

**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 20 • Jammu • Tuesday • January 20, 2026 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00  
Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

## 09 Extortion gang busted at Ban Ganga Track; 3 nabbed

# CM Omar calls on Amit Shah; discusses matters concerning J&K



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah calling on Union Home Minister Amit Shah at New Delhi.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday and the two leaders discussed various issues related to the Union territory.

growing tensions between the elected government of the Union territory and the Lieutenant Governor's (LG) administration. The Transaction of Business Rules (TBR) are also yet to be settled between the elected government and the LG administration. "Chief Minister today met Union Home Minister

@AmitShah in New Delhi to discuss various matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir," Abdullah's office said in a post on X. The meeting also comes in the backdrop of reports of Kashmiri shawl sellers being roughed up in various parts of the country. The budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir

Assembly is scheduled to begin in February and the Union home ministry is the nodal ministry for the allocation of funds for the Union territories. In the past, Abdullah has said that while the central government has been "well disposed" in terms of funding and extending capital

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 10 LG Kavinder inspects KIWG venues ahead of opening ceremony

### Jaishankar to Poland: Don't help fuel terror infrastructure in our neighbourhood

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Poland should display "zero-tolerance" for terrorism and not help "fuel" the terrorist infrastructure in India's neighbourhood, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told his Polish counterpart Radosław Sikorski on Monday in a blunt message apparently over the mentioning of Kashmir in a Poland-Pakistan joint statement in October.

At a meeting with Sikorski, Jaishankar also expressed his anguish over the unfair and unjustified "selective targeting" of India over the Ukraine conflict, in what is seen as a reference to Western nations' criticism of New Delhi over its energy ties with Russia. The external affairs minister made the comments in his televised opening remarks at the meeting in New Delhi. Sikorski is also Poland's deputy prime

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 10 JKPS Panjirthi student represents J&K at 69th National School Games Handball Championship

# Paratrooper martyred as search ops continue in Kishtwar; hideout busted

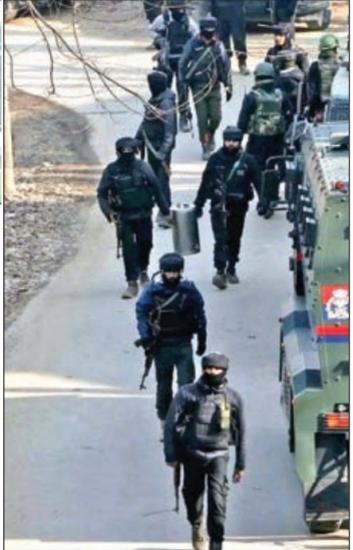


HAVILDAR GAJENDRA SINGH 19 JAN 2026  
We Salute Our Braveheart

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: A paratrooper, who was critically injured in gunfight with terrorists, succumbed to his injuries on Monday, while the ongoing search operation uncovered a suspected terror hideout packed with rations for winter in Kishtwar district, officials said.

The operation was launched in Sonnar village near Mandral-Singhpura in the Chatroo belt on Sunday, where an encounter broke out between the forces and terrorists in which eight soldiers sustained injured, primarily due to splinter from a sudden grenade attack. The operation was suspended late Sunday night and resumed early Monday in the challenging terrain with thick vegetation and steep slopes, limiting visibility and movement, officials said.

In a post on X, the White Knight Corps said 'Operation Trashi-I' continues in Chatroo. "The cordon has been further tightened with



search operations expanded. Troops of the corps, along with police and CRPF, remain deployed to dominate the area." Multiple teams of the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Nitin Nabin elected unopposed as BJP President

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Five-time Bihar MLA Nitin Nabin was on Monday elected unopposed as the BJP national president, the youngest ever to occupy the top party post at a time when the saffron party seeks to further expand its footprint with key state elections around the corner.

Nabin, 45, emerged as the sole candidate for the post with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders filing nomination papers in his support. Nabin will be formally declared as BJP president on Tuesday signalling a generational shift in its top organizational leadership and a new era in the party, which was founded in 1980, the same year he was born. The low profile and unassuming Nabin, who



erational shift in its top organizational leadership and a new era in the party, which was founded in 1980, the same year he was born. The low profile and unassuming Nabin, who

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## DGP reviews security situation in Kashmir ahead of R-Day celebrations

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday reviewed the security situation in Kashmir ahead of Republic Day celebrations later this month.

The officer chaired a general security review meeting at the Conference Hall of PCR Kashmir in preparation for Republic Day-2026 celebrations, a police spokesperson said.

