

**03** Shahid, Ravinder receive National Award from PM

**04** Mankotia demands resignation of BJP Ministers

**10** Shikhar on song as India beat Bangladesh by 6 wickets

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**India slams Pak at UN on human rights**

**AGENCY**  
NEW DELHI: India on Thursday condemned Pakistan's statement made at UN Human Rights Council, where it had accused the former of human rights violation in Kashmir, saying that "terrorism is the grossest violation of human rights".  
In a Right of Reply filed at the 37 Session of the UN Human Rights Council, New Delhi reminded Islamabad about the state of human rights within its own borders and said that Pakistan has been using the argument of human rights as a shield to mask its territorial ambitions. "This council should be mindful that the dubious concern for human rights is coming from a country,"

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**Soldier commits suicide at army camp**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: A 36-year-old soldier allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Kupwara district, the second incident in the last two days.  
Naik Shankar Singh, a resident of Rajasthan, shot himself with his service rifle at an Army camp in the district's Warnov area, a police official said.  
Singh, who was posted with the 18 Rashtriya Rifles, died on the spot, the officer said.  
The reason for him taking the extreme step was not known immediately.  
Earlier in Kupwara's Langate area, Sepoy Birender Sinha, who was posted with the 30 Rashtriya Rifles, shot himself dead with his service rifle on Wednesday.

**TDP-Centre fallout: Two BJP ministers resign from AP Cabinet**

**AGENCY**  
AMARAVATI: Two BJP ministers in the Chandrababu Naidu Cabinet in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday resigned after the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) decided to pull out of the Narendra Modi government.  
Health minister Kamineni Srinivas and Endowments minister P Manikyala Rao met the chief minister at the state Assembly and submitted their resignations.  
They thanked him for having inducted them into the state Cabinet.  
The chief minister, in turn, complimented the BJP members, saying they had discharged their duties

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**WEATHER**  
Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 27.4°C Min: 13.2°C  
Humidity  
Max: 63 Min: 44  
Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 19.8°C Min: 02.4°C  
Humidity  
Max: 75 Min: 33  
Sunset : 18:35 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:49 Hours

## Kathua rape: Mehbooba turns down CBI probe, police tear gas protesters

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Even as the Chief Minister rejected the BJP demand for CBI probe into Kathua rape case, police on Thursday baton-charged and tear-gassed protesters during a march taken out by the Dogra community demanding 'fair' investigations into the rape-and-murder case of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua district.  
Mehbooba Mufti is reported to have turned down the BJP's demand for a CBI probe into the incident.  
Mufti told that 95 per cent of the probe has been completed in the case, Minister for Health Bali Bhagat told reporters at a press conference here.  
"The Chief Minister told us (a delegation of BJP ministers) that the investigation into the case has been completed by over 95 per cent. She said in a day or two the crime branch will submit the chargesheet and then the court will accordingly take a



Police firing tear gas to disperse protesters at Kathua.

view of," Bhagat said.  
Earlier in the day, several people were injured in the police action and the clashes that followed on Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Chadwal area. One person was reported critical after he was hit by a bus during the protest.  
Thousands of Dogra community members had taken out "Ekta Yatra" demanding a CBI investigation into the

crime branch of the police, which arrested two Special Police Officers for their alleged involvement in the abduction and killing of the girl.  
A special investigation team later also arrested a 15-year-old boy in connection with the case.  
On Thursday, a large number of police personnel were deployed in the area fearing trouble during the protest. The protesters raised slogans against Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, the BJP, and the police and the crime branch.  
When the protesters disrupted traffic on the highway, the police resorted to teargas shelling and baton charge to disperse them, leading to clashes between them.  
"The protest rally has been dispersed and the traffic has been restored," a police officer told PTI. He said the injured have been

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## GMC medical team finds Kathua juvenile as 19-year-old

