detailed document of the policy will be made available to the public and industry representatives in the coming weeks.

The industrial community has welcomed the move, viewing it as a positive step towards revitalizing the region's industrial capacity.

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CRIME

Body of 70-Year-Old Man Found in Jammu



Jammu police reported that the body of a 70-year-old man was found early in the morning in a residential area of the city. Local residents informed the police of the discovery, which led to the identification of the deceased. The cause of death has not yet been determined, and an investigation has been initiated. The family has been notified and is cooperating with the inquiry. The case is being investigated as a suspected homicide, and police have appealed to witnesses to come forward.

CRIME

Jammu & Kashmir DGPI reports that killing of Lat Bher has nearly halted local terrorist recruitment



The Director General of Police (DGPI) of Jammu & Kashmir informed that the recent killing of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) member Lat Bher has caused a steep decline in local terrorist recruitment. The coordinated action of security forces and intelligence led to the elimination of Bher, who was considered a key recruiter in the area.

According to the DGPI, the number of youths being drawn into extremist networks has fallen to almost zero following Bher’s death. This outcome was achieved through continuous counter-terror operations, community outreach, and disruption of LeT’s logistical lines in the valley.

The Hindu reported the DGPI’s statements but did not provide details on the location of the incident or the number of security personnel involved. The statement underscores breaking the recruitment pipeline as a core element of the security strategy.

Security officials said the decline in recruitment is a positive sign, but vigilance is required to prevent any resurgence. The DGPI urged local communities to cooperate and report any suspicious activity.

The operation against Lat Bher is part of ongoing efforts to weaken LeT’s presence, reflecting the central government’s commitment to restoring peace and stability in Jammu & Kashmir.

Jammu & Kashmir Police Officer Dies of Heart Attack



The Jammu & Kashmir Police announced that an officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Police Service (JKPS) died of a suspected heart attack while on duty. Medical assistance was rendered immediately, but the officer could not be saved.

Family members and colleagues were informed of the sad news, and a condolence register has been opened at the district police headquarters. Standard procedures have been initiated to record the death and notify senior officials.

JKPS expressed deep sorrow over the loss and remembered the officer as a dedicated public servant. No further details about the officer’s identity or the exact location of the incident have been released.

EDUCATION

JKBOSE Launches Workshop for Development of Punjabi Textbooks



The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) inaugurated a workshop aimed at developing updated Punjabi textbooks for the state's school system. The event was attended by curriculum experts, linguists, and senior teachers, who discussed content revision and pedagogical methods.

Participants formulated a roadmap that includes aligning the new curriculum with the latest state education policies, incorporating contemporary literature, and ensuring cultural relevance for students. The workshop also emphasized the use of interactive exercises and digital resources to enhance learning outcomes.

JKBOSE officials stated that the revised textbooks would be released in the upcoming academic session, providing students in Jammu and Kashmir with a more engaging and accurate representation of the Punjabi language and heritage.

CRIME

BJP Leader Ravindra Raina Praises Security Forces for Killing LeT Commander Latif Bhat in Kulgam, States No Damage to Mosque



Security forces in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir conducted a precise operation that resulted in the death of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Latif Bhat. The encounter took place near a local mosque, but officials stated that no bullets hit the mosque's walls.

forces, highlighting that they respected the holy site while exercising restraint and eliminating the terrorist. He described the action as an example of professionalism and a step toward restoring peace in the region.

The incident occurred amid heightened security vigilance following recent violence. While the government is declaring a return to normalcy, opposition parties have questioned this statement and urged caution.

CRIME

Pulwama: Daughter-in-Law and Her In-Laws Accused of Hiring a Professional Killer to Murder 70-Year-Old Mother-in-Law



In Pulwama district, Jammu & Kashmir, police detained the daughter-in-law and her in-laws on charges of hiring a professional killer to murder a 70-year-old mother-in-law.

Initial evidence suggests the murder was pre-planned and a professional assassin was engaged.

The victim, a resident of Pulwama, was found dead, prompting a swift criminal investigation. Police seized mobile records and financial transactions linking the accused to the killer.