He said the meeting was attended by senior officers of J&K Police, Intelligence agencies, army, CAPFs and other sister concern agencies.



DGP Nalin Prabhat chairing security meeting at Srinagar on Monday.

"At the outset of the meeting, participating officers briefed the DGP on the intelligence inputs, security measures and preparedness plans, outlining steps to

strengthen security, safeguard public spaces, and ensure the smooth conduct of the event at all the designated places in the valley," the spokesperson said.

He said the DGP assigned specific responsibilities with strict instructions for precise execution. "Key areas discussed included

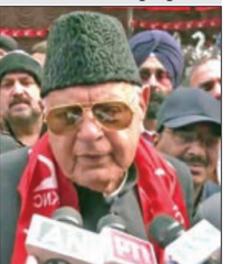
■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## KPs always welcome to return home: Farooq

Hindus-Muslim divide being created for electoral purposes

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Monday said Kashmiri Pandits are always welcome to return to their homes in the Valley, as the displaced community observed the 36th anniversary of their exodus in Jammu and reiterated demands for a comprehensive policy on their return and rehabilitation.

However, the former chief minister expressed skepticism about whether the migrated community would want to come back in a permanent manner, considering



they have built new lives where they currently reside in other parts of the country, with their children engaged in employment and education. Kashmiri

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## MHA to roll out policy on absorbing ex-Agniveers into CAPF: CISF DG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will bring out a comprehensive policy for the integration of former Agniveers with the Central Armed Police Forces, CISF Director General Praveer Ranjan said on Monday.

Ranjan told reporters that the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has also formed a committee at its headquarters to prepare an action plan in this context and present it to the ministry. "This is a policy matter of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It will be done in consultation with the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). The MHA will come out with a proper policy, which we all will follow," he said.

The CISF DG said the committee at the force level was scrutinising ways to integrate the Agniveers; in what proportion and where they will be utilised was a plan that the MHA

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## IMF raises India's GDP growth projection to 7.3 pc for FY26

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The IMF on Monday raised India's growth projection to 7.3 per cent for fiscal 2025-26, up 0.7 percentage point from its October forecast, on the back of better-than-expected performance of the economy.

The Washington-headquartered multilateral lending agency has also revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to 6.4 per cent for fiscal year 2026-27 beginning April 1, 2026, from its earlier estimate of 6.2 per cent. "In India, growth is

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## IMF growth upgrade endorses India's economic rise under PM Modi's leadership: Chugh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday said that the latest World Economic Outlook of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a strong global endorsement of India's robust growth story under the stable and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Reacting to the IMF's upward revision of India's growth forecast for FY 2025-26 to 7.3 percent, Tarun Chugh said that India has once again emerged as the fastest-growing major economy in the world, far surpassing the global average growth rate of 3.3 percent and the growth rates of advanced economies.

"The IMF's latest assessment clearly reflects the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's long-term economic vision. Strong third-quarter performance

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## SC flags concern over exorbitant rise in airfares during festivals

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday said it would interfere with the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfares and flagged the exorbitant rise during festivals.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta termed the exorbitant rise of airfares by airlines as "exploitation" and asked the Centre and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to file their replies to a PIL seeking binding regulatory guidelines to control the unpredictable fluctuations in airfare and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Chargesheet filed against ex-Govt employee for taking Rs 18 lakh migrant relief while in service

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Jammu and Kashmir crime branch has filed a chargesheet against a former government employee for drawing Rs 18.3 lakh as migrant relief while he was in service. The EOW, Kashmir received a written complaint against him for availing monetary relief in cash by illegal means after unlawfully registering himself as a migrant along with his family members.

He was not eligible for migrant relief as he was in active government service

during the relevant period. The EOW produced a chargesheet before the court against Mohammad Hussain Shah, a resident of Syedapura in Shopian, a retired employee in Public Health Engineering department. "The chargesheet pertains to allegations of unlawfully registering as a migrant along with family members and fraudulently obtaining migrant relief amounting to Rs 18,30,265," a spokesperson of the EOW said. "A thorough investigation was subsequently carried out by the EOW, during which it was prima facie established

that the accused had deliberately misrepresented his employment status and suppressed material facts to secure migrant registration," the spokesperson said.

The investigation further revealed that Shah continued to avail migrant relief benefits despite being ineligible, causing wrongful loss to the government exchequer and corresponding wrongful gain to himself, he said.

On the basis of material evidence, it was established that the acts of omission and commission on his part constitute an offence punishable, he added.