**AHMED ALI FAYYAZ**  
JAMMU: A team of the doctors of Government Medical College Jammu has established that a youth arrested in alleged rape-cum-murder of an 8-year-old girl in Rassana village of Kathua district was not a "juvenile" but "over 19 years old".  
STATE TIMES learned from well-placed sources that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Crime Branch got the detained youth examined by a team of senior doctors at GMC Jammu which opined that the accused was not less than 18 years old, as claimed by his family and many others, but "over 19 years old".  
According to sources, the GMC team has submitted its report to Crime Branch which is expected to submit it on Friday to J&K High Court, hearing a PIL on this controversial issue. Finally it will be decided by the court whether the accused was a minor or a major. Sources said that Crime Branch has



taken into custody all the academic records of the young accused. Some of the certificates indicate the youth's age as 19 years but some less than 18.  
Police and Crime Branch have arrested two Police officials and a youth of disputed age for their alleged involvement in the rape and murder of the eight years old girl. Subsequently, SIT has arrested a head constable for having allegedly destroyed evidences of the crime and a Sub Inspector has been detained for questioning for lapses in his supervisory role.  
This alleged rape-cum-murder has brought the ruling PDP and BJP on diverse posts as the former is strongly in favour of the Crime Branch to complete the investigation while as leaders of the BJP, including some Cabinet Ministers, have been openly supporting a section's demand that this investigation must be assigned to CBI. Sources said that this issue figured prominently in Thursday's meeting between the coalition partners that was attended by almost all the Ministers of BJP and some Ministers of the PDP.

## Life-term to husband, lover for killing wife

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Principal Sessions Judge Reasi S.R Gandhi on Thursday awarded Arvind Verma alias Lali and Shoba Gour alias Shalu for committing the murder of Arvind's wife.  
The court after hearing both the sides observed that this case reveals as to how much devastating can be the extramarital relation. "It is a case in which an innocent lady was sent obviously on the pretext to pay obeisance to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra but was killed in furtherance of criminal conspiracy hatched by her husband with co-accused with whom he shared the extramarital affair. The murder as

such was committed for ignoble cause. However, having regard to the crime test, criminal test, and rarest of rare test, the capital punishment is not warranted in this case", the court observed and ordered that each of the convict shall undergo imprisonment for life for the commission of offence under Section 302 of the RPC and pay a fine of Rs.50,000.  
"In default of payment of fine each of the convict shall suffer further imprisonment for 6 months. For the commission of offence under Section 201 RPC A-2 Shoba Gour shall also suffer imprisonment for one year and a fine of Rs.1,000", the court observed.

## Female foeticide a matter of 'deep shame': PM

**AGENCY**  
JHUNJHUNU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that female foeticide was a matter of "deep shame" and mothers-in-law should take the lead to protect the girl child.  
The prime minister was in Rajasthan to launch the National Nutrition Mission (NNM) and announce the expansion of the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme.  
Everyone is equal. It is important that girls get access to quality education, just like boys. A daughter is not a burden. Look around us, see how girls are bringing



pride and glory to our nation, Modi said on International Women's Day.  
The prime minister also pitched for treating daughters and sons equally.  
There is no question of discrimination against daughters. Beti bojhi nahi, poore parivaar ki aan, baan aur shaan hai (daughters are not

## 'Bad political decision' responsible for Kashmir turmoil: Rahul

**AGENCY**  
NEW DELHI: Asserting that talks are the only way to resolve the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday held the BJP-led government at Centre responsible for the current turmoil in the state.  
"You engage with people, you bring people in, you work with people, and you trust people. It works. I have seen it for myself," Rahul said while addressing the students of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in the National University of Singapore.  
In a veiled attack on the government, the Congress

leader said that a lack of policy and "bad political decision" on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir have resulted in the current crisis in the state, which has seen a dramatic increase in terror-related incidents and ceasefire violations by Pakistan in the last couple of years.  
"Our Kashmir policy under Dr. Manmohan Singh was about building bridges with people. When UPA came to power in 2004, we were handed a J&K that was burning. We made a plan and worked on it for nine years. In 2014, when I went to J&K, I felt like crying. I saw what a bad political

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## Mehbooba briefs Governor on security scenario



Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti calling on Governor N.N. Vohra at Jammu.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti met Governor N.N. Vohra here on Thursday.  
During the course of their extensive discussions Chief

Minister apprised Governor about various important developmental, security, and law and order management related issues and about certain matters which had come to notice during her recent

## 'Statues vandalism is hooliganism'

**AGENCY**  
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said the destroying of statues in various parts of the country was nothing short of hooliganism.  
"This new trend of destroying statues across the country is nothing short of outright hooliganism," Mehbooba said in a tweet. She was commenting on the recent pulling down of Lenin statue in Tripura which was followed by vandalisation of statues of Jana Sangh founder S P Mookerjee and other leaders, including B R Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi.  
"Vandalism of all kinds is against the law and actually aimed at hurting the very idea of India,"

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Minister apprised Governor about various important developmental, security, and law and order management related issues and about certain matters which had come to notice during her recent

tours to the districts in the Jammu and Kashmir Divisions.  
Governor discussed with Chief Minister issues relating to the now very long pending elections to Urban Local