The case has been forwarded to the district court for further legal action, and police have appealed to the public for any additional information.

No further arrests have been made and the killer’s identity has not been officially released.

BUSINESS

Jammu and Kashmir Forecasts Peak Power Demand Below 3.3 GW Recorded in 2023



The Jammu and Kashmir Power Department has issued a forecast indicating that this year's peak electricity demand will remain below the 3.3 GW recorded in 2023. The figure, reported by Kashmir News Observer, is based on the latest data from the state's load monitoring center.

Improved load management programs and increased solar and wind energy production in the valley have been cited as primary factors. Additionally, relatively mild seasonal temperatures this year are expected to reduce pressure on cooling systems, thereby lowering overall demand.

The forecast of lower demand will allow power companies to readjust their generation plans, potentially reducing the need for expensive thermal power imports. This could benefit consumers through stable supply and potential relief on tariffs, although the grid will still rely on inter-state power to meet baseline requirements.

forecast indicates improvement, the projected peak remains close to installed capacity, highlighting the need for continued investment in renewable projects and grid strengthening.

The Power Department stated that actual consumption patterns will be closely tracked, and necessary adjustments will be made to procurement strategies to ensure reliability.

POLITICS

Jammu and Kashmir Government Assigns Additional Responsibilities to Planning Wing of Rural Development Department



The state administration announced that the Planning Wing of the Rural Development Department will now operate under additional responsibilities. This step has been taken to integrate planning activities and improve the coordination of schemes targeting remote villages.

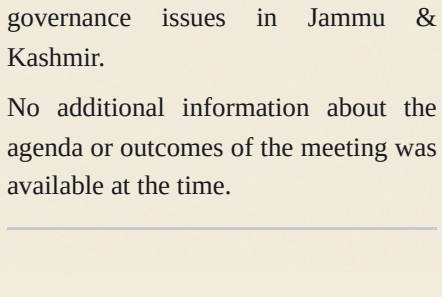
Officials stated that this decision will expedite decision-making and ensure better utilization of resources allocated for rural infrastructure, agricultural support, and livelihood programs. The additional responsibilities will be assigned to a senior officer already working in the department, whose name has not yet been made public.

This reorganization is aimed at accelerating development projects ahead of the government's upcoming financial planning cycle. Various stakeholders, including local panchayats and NGOs, have welcomed the move, hoping it will reduce bureaucratic delays.

No additional information regarding the exact scope or timeline of this change was provided at the time of the announcement.

POLITICS

Jammu & Kashmir State Election Commission Member Shantmanu Meets President at Rashtrapati Bhavan



Shantmanu, a member of the Jammu & Kashmir State Election Commission, held a meeting with the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The Daily Express confirmed that the meeting took place at the President’s official residence.

The discussion was part of regular dialogue between central and state officials, covering matters of mutual interest.

Analysts believe such meetings reflect the central government’s continued focus on electoral framework and governance issues in Jammu & Kashmir.

No additional information about the agenda or outcomes of the meeting was available at the time.

Last Local Recruit of LeT, Latif Bhatt, Murdered Outside Kulgam Mosque



Latif Bhatt, identified as the final local recruit of LeT, was killed outside a mosque in Kulgam, Jammu & Kashmir. The incident was reported by local media on the same day. Bhatt’s death marked the elimination of the last home-grown recruit linked to LeT in the area, according to security agencies. The group has previously carried out several operations in the Kashmir Valley using both foreign and local members. Kulgam, which has periodically suffered armed conflict, again became a site of gunfire near a religious site, underscoring the region’s fragile security situation.

DEFENCE

Security Forces Conduct Counter-Strike Within a Week of Deadly CRPF Attack in Kulgam



Following a recent attack on CRPF personnel in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, security forces swiftly conducted a counter-strike. Within a week of the initial attack, the operation targeted the attackers believed to be responsible for the deadly incident.

According to official statements, security personnel launched a targeted strike based on intelligence inputs, ensuring the elimination of the attackers without any additional casualties among security forces.

