

BLUE MOON
Banquets & Conventions
THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

National Highway, Near Thandi Khul, Jammu
Contact: 9886035550, 9886035551

STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL
KUNJWANI, JAMMU
The School with a Difference

SOWING SKILLS
SHAPING INDIA

RNI No. : 66908/96

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

Vol. 31 Issue 12 • Jammu • Monday • January 12, 2026 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00

Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 India's strength lies in integration of border regions: LG Ladakh

10 Virat Kohli's 93 sets up India's nervy four-wicket win in 1st ODI against New Zealand

10 Satish meets Jiten Prasada, Rohan Jaitley; discusses dev projects, new cricket stadia in J&K

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Forces opposing Somnath rebuilding still active, need to defeat them: Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS
SOMNATH (GUJARAT): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the forces that had opposed the reconstruction of the Somnath temple after independence are "still active among us", and India needs to be alert, united and strong to defeat them. Addressing a large gathering as part of the Somnath Swabhiman Parv here, Modi said attempts were made to disguise a religious motive behind the attacks as mere plunder of the temple, and books were written to conceal the truth. He stressed that Somnath was not attacked just once but repeatedly, and if the assaults had been only for economic loot, they would have stopped after the first major plunder a thousand years ago, but that was not the case. Referring to the repeated attacks endured by the historic temple, located in



PM Narendra Modi performing puja at Somnath temple.

Gujarat's Gir Somnath district, in the past and how it was rebuilt every time, Modi said the hearts of people can never be won at the point of a sword. Somnath's history of 1,000 years is not that of destruction and defeat, but of victory and reconstruction, the PM noted. Earlier in the day, Modi led 'Shaurya Yatra', a ceremonial procession organised to honour those who laid down their lives defending the Somnath

temple. The yatra featured a procession of 108 horses, reflecting valour and sacrifice. A large number of people and devotees gathered on both sides of the yatra route from Shankh Circle to Veer Hamirji Gohil Circle to greet the prime minister. Standing on a specially designed vehicle, PM Modi, accompanied by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, waved at the crowd during the one-km-long yatra. He also offered prayers at the temple and paid tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose statue has been installed near the temple premises. The Somnath Swabhiman Parv was organised to mark the resilience of Indian civilisation, symbolised by the rebuilding of the Somnath temple, which was repeatedly ravaged by foreign

Winter vacations extended till Jan 14

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Winter holidays in the Jammu Summer Zones have been extended until January 14, 2026, as per an official order. "Due to the inclement weather conditions, the Winter Vacations for all Government and Private Schools falling in the Summer Zone are extended till January 14, 2026. This order is issued in

CONTD ON PAGE 9

India calls for global cooperation to help developing nations scale up renewable energy capacity

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Sunday called for international cooperation to support developing countries in scaling up renewable energy capacity without compromising development aspirations. The Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) made the remarks at the 16th IRENA Assembly in Abu Dhabi, UAE, an

CONTD ON PAGE 9

An ode of Kashmir's artisans: CM unveils H&H Calendar 2026



CM Omar Abdullah releasing Handicrafts and Handloom Department's Calendar 2026.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday unveiled the Handicrafts and Handloom Department's Calendar 2026, a visual tribute celebrating the timeless craft traditions of Kashmir. The calendar beautifully encapsulates the essence of the Valley's artistic heritage, highlighting the skill, dedication and commitment of the region's artisans - the true custodians of Kashmir's cultural legacy.

Omar lauds JK athletes on Khelo India Beach Games success

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday hailed athletes from Jammu and Kashmir for emerging as the overall men's champions in Peneak Silat at the Khelo India Beach Games. The six-day Khelo India Beach Games, held at the iconic Blue Flag-certified Ghoghla Beach in Diu, concluded on Saturday. "Chief Minister hailed the J&K contingent for winning 2 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Apprehension of detenu engaging in crime if granted bail no ground for preventive detention: SC