# Valley Se Awaaz: Separate Jammu State!

■ PROF NUTAN K RESUTRA

An unheard, unprecedented, hitherto unimaginable undercurrent has started surfacing on the horizon of the politics of erstwhile State and now called the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. As of today, there were only fragmented some hither, some thither voices raised from Jammu only calling for a separate State of Jammu, disintegrating from the Kashmir Province. The latest impetus to it has been given by Sham Lal Sharma, BJP MLA from Jammu North, who has once again boldly raised the issue of Jammu State. But now, unexpectedly, similar voices have started emerging from the Valley of Kashmir too; calling for the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two separate States! And it is indeed surprising; rather pleasantly surprising to come across this new development.

It all started with the latest controversy erupting on the issue of setting up of the National Law University or NLU, earmarked for the Union Territory. While campaigning during the Assembly

by-polls, the Chief Minister had promised the setting up of NLU in Badgam. Now he is being asked to fulfil the poll promise made at that time. But the Bar Council Jammu, as also various other organisations, have demanded setting up of the NLU in Jammu Province, citing the shifting to Badgam as yet another instance of discrimination with Jammu. RS Pathania, the BJP MLA from Udhampur East, has already raised his voice on this issue calling for being NLU in Jammu. And with each passing day, the issue is gaining momentum. More fuel was added into the fire of issue of Jammu State with statements from different political persons from both regions as well.

A few days back, I was in Srinagar in connection with proof-reading of my forthcoming book. In the evening, I sat with a few of my friends indulging in gossiping. One of them suddenly said: Bhai; what ails you Jammu-walas? To my questioning glance, he said a bit seriously: Why are you people always up in arms, opposing everything about

Kashmir? Before I could answer, the other one said a bit tersely: We got Central University, so did you. You got IIT; we did not say anything. You got IIM; we kept quiet. And now that we are to get NLU, why are you agitated? Already, most of the developmental funds were diverted to Jammu because there was unrest here. You have been thriving at the cost of Kashmir; and you still cry discrimination? This is not fair. We have suffered so much in militancy and it is now the time to get our wounds healed. I realised they had been saying the same thing what an ordinary Kashmiri feels and is being fed about Jammu. This questioning sent me brooding.

In yet another development and with utmost responsibility Sajad Gani Lone, Chairman Peoples Conference has raised serious issues viz a viz progress and development of the Valley of Kashmir. While commenting on the shifting of the Law University to Jammu, he said that the sanctity of the post of Chief Minister demands that the promise of establish-

ing NLU in Badgam be fulfilled. Launching a scathing attack on Jammu and its people, he said: "Kashmir jo kuchh bhi chahta hai, usey paaney ki yeh sanak pagalpan se zyada kuchh nahin hai. Jammu has an IIM. If Kashmir gets a Law University, what is the harm in it?" He added.

Elaborating, he seriously commented that time has come when both Jammu and Kashmir should separate. Elaborating, he also said that it is not only the question of development of both the regions; it seems Jammu is always ready to oppose Kashmiris! Going one step ahead, he added that Kashmiri thinking has now undergone quite a change with regard to the regional feelings and Kashmiris are in no mood to tolerate it (meaning, discrimination with Kashmir) any further!

But Lone also wisely commented when he said that time has come when both the regions should separate with mutual consent! He advocated the idea that this separation - both Jammu and Kashmir becoming two separate States-would be

for the betterment of both Jammu as well as Kashmir.

Personally, I feel the yearning to separate and take birth as two States is fast becoming a reality. I have already elaborated upon the benefits of becoming separate entities in my previous write up; so, I do not feel any need to remind my learned readers again. One thing I would surely like to add: this Constitutional Amendment would once for all put a full stop at the Kashmir problem on international fora also. What Jammu leaders could not do, Kashmiri leaders are going to do it for them. Much water has flown down both Jhelum and Tawi and its time now to rectify historical blunders committed by our predecessors. As Sajad Lone has suggested, let us part ways with mutual understanding. And the best part is that this is a win-win situation for all: Jammu, Kashmir and the Centre. Everyone would be for once a gainer on the political, social and economic fronts. Perhaps, the issue of NLU may usher in a new era for all: and why not!

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 22.1°C Min: 7.3°C

Humidity  
Max: 78 Min: 60

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 13.7°C Min: -1.2°C

Humidity  
Max: 78 Min: 52

Sunset: 17:50 Hours  
Sunrise: 07:32 Hours