

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Forces opposing Somnath...

invaders beginning with Mahmud of Ghazni's attack in the year 1026. Despite multiple repeated attempts for its destruction over centuries, the Somnath temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, stands today as a powerful symbol of resilience, faith and national pride, owing to the collective resolve and efforts to restore it to its ancient glory.

The PM said that though the Somnath temple attacks were driven by hatred, attempts were made to project it as simple loot.

"Books were written to cover up the religious motivation, portraying it merely as ordinary loot. The Somnath temple was repeatedly destroyed. If the invasions had been solely for plunder, they would have stopped after the first major loot 1,000 years ago".

"But that didn't happen. The sacred deity of Somnath was desecrated. Repeated attempts were made to alter the very form of the temple. And we were taught that Somnath was destroyed for the sake of loot! The true history of hatred, atrocity and terror was concealed from us," he added.

No person truly devoted to their religion would support such an extremist ideology. However, those involved in appeasement knelt before such religious extremism, he said.

After independence, when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel took the oath of rebuilding the Somnath temple, his path was obstructed, and objections were also raised when India's first president, Dr Rajendra Prasad, came here for the inauguration of the reconstructed temple in 1951, the PM pointed out.

"Unfortunately, those forces which had opposed the reconstruction of the Somnath temple are still present in our country, and they are very much active. Instead of swords, conspiracies are being hatched against India through other means," said Modi.

"That is why we need to remain alert and united. We have to make ourselves more powerful to defeat such forces which are conspiring to divide us," he said.

Modi recalled the attacks on the Somnath temple from 1026 by Mahmud of Ghazni to Mughal ruler Aurangzeb in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Mahmud Begda and Aurangzeb even tried to turn the temple into a mosque through the invasion. But, after every attack, the temple was rebuilt by Lord Shiva's devotees, including Malwa queen Ahilyabai Holkar, he said.

"Civilisations that seek to advance by destroying others ultimately destroy themselves. Pilgrimage sites like Somnath taught us that the path of creation is long, but it is also the lasting path," Modi said.

"Somnath's history is about the valour of our ancestors. It is a testament to their sacrifice and dedication," he noted.

The fundamentalist invaders are now reduced to pages of history, but the Somnath temple flag is still flying high, he added.

Modi said that just like the temple, foreign invaders tried to destroy India for several centuries, but neither Somnath nor the country bowed down before them.

"The invaders thought they had won by destroying the temple, but after 1,000 years, the flag of Somnath is still flying high," he said, adding that this struggle of 1,000 years has no parallel in world history.

"The invaders kept coming, and attacks of religious terror continued. But in every era, Somnath was rebuilt. Such a struggle spanning centuries, such prolonged resistance and such unwavering faith in one's culture - it is difficult to find anything comparable in world history," he said.

Modi noted that many bravehearts like Veer Hamirji Gohil and Vegdaji Bhil sacrificed their lives to protect the Somnath temple from invaders.

"But, unfortunately, they were not given their due credit and importance. In fact, some historians and politicians even attempted to whitewash the history of these invasions," he said.

Later in the day, Modi inaugurated a trade show and Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) at Marwadi University in Rajkot.

Addressing the VGRC, Modi said India is currently witnessing an era of unprecedented certainty and political stability, a time when the world is experiencing great uncertainty, and appealed to investors to take advantage of various opportunities in the country.

He said India is the world's fastest-growing large economy and is marching towards becoming the third-largest economy.

Modi inaugurated the remaining stretch of phase 2 of the Ahmedabad metro, completing a key transport link between the twin cities of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, on Sunday evening.

This phase connects Sector 10A of Gandhinagar to the Mahatma Mandir convention centre.

Winter vacations extended...

continuation of the Winter Vacation Order No. 458-DSEJ of 2025 dated December 13, 2025," read an order issued by Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director School Education Jammu.

India calls for...

official statement said. The minister noted that the global energy transition will require unprecedented investment and cooperation.

India alone is expected to require around USD 300 billion by 2030, creating significant opportunities across renewable generation, storage, green hydrogen, grids, and manufacturing, he said.

With stable policies and transparent markets, he said, India continues to remain one of the most attractive destinations for clean energy investment.