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Mere apprehension on the part of the detaining authority that if a detenu is released on bail, he/she would indulge in similar crimes that would be prejudicial to public order will not be a sufficient ground to order preventive detention, the Supreme Court has said. A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and A S Chandurkar set aside the detention order of a woman from Hyderabad, who was found to be a "drug offender" under the 1986 Telangana law Prevention of Dangerous Activities on the ground that the detention order did not

indicate in what manner the maintenance of public order was either adversely affected or was likely to be adversely affected so as to detain the detenu. "Thus, mere apprehension on the part of the detaining authority that in the event of the detenu being released on bail, she was likely to indulge in similar crimes that would be prejudicial to maintenance of public order would not be a sufficient ground to order her preventive detention," the bench said in its January 8 order. The top court, which also set aside the order of

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Police cracks down on drug peddlers, arrests 9 suspects across UT

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested and detained nine suspected drug peddlers in different parts of the Union territory and recovered contraband substances from their possession, officials said on Sunday. A police spokesman said four drug peddlers were arrested/detained in Sopore in north Kashmir, one in Kulgam in south Kashmir, and three in Udhampur district. In Sopore, a police party intercepted two suspicious persons at a mobile vehicle

check-post at the Poultry Crossing on Dangerpora Road, he said. "During a search, capsules of Spasmo-Proxyvon Plus were recovered from their possession. The duo has been identified as Majid Ashraf Khan and Musadiq Mehraj," he said. At another checkpoint on the Nathipora-Tujjer link road, police intercepted a suspicious person and found a charas-like substance in his possession, the spokesman said, adding that the accused has been identified as Umar Mohammad. Another suspect was inter-

cepted during routine patrolling at the Neharpora Crossing near the Sopore bus stand. "During a search, a heroin-like substance and Alprazolam tablets were recovered from the possession of the suspect, who has been identified as Nasir Yousuf Shah," the spokesman added. In Kulgam, police spotted a suspicious person during patrolling at Nassu Badragund, who tried to flee but was apprehended tactfully, he said. "Eight grams of a brown sugar-like substance were

found in the possession of the man identified as Azad Ahmad Naikoo," the spokesman said. In Jammu division's Samba, a notorious drug peddler has been detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act, 1988, another police spokesman said. Masoom Ali alias Kala, a resident of Bari Brahmana, has been involved in multiple cases registered under the NDPS Act in Samba and Bari Brahman,

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Modi, Merz set for crucial talks

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Shoring up bilateral ties in trade, investment, critical technologies and defence are set to be the focus of wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in Ahmedabad on Monday. As Merz's trip to India is taking place amid a fractious geopolitical environment, including the US's display of raw military strength to capture Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, the German leader and Modi are also likely to discuss pressing global challenges. Merz's January 12-13 visit to India will be his first to

Asia as the German Chancellor. Ways to bring peace to Ukraine may also figure prominently in Modi-Merz talks. The German leader will travel to Bengaluru after concluding his engagements in Ahmedabad. Besides holding talks with PM Modi, Merz is scheduled to visit the Sabarmati Ashram, participate in a kite festival and attend a skill development event in Ahmedabad, according to officials. In their talks, Modi and Merz are likely to deliberate on trade and investment

CONTD ON PAGE 9

VDG member's teenage son killed in accidental gunfire in Kishtwar

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A 16-year-old boy died when the rifle of his father, a village defence guard (VDG), went off accidentally at their home in Kishtwar district, officials said on Sunday. The incident occurred on Saturday night. VDG Pyare Lal was cleaning his rifle at his home in Loyee Dhar village of Mughal Maidan around 9.30 pm on Saturday when it accidentally went off. The bullet hit his son, Anuj Kumar, who died on the spot, the officials said. A police party immediately rushed to the spot and shifted the body of Kumar, a class 10 student, to Chatroo hospital for post-mortem, they said. Inquest proceedings are underway to ascertain the circumstances leading to the firing. The weapon has been seized for forensic examination and statements of Kumar's family members are being recorded, police said.