## Check youths joining militancy: Par panel to MHA

**AGENCY**  
NEW DELHI: A parliamentary panel has asked the home ministry to check the "disturbing" trend of local youths in Jammu and Kashmir joining militancy and "choke" the financing and supply of arms to terrorist outfits.  
The parliamentary standing committee on home affairs, headed by senior Congress leader P Chidambaram, also observed that there is a "sinister and complex connection" between the simultaneous rise in stone-pelting incidents and

'fedayeen' (suicide) attacks on the establishments of security forces.  
The committee, in its report submitted to Parliament, said it was aware of the disturbing trend of recruiting and training of local youths by the militants in the light of the numerous attempts foiled by the security forces.  
"There has been a rise in the number of law and order incidents, particularly incidents of stone pelting which seems to have become a regular feature in some parts of Kashmir. Numerous inci-

dents of picketing of police stations and snatching of rifles from police and paramilitary personnel point towards local sourcing of arms," it said.  
The panel said while the law and order incidents have kept the security forces busy, the militants, meanwhile, have found time to reorganise themselves and perpetrate terrorist attacks on the forces.  
"The committee recommends that the ministry must work towards comprehensively breaking this

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## Alarm bell rings against BJP in Nowshera

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
Nowshera, the newly found BJP bastion along the Line of Control, has raised voice of revolt against the junior partner in Mehbooba Mufti government, ironically ahead of crucial 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The border township that rewarded the BJP a pivotal seat in Legislative Assembly on Thursday raised slogans against the elected MLA Ravinder Raina and his party.  
The slogans, BJP Murdabad, Ravinder Raina Murdabad, must be sounding alarm bells to Pradesh BJP, echoes of which can be heard in Jhandewala too, if the aspirations of people get trampled. The BJP had been liberal in making promises during 2014 par-

liamentary and assembly elections. The saffron leaders knew the promises were not being made to keep and their supporters got swayed by the well-meaning icon of Narendra Modi.  
Nowshera has traversed long during the past nearly four years. Not only witnessing the promises made with border dwellers falling flat in the absence of committed bunkers, the people of three important assembly segments of Nowshera, Sunderbani and Kalakote feeling let down as far as reach out of the administration to door steps of people is concerned.  
The agony of Nowshera stands reflected by representative-Beopar Mandal, which has been in the forefront of agitation seeking justice. It feels the injustice being meted out to the township because of its Hindu majority, which has been demanding district status for



Nowshera residents staging protest against BJP.

the tehsil headquarter.  
According to local Beopar Mandal, "After 1947, Tehsil Nowshera became part of District Poonch. The distance between Poonch and Jammu District is 250 kilometers. With Nowshera being the central place, its status as district was announced in 1968. However, 'due to political pressure'

the district status was granted to Rajouri. Prior to that in 1967, a post of Assistant Commissioner sanctioned for Nowshera was also shifted from the area, notwithstanding the fact the incumbent serving there for two and half years.  
If the manifestation of anger had resulted in the victory of BJP in

2014, the failure in keeping the promises led to resentment against it and the sitting MLA. Therefore, the slogans, BJP Murdabad, Ravinder Raina Murdabad.  
With time winding up fast for the December 10 deadline, the protest demonstrations in Nowshera, Sunderbani and Kalakote witnessed an extraordinary spurt with more and more people joining the tirade to mount pressure on government to keep its promise of granting much awaited District status to Nowshera.  
On the 21st day of peaceful protests, the people of Nowshera resolved to intensify their agitation to ensure that government concede to their demands and issue relevant directions.  
The protesters said the ongoing agitation, including hunger strike, in which the senior citizens including Retd SSP Makhan Lal

Sharma, Dr. Qasim Choudhary, Dr. Khem Raj, Ex-Sarpanch Manijit Singh, President Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Harjit Kumar, Gurmeet Singh, Rajesh Kumar, Chhotu Ram Choudhary, Rajesh Choudhary and Rakesh Kumar Sharma participated shall be further intensified and if the same took an ugly turn the onus shall be on government.  
President Beopar Mandal Subash Kapoor and Sanatan Dharam Sabha President Jagdish Chander Sahney also warned of intensifying the agitation, terming the BJP promises as cruel joke.  
The agitated youths also raised slogans against Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh, Health Minister Bali Bhagat and disfigured name plates of the MLA in various lanes and drains.  
They later took out a Mashal

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