"Calling for enhanced international cooperation, Shri Joshi stressed the importance of technology transfer, access to low-cost finance, capacity building and harmonisation of standards, particularly to support developing countries in scaling up renewable energy without compromising development aspirations," Joshi was quoted as saying.

He stated that India stands ready to share its experience, institutions and technical expertise and to work closely with all member countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states, to accelerate the global renewable energy transition.

The minister emphasised that India's energy transition is not only about capacity addition, but about people, opportunity, and a shared sustainable future.

He also informed about various government initiatives to support clean energy in India.

Under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, around 2.5 million households have benefited from rooftop solar installations in less than two years, with a target to cover 10 million households by March 2027.

Under the PM-KUSUM scheme, about 2.17 million farmers have benefited through the replacement of diesel pumps and solarisation of agricultural feeders.

An ode of...

ode to the artisans who weave, carve and colour Kashmir's soul."

He said the artisans' hands carry forward centuries-old traditions, transforming raw material into masterpieces that reflect the spirit, resilience and rich cultural heritage of our Valley. "Our craftsmen are not just creators of art; they are the living ambassadors of Kashmir's timeless legacy," he said.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir Mussarat Islam, Joint Director Handicrafts Deeba Khalid, Deputy Director Handicrafts Mirza Shahid Ali, along with other senior officers, were present on the occasion.

The 2026 calendar showcases an exquisite range of traditional crafts, including Namda, Kani shawl, Papier-mâché, wood carving, Sozni embroidery, carpet weaving, Waggav and copperware, with each frame narrating a story of skills passed down through generations.

Omar lauds JK...

and emerging Overall Men's Champions in Penak Silat at the Khelo India Beach Games-2026," said a post on Abdullah's official X handle.

He said these achievements reflect the dedication of the athletes and are a testament to the growing strength of sports in Jammu and Kashmir.

Modi, Merz set...

ties as New Delhi is looking at deepening economic engagement with Europe against the backdrop of Washington's 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods, people familiar with the matter said.

Germany is one of India's most important partners in Europe. It is New Delhi's largest trading partner in the European Union and the bilateral trade in goods and services between the two countries reached USD 51.23 billion in 2024-25.

Germany accounts for roughly one-fourth of India's trade with the EU, reinforcing its position as New Delhi's leading EU trading partner. The Indo-German trade in services rose by 12.5 per cent in the financial year 2024-25, reaching a record USD 16.65 billion.

The influential European nation is the ninth largest foreign direct investor in India, with cumulative FDI inflows of USD 15.40 billion from April 2000 to June 2025. More than 2000 German companies are currently operating in India.

Days after Merz's trip, the top leaders of the European Union will visit New Delhi during which the two sides may announce finalisation of the much-awaited India-EU free trade agreement.

India will host French President Emmanuel Macron next month. Macron is visiting India to participate in the AI Summit.

Defence and security ties between the two countries have also been on an upswing.

With the easing of export control and expeditious clearing of cases, defence exports from Germany to India have increased.

Both sides have a joint working group on counter terrorism. Germany will be deploying a German Navy liaison officer in India's Integrated Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR).

There has been speculation that India and Germany may finalise an inter-governmental agreement during Merz's visit for supplying six stealth submarines to the Indian Navy.

German defence major ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) are holding price negotiations with the defence ministry for an Euro 5 billion deal to supply six stealth submarines to the Indian Navy.

The deal is being billed as one of the biggest 'Make in India' projects in recent years.

The India-German relations are also expanding in a number of other areas, including education, energy, skill development, culture, people-to-people exchanges and technology.

In 2024, the two sides launched the Indo-German green hydrogen roadmap that was aimed at supporting India's ambition for production, usage and export of green hydrogen.

The people cited above said enhancing cooperation in critical technologies may figure prominently in the talks between Modi and Merz.

India and Germany firm up a strategic agenda to enhance Indo-German partnership in the 21st century in 2000. The strategic partnership completed 25 years last year.

Since 2011, the top leadership of the two sides has been undertaking a comprehensive review of cooperation through the Inter-Governmental consultation (IGC framework). The seventh IGC was held in New Delhi in 2024.