Authorities described this success as a testament to the readiness and resolve of the security forces. They noted that the vigilance of the army, police, and paramilitary units plays a crucial role in maintaining law and order in Jammu and Kashmir.

Incidents where armed groups target security agencies are frequently seen in the Valley, and this swift counter-strike is viewed as a warning to deter such attacks in the future.

Detailed information about the operation remains limited, as the concerned agencies continue to assess the broader security implications of the incident.

Congress Expresses Concern Over Security Situation in Jammu and Kashmir



The Indian National Congress expressed concern over the security environment in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that recent incidents have heightened feelings of insecurity among the local population. Party spokespersons demanded immediate action from the central government, highlighting the increase in tension.

Congress urged the center to review its law and order strategy in the region and to ensure that security forces operate effectively while respecting civil rights. They also emphasized the need for political dialogue to resolve existing issues.

This appeal comes amid ongoing debates about the region's stability. Congress believes that normalcy can only be restored through a combination of security measures and political engagement.

No official response from the government had been recorded as of the time of reporting.

Jammu and Kashmir boys defeat Goa in Tencoit



The Jammu and Kashmir boys' team recorded a victory over Goa in an inter-state Tencoit competition. The Daily Excelsior highlighted this win as a testament to the team's outstanding performance.

During the match, Jammu and Kashmir outperformed Goa with superior technique and coordination. Coaches praised the players for maintaining composure under pressure and making the right moves in decisive moments.

This victory has strengthened the team's ranking in the tournament, and they hope to carry the same enthusiasm into upcoming matches.

SPORTS

Jammu and Kashmir takes on Bihar in Syed Mustafa Ali Trophy match today



The Jammu and Kashmir cricket team will face Bihar in the group stage of the Syed Mustafa Ali Trophy today. The match is part of India's domestic T20 tournament, in which various state teams participate. Both teams will aim to rack up points to strengthen their standings.

will be played under standard T20 rules, with each team allotted a maximum of 20 overs. A win would enhance both sides' chances of reaching the knockout stage, making the contest crucial for both.

State fans will be able to watch the game via live broadcasts and digital platforms, as the tournament provides a platform for emerging players ahead of the international season.

CRIME

Chhattisgarhi Citizen Held in Jammu on Allegations of Pakistani Connections



Jammu police officials confirmed that a person from Chhattisgarh was detained on suspicion of being connected to Pakistan. Based on intelligence reports, he was arrested after an investigation into possible foreign ties. Authorities have not yet released detailed information about the detainee’s identity or the allegations. The action is part of ongoing security measures to prevent cross-border infiltration. No formal charges have been filed and the case remains under investigation.

Mission Yuva J&K signs MoU with Central University Jammu and IIM Jammu for startup incubation



Mission Yuva J&K has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central University Jammu and IIM Jammu. The agreement aims to strengthen the startup incubation ecosystem in the region by combining the expertise of the two academic institutions with Mission Yuva's youth outreach.

Under the agreement, joint incubation centers will be established, where mentorship will be provided by faculty and industry experts, and potential startups will be offered early-stage funding opportunities. A steering committee comprising representatives from all three institutions will oversee the program's planning, resource allocation, and progress.

The initiative hopes to create new entrepreneurial opportunities for students and local innovators, helping diversify the Jammu and Kashmir economy beyond traditional sectors. Officials stated that this collaboration will promote research-based product development and create skilled employment in emerging technology fields.

All parties described the agreement as a significant step toward fostering a culture of innovation and establishing Jammu as a startup hub in North India.

NIA conference focuses on cross-border terrorism with special emphasis on Jammu and Kashmir



The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has announced a conference with cross-border terrorism as the primary theme.

A significant portion of the agenda will focus on security challenges in Jammu and Kashmir, where infiltration across the Line of Control remains a persistent threat.

Senior NIA officials, state police representatives, and security experts will participate in the meeting to discuss coordination mechanisms.

The objective of the conference is to strengthen inter-agency cooperation, share intelligence, and formulate concrete strategies to prevent cross-border threats targeting the region.

Organizers stated that the conference will be held in the coming weeks, underscoring the priority given to the security of India's borders.