RSS evolving with time, taking new forms: Mohan Bhagwat

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is not changing but "gradually evolving" and "simply unfolding" with time, Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday. The RSS chief was addressing an event organised at the organisation's office here to launch the song album of the upcoming film Shatak, which chronicles the 100-year journey of the RSS. Singer Sukhwinder Singh, director Ashish Mall, co-producer Ashish Tiwari, and RSS functionary Bhaiyaji Joshi were present on the



occasion. "The organisation (RSS) is celebrating its centenary. But as the organisation evolves and takes on new forms, people perceive it as changing. However, it's not actually changing; it's simply

RSS to hold nationwide 'Hindu Sammelans' from Jan 15
MATHURA (UP): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) workers will organise 'Hindu Sammelans' across the country from January 15 as part of celebrations marking the organisation's centenary year, a senior functionary said on Sunday. The RSS has set a target of holding over one lakh such conferences nationwide,

CONTD ON PAGE 9

NHAI says it sets 4 Guinness World records

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: State-owned NHAI on Sunday said it has set four Guinness World records on the under-implementation Bengaluru-K a d a p a - V i j a y a w a d a Economic Corridor of NH-544G. On January 6, NHAI said it made two Guinness World Records near Puttapparthi, Andhra Pradesh. First was the record for the longest continuous laying of bituminous concrete, covering 28.89 lane km or a 3-lane wide 9.63 km long section within 24 hours. The second record was created for continuous laying

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Chairs Executive Council Meeting of BGSBU Design curriculum for innovation, shape future of nation: LG



LG Manoj Sinha chairing 9th Executive Council meeting of BGSBU Rajouri.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the 9th meeting of Executive Council of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah

University (BGSBU) Rajouri, at Lok Bhavan on Sunday. The meeting was attended by Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU; Prof.

Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Dr. Mandeep

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Suspected Pak drones seen hovering over areas along LoC, IB; searches launched

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Security forces picked up movement of suspected drones in several forward areas along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Samba, Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir, on Sunday evening, officials said. All the flying objects came from the Pakistan side and returned after hovering over Indian territory for few minutes, they said. According to officials, security forces have launched a search operation on the ground after noticing the movement of suspected drones in the forward areas. Army troops guarding the Nowshera sector along the LoC in Rajouri, fired from medium and light machine guns on observing drone movement over Gania-Kalsian village around 6.35 pm, they said.

Search ops launched near Int'l Border in Jammu SFs conduct cordon, search ops in Anantnag



JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Security forces on Sunday launched a massive search operation after intelligence agencies picked up a satellite phone communication in Kanachak area near the International Border here, officials said.

The communication by suspected terrorists was traced to a Thuraya Satellite device, prompting a joint search operation by the Special Operations Group of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Border

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Another drone was noticed at Khabbar village in Teryath in Rajouri district at 6.35 pm. The flying object with blinking light came from Dharmal village in Kalakote and moved further towards Bharakh, officials said. A drone-like object, with blinking light, was seen hovering for a few minutes over Chak Babral village in Ramgarh sector of Samba around 7.15 pm, they said. Another drone-like object was seen moving from Tain towards Topa in Mankote sector, located along the LoC, in Poonch district at 6.25 pm. On Friday night, security forces recovered an arms consignment, allegedly dropped by a drone that originated in Pakistan, in Paloor village of Ghagwal near the IB in Samba district. The recovery included two pistols, three magazines, 16 rounds and a grenade, they added.

Amit Shah warns of emerging threats in Kerala, questions role of SDPI, JeI

STATE TIMES NEWS
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday warned that Kerala's law and order situation may look calm now, but "several threats are slowly emerging" that could become dangerous in the future. Speaking at a conclave organised by Kerala Kaumudi, a leading Malayalam newspaper here, he questioned the role of certain organisations and asked whether they could truly keep people safe. "Those who do not believe in coexistence-how can they ensure unity," Shah asked. "Through this programme today, I want to ask the people of Kerala: Can organisations like the PFI, Jamaat-e-Islami, and political parties



like the SDPI keep Kerala safe?" "It is the responsibility of the government to identify such threats and make efforts to eliminate them," he said. Referring to the ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI), Shah said both the LDF and the UDF had neither opposed nor

CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 11.7°C Min: 4.0°C

Humidity
Max: 100 Min: 80

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 11.9°C Min: -5.2°C

Humidity
Max: 85 Min: 69

Sunset : 17:43 Hours
Sunrise : 07:33 Hours