Police cracks down...

the spokesman said. Police prepared a detailed dossier against Ali and detained him under the PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining approval from the divisional commissioner. Ali has been lodged in the Udhampur district jail, he said. In another action, three drug peddlers were arrested with 8.29 grams of heroin during a vehicle check at Chenani in Udhampur district on Sunday.

The trio travelling from Jammu to Srinagar has been booked under the NDPS Act, the spokesman said. Meanwhile, following the orders of the divisional commissioner, Kashmir, police in Shopian have booked a notorious drug peddler -- Parvaiz Ahmad Ganaie -- under the provisions of the PIT NDPS Act.

"The detention order was issued by the divisional commissioner, Kashmir, following a comprehensive dossier submitted by the police. It detailed the individual's sustained involvement in the illicit drug trade. He has been lodged in the Kotbhalwal Central Jail in Jammu," a police spokesman said.

Apprehension of detenu...

the Telangana High Court, said the detenu was found to be a "drug offender" under Section 2 (f) of the 1986 Act by observing that ill-effects of ganja were harmful and injurious to public health under power conferred by the provisions of the 1986 Act.

It said the collector and district magistrate was also of the view that the detenu had moved an application for grant of bail, which was pending and there was apprehension that if the detenu succeeded in obtaining bail, she would continue to engage in illegal activities.

The bench said the detention order noted that the proceedings registered against her under the ordinary law had no deterrent effect and hence it was found necessary to detain her as a last resort in the interest of the public at large and on this basis, the order of detention came to be passed on March 10, 2025.

"On the premise that if the detenu was released on bail, she was likely to indulge in serious offences, the detaining authority proceeded to record that it was satisfied that cases registered against her under the ordinary law had no deterrent effect in preventing her prejudicial activities.

"Whether the conditions imposed while enlarging the detenu on bail in the earlier offences were insufficient to prevent her from indulging in similar offences has not been adverted to," the bench underscored, referring to the detention order.

The top court said it was clear that the detaining authority intended to detain the mother of the appellant (daughter who approached the court) at any cost.

It said, "Her (detenu) conduct from 2016 to 2023 has been kept in mind. If the detaining authority was of the view that the detenu had violated any conditions of bail, steps for cancellation of her liberty could have been taken. That was not done here."

The bench said the detention order ought to indicate the recording of subjective satisfaction by the detaining authority in that regard and it is well settled that there is a fine distinction between "law and order" and "public order".

"Mere registration of three offences by itself would not have any bearing on the maintenance of public order unless there is material to show that the narcotic drug dealt with by the detenu was in fact dangerous to public health under the Act of 1986. This material is found to be missing in the detention order," it said.

Directing forthwith release of the woman (detenu), the bench quashed the detention order and set aside the October 28, 2025, order of the Telangana High Court.

Design curriculum for...

K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ram Nivas Sharma, Secretary, Higher Education Department; Shri Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri and Registrar; BGSBU; Prof. Bechan Lal, former Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Prof. O P Mishra, Dean (Research) & Professor of Pediatrics, Heritage Institute of Medical Sciences Varanasi; Prof. Aquil Ahmed, Department of Statistics & Operations Research, Aligarh Muslim University; Dr. Titi Xavier, Dean, School of Nursing and Biomedical Sciences, BGSBU and other members of Executive Council.

The Executive Council discussed several important academic and administrative issues and gave in-principle approval to various agenda points presented during the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the University to take a comprehensive review of university's existing curriculum, envisioning a strategic transformation that positions Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University as a centre of excellence.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the Executive Council to focus on educating tomorrow and create learning spaces in the university for the next generation. He called for renewed commitment to skill-centric education and institutional accountability. He directed the University to focus on curriculum development and attractive courses of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and emerging digital technologies aligned with the evolving needs and career aspirations of the students. "By shaping minds, we can shape the brighter future of India. The future of nation begins in the University campus, so we must reimagine education for the brighter tomorrow, design curriculum which inspires innovation and cutting-edge research," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the University must identify and provide innovative solutions to the localized problems of tribal areas and ensure opportunities to tribal students. He also highlighted the need to increase student enrolment and modernizing operations through the complete implementation of the e-office system.

The Lieutenant Governor issued directions for holding the convocation, and conducting the University's Executive Council meetings after every six months.

He also directed the University to facilitate active student engagement in flagship awareness programs of the Government of India and the UT administration.

