

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! CM Omar calls...

expenditure schemes, the relationship with the LG's office has been antagonistic. Abdullah has been vocal about the "disempowerment" of the office of the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, saying that he has had the "unique misfortune" of transitioning from leading one of the country's most empowered states to a Union territory with "far less power than any other state CM".

In his past interactions with the media, Abdullah has alleged interference in departments that have nothing to do with security or law and order.

### Jaishankar to Poland...

minister: On his part, the Polish foreign minister said he completely agreed with Jaishankar on the "unfairness" and "selective targeting" in the context of tariffs over India's relations with Russia.

Sikorski is on a three-day visit to India that came less than 10 days before the top leadership of the European Union travels to the country.

"You are no stranger to our region and are certainly familiar with the longstanding challenge of cross-border terrorism," Jaishankar said.

"I hope at this meeting to discuss some of your recent travels to the region. Poland should display zero-tolerance for terrorism and not help fuel the terrorist infrastructure in our neighbourhood," he said.

In late October, Sikorski travelled to Islamabad and held wide-ranging talks with Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, following which a joint statement was issued that featured the Kashmir issue.

The external affairs minister also mentioned India's consistent position on the Ukraine conflict.

"In the recent past, both in New York last September and in Paris this January, I have candidly shared with you our views on the Ukraine conflict and its implications," Jaishankar said.

"While doing so, I have also repeatedly underlined that the selective targeting of India is both unfair and unjustified. I do so again today," he added.

In his remarks, Jaishankar also talked about the upswing in India-Poland ties.

"We meet at a time when the world is under considerable churn. As two nations located in different regions, each with its own challenges and opportunities, it is obviously useful to exchange views and perspectives."

"Our bilateral relationship has also progressed steadily, but nevertheless, needs constant tending," he said.

### Paratrooper martyred as...

Army, police, and paramilitary forces, supported by drones and sniffer dogs, are combing the area while maintaining a tight security cordon to ensure that the terrorists do not escape, officials said.

They said search teams have busted a terrorist hideout and recovered a large quantity of food items including ration, utensils, gas cylinder and stove near the site of yesterday's gunfight.

A group of two to three terrorists allegedly affiliated with Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) are believed to be hiding in the area, officials said, adding the operation resumed with the first light of day and was ongoing when the last reports were received.

Meanwhile, one of the injured troopers, Havildar Gajendra Singh, died during treatment at a military hospital here during the intervening night of January 18 and 19, officials said.

"The General Officer Commanding, White Knight Corps and all ranks pay solemn tribute to Havildar Gajendra Singh of the Special Forces, who made the supreme sacrifice while gallantly executing a counter terrorism operation in the Singpora area during the ongoing Operation Trashi-I.

"We honour his indomitable courage, valour and selfless devotion to duty and stand firmly with the bereaved family in this hour of profound grief," the Army said in a separate post on X.

Army's northern commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma also paid homage to the braveheart, and said "his sacrifice and devotion will forever remain etched in our hearts".

Termining the action 'Operation Trashi-I', the Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps, in a post on X on Sunday, said security forces came in contact with the terrorists in the general area Sonmar, northeast of Chatroo, during the search operation conducted as part of ongoing joint counter-terror exercises along with Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"Operations remain underway with additional forces inducted to reinforce the cordon, supported by close coordination with civil administration and security agencies," the Army said, commending the troops for their exceptional professionalism and resolve while responding to hostile fire under challenging terrain and conditions.

Operations have been further intensified in the run-up to Republic Day to ensure peaceful celebrations, amid intelligence inputs about desperate attempts by Pakistan-based handlers to push more terrorists into the region, officials mentioned.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday paid homage to Havildar Gajendra Singh of the Indian Army's special forces, who was martyred during the ongoing anti-terror operation in Kishtwar district.

"I salute the supreme sacrifice of our braveheart Havildar Gajendra Singh. His supreme sacrifice will remain etched in our hearts. The entire nation stands in solidarity with the bereaved family of our martyr in this difficult hour," Sinha said.

### KPs always welcome...

Pandits observe January 19 as 'holocaust day' to mark the exodus of their community members from the Valley in 1990 due to threats and killings by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists.

Members of the community also staged protests at various locations in support of their demands, including a separate homeland within the Valley.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a two-day party programme here, Abdullah noted that many Kashmiri Pandit families never left the Valley and continue to live peacefully in their villages and localities.

"When will they return (to Kashmir)? Who is stopping them? No one is preventing them. They should come back, as it is their home. Many Kashmiri Pandits are currently living in the Valley and have not left their villages," the former chief minister responded when asked about protests by Kashmiri Pandits supporting their demand for return and rehabilitation in the Valley.

Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits, under the banner of 'Youth 4 Panun Kashmir,' also blocked the Jammu-Srinagar national highway near Jagti camp on Sunday evening, demanding a separate homeland in the Valley for their return and asking for the passage of a bill in Parliament to recognise their genocide.

When asked about the demands of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits, Abdullah remarked that he had assured them that the government would construct houses for them and provide the necessary support.

He added that after the fall of his government, it was in the Central government's hands to implement the proposal.

He noted that the community would first need to assess the situation, as many Kashmiri Pandits are now settled across different parts of the country.

"They have grown older; many are seeking medical treatment, and their children are studying in colleges, schools, and universities. They may visit, but I don't think they will return to live there permanently," he said.