The meeting also discussed important matters pertaining to admissions, recruitment, introduction of new Academic Programmes, faculty career advancement, infrastructure development including all Nursing Colleges and other reforms to bring further qualitative improvement in the overall functioning of the University.

Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU presented various Agenda items before the Executive Council for approval and ratification.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor laid the e-foundation stone for various infrastructure projects in Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University including Girls Hostel for Nursing students (G+1), new main Gate and Indoor Games Complex under PM-USHA (Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan), and Rooftop Solar Power Plant (1 MW).

NHAI says it...

of the highest quantity of 10,655 metric tonnes of bituminous concrete in 24 hours. According to a statement, both records were established for the first time globally under the six-lane National Highway project on the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor. Building further on this momentum, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) said two additional Guinness World Records were created on January 11.

These include the continuous laying of 57,500 metric tonnes of bituminous concrete and a record for continuous paving of 156 lane km or 3-lane wide 52 km long section, surpassing the previous world record of 84.4 lane km or 2-lane wide 42.2 km long section. These record-setting feats were executed across Package-2 and Package-3 of the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor, it added. The 343 km long, access-controlled six-lane Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor has been designed for a safe, high-speed, and scenic travel experience. It features 17 interchanges, 10 wayside amenities, a 5.3 km long tunnel, and around 21-km section of the corridor passes through a forest area.

RSS evolving with...

gradually," Bhagwat said in his address. "Just as a sprout emerges from a seed, and the mature tree, laden with fruits and flowers, is a different form, these two forms are distinct. Yet, the tree is fundamentally the same as the seed from which it grew," he added. Bhagwat said that Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, founder of the RSS, was a

"born patriot" and he dedicated his life to the service of the nation in his childhood. "The Sangh and Doctor saheb (Hedgewar) are synonymous terms," he said. Hedgewar was just 11 years old when his parents died of plague, but "he didn't find anyone to communicate with or confide in at that age, or later on."

Bhagwat said that when such a great trauma occurs at such a young age, one becomes alone and prone to adverse effects on his nature and personality, but that didn't happen with Hedgewar.

"In his personality, there was an ability to withstand even the greatest shocks without letting his faith or his nature waver in the slightest - a sign of excellent mental health, a strong and healthy mind, which he possessed from the beginning," he said.

"I think Doctor saheb's psychology could also be a subject of study and research," he added.

RSS to hold...

of which around 2,000 will be organised in the Braj region, covering about 3,000 urban settlements and rural areas, officials said.

The series of conferences was launched last year on Vijayadashami following a call by the RSS top leadership to observe the centenary year as a "samaj utsav" (social festival) and to unite the entire Hindu society.

"These conferences aim to bring together the entire Hindu society and convey the message of unity, while also connecting people," Braj province Prachar Pramukh Kirti Kumar said. According to RSS functionaries, discussions at the sammelans will focus on social harmony, unity and the five transformative changes suggested by the leadership, which the organisation believes will help overcome social shortcomings and foster a common Hindu identity beyond caste or class distinctions.

Kumar said the Hindu Sammelans in Braj province would be held between January 15 and February 15 across 12 districts, as defined by the RSS, with participation of office-bearers from provincial, regional and district levels.

"In Braj province, conferences will be organised at 2,000 locations in 12 districts, covering nearly 3,000 bastis and mandals. Preparations are being finalised between January 11 and 21 by local organising committees," he said.

He added that intellectuals, teachers, doctors, engineers, women participants, saints and other prominent citizens would address the gatherings, which will also feature local cultural programmes and conclude with a community meal.

Providing details for Mathura district, regional Prachar Pramukh Jagdish Prasad said around 150 Hindu Sammelans would be organised across 86 mandals and 76 urban settlements.

Amit Shah warns...

supported the decision. "Wherever I go across the country, I say this clearly-- by banning the PFI, we put its entire cadre behind bars, and the whole country became safer as a result," the home minister said.

He said Kerala's safety could be ensured only by identifying "unseen dangers operating behind the curtain".

"Along with a developed Kerala, a safe Kerala is also important," Shah said.

His remarks come days after Kerala BJP chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar accused the Congress-led UDF constituent IUML and Ismism outfit Jamaat-e-Islami of playing "dangerous politics" by using religion to defeat the BJP in the state.

Chandrasekhar had alleged that the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and Jamaat-e-Islami were not interested in development or jobs for the youth, but were focused only on stopping the BJP's growth in Kerala.

Search ops launched...

Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force and the Army, the officials said.

Kanaachak, located on the outskirts of Jammu, is just one kilometre from the International Border, and has earlier been used by terrorists as an infiltration route from across the border.

The whole area has been cordoned off and a massive search operation is underway, the officials said.

Security forces have also intensified search and cordon operations across Jammu, including the high altitude areas, to track down and neutralise nearly three dozen terrorists who are believed to be operating in the region, they said.

Officials said the intensified operations are part of the steps taken by the security agencies to ensure peaceful celebrations during the upcoming.

Meanwhile, security forces also launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) at Anantnag town, officials said.

The operation is being conducted at Danter in Janglat Mandi area of Anantnag, following inputs about the presence of anti-national elements in the area, they said.

Officials said this is the second such operation in the south Kashmir town, after security forces conducted a similar cordon and search on Saturday.

Notorious drug peddler booked under PITNDPS Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police have booked a notorious drug peddler under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act and lodged him in District Jail, Udhampur.

The accused has been identified as Masoom Ali alias Kala, son of Dullah, a resident of Rakh Barotian, Tehsil Vijaypur, District Samba, and presently residing at Balole Khad, Bari Brahmana.

He has been found repeatedly involved in illegal drug trafficking and has several cases registered against him under the NDPS Act at Police Stations Samba and Bari Brahmana.

Police said that despite multiple cases, Masoom Ali continued his unlawful activities, spreading drug abuse among the youth and disturbing social order.

In view of his persistent involvement in narcotics trade, District Police Samba prepared a detailed dossier along with all relevant records and submitted it to the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu for initiating preventive detention under PITNDPS Act.

After careful examination of the dossier, the Divisional Commissioner issued a formal detention order, following which the accused was taken into custody and shifted to District Jail, Udhampur.

Bovine smuggling attempts foiled; 3 arrested, 6 bovines rescued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police foiled three separate smuggling attempts within the jurisdiction of Police Station Pramdhal.

In these operations, three smugglers were arrested, six bovines were rescued and three vehicles used for illegal transportation were seized.

In the first incident, a police team intercepted an auto load carrier bearing registration number JK21C-3904 near Pacholi during routine patrolling. One bovine was found inside the vehicle, tied in a cruel manner and being transported illegally without any valid permission. The accused, Madan Mohan, son of Suraj Parkash, resident of Rajinder Pura Bagoona, Tehsil Vijaypur, District Samba, was arrested. A case FIR No. 03/2026 under Sections 223 BNS and 11 PCA Act was registered at PS Pramdhal.

In another case at Khara Madana, police intercepted vehicle JK21J-0613 and rescued four bovines. The driver, Jatinder Kumar, was arrested and FIR No. 04/2026 registered.

In the third incident at T-Chowk, Pramdhal, one bovine was rescued from vehicle JK20C-4085 and Ameen was arrested. FIR No. 05/2026 was registered.

Four thieves arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Police arrested four individuals in connection with an attempted theft at a gold shop in the R.S. Pura area.

"On January 9, 2026, Attu Shah, owner of M/S Bhola Ornaments, Ward No. 6, R.S. Pura, lodged a written complaint reporting that unknown miscreants had attempted to break into his shop on the intervening night of 8th-9th January 2026," police official said adding that the accused tried to forcibly open the shop lock but were unsuccessful in their attempt.

Following the complaint, FIR No. 07/2026 under Section 303(2)/62 BNS was registered at PS R.S. Pura, and an investigation was immediately initiated, official said.

A special police team, led by SHO PS R.S. Pura, Inspector Ravi Singh Parihar, under the supervision of SDPO R.S. Pura and SP Headquarters Jammu, acted swiftly.

Using inputs from sources and technical assistance, the team traced and arrested the accused. The arrested individuals are: Pardeep Kumar, Kishan Kumar, Sudesh Kumar @ T.T. and Arjun Kumar, hailing from Bihar and Jammu districts.

The Jammu Police have urged all residents to remain vigilant, report any suspicious activity, and ensure proper security of their properties to prevent similar incidents in the future.