Farooq Abdullah also flagged growing religious polarisation in the country, alleging that hate politics was being fuelled for electoral gains, and questioned who was responsible for spreading divisive narratives in Jammu.

The former Chief Minister said the people in Jammu and Kashmir chose India over Pakistan in 1947 and have consistently fought against the neighbouring country, which continues to create disturbances in the region.

When asked about the heated debate surrounding a recent comment made by music maestro A R Rahman regarding a decline in work from Bollywood and suggesting it might be linked to a "communal issue," Abdullah noted that a fire of hatred has emerged in the country over the past few years, deliberately dividing Hindus and Muslims for electoral purposes.

"What should we do in such a situation? This country belongs to everyone. India has always stood as an example of unity in diversity, where people of all religions live together," he said.

However, he also mentioned that if some individuals choose to incite divisions in the name of religion, it becomes challenging to stop them, noting that such tendencies are not new.

He cited an example of protests in Jammu over the admission of Muslim students into the Vaishno Devi Medical College, which led to the withdrawal of the college's permission letter.

"Who is responsible for spreading hatred in Jammu? Who is raising slogans to separate Jammu, and who is behind it?" he asked, in an apparent jibe at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has supported the agitation seeking reservation of all seats at Mata Vaishno Devi medical college for Hindu students, with some of its leaders advocating statehood for Jammu.

Asked about Pakistan's continuous attempt to foment trouble in Jammu and Kashmir by sending drones, narcotics and weapons, he said the neighbouring country will never give up doing mischief in the Valley.

"We have fought against Pakistan. If we wanted to go to Pakistan, we would have done so in 1947. We did not go to Pakistan; we stayed in India. We remained in Gandhi's India," Abdullah said.

### DGP reviews security...

crowd management, traffic regulation, intelligence inputs, strategic deployment of forces, and protection of vulnerable targets," he added.

The spokesperson said the DGP emphasised the need for foolproof security arrangements and directed district heads to closely monitor social media to prevent the spread of misinformation impacting public safety and order.

Prabhat also instructed officers to intensify surveillance of anti-national elements and enhance area domination. The Traffic Wing was directed to formulate an effective traffic plan to ensure smooth movement of public and protected persons, the spokesperson said. Security arrangements for highways, laterals, railway tracks, and stations across the Valley were also reviewed. SSP Security Kashmir was directed to implement security plan at the main venue taking into account all security concerns, he added.

### Nitin Nabin elected...

resigned as the minister for law and justice, urban development and housing in the Bihar government after he was appointed working president of the BJP on December 14, will succeed J P Nadda. Nadda, who is the union health minister, has been at the helm of the party's affairs for an extended period since 2020.

"I hereby announce that only one name, that of Shri Nitin Nabin, has been proposed for the post of National President of Bharatiya Janata Party," K Laxman, the Returning Officer for presidential election, said in a statement.

Laxman said 37 sets of nomination papers were filed in favour of Nabin as the BJP national president and all nomination papers were found to be valid.

Prime Minister Modi was among the proposers of Nabin's candidature for the party post Several senior BJP leaders including Nadda, and other union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari were among the proposers.

Of the 37 sets of nomination papers, 36 were filed by state units of the party and one set was submitted by the BJP Parliamentary Party.

In a post on X, Laxman said, "Under the BJP's Sangathan Parv, the election process for the post of national president was conducted successfully in my capacity as national returning officer."

This "transparent and democratic process" once again reflects the party's strong organisational values and its deep commitment to internal democracy, the BJP Rajya Sabha MP further said.

### SC flags concern...

ancillary charges imposed by private airlines in India.

"We will definitely interfere. Just see the exploitation of passengers done during the 'Kumbh' and other festivals. Just look at the fares to Prayagraj and Jodhpur from Delhi," the bench told Additional Solicitor General Anil Kaushik appearing for the Centre.

Justice Mehta, in a lighter vein, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was in the courtroom, that maybe airfares for Ahmedabad may not have increased but they have shot up for other destinations like Jodhpur.

The top court listed the matter for further hearing on February 23 after Kaushik sought time to file a reply on behalf of the Centre.

On November 17, last year, the top court sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea by social activist S Laxminarayana, who has sought to establish a robust and independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector.

It has issued notices to the Centre, the DGCA and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India seeking their responses on the plea.

The plea claimed that all private airlines have, without any credible justification, reduced the free check-in baggage allowance for economy class passengers from 25 kg to 15 kg, "thereby converting what was earlier part of the ticketed service into a new revenue stream".

It has said the "new policy of permitting only a single piece for check-in and the absence of any rebate, compensation or benefit to passengers who do not avail themselves of check-in baggage demonstrates the arbitrary and discriminatory nature of the measure".

It claimed that currently, no authority has the power to review or cap airfares or ancillary fees, allowing airlines to exploit consumers through hidden charges and unpredictable pricing.

The plea said the "unregulated, opaque and exploitative conduct of airlines manifesting in arbitrary fare hikes, unilateral reduction of services, absence of on-ground grievance redressal and unjustified dynamic pricing algorithms directly infringes upon citizens' fundamental rights to equality, freedom of movement and life with dignity".

It said the absence of regulatory safeguards results in arbitrary fare hikes, especially during festivals or weather disruptions, which disproportionately harm poor and last-minute travellers.

### IMF raises India's...

revised upward by 0.7 percentage point to 7.3 per cent for 2025 (fiscal FY26), reflecting the better-than-expected outturn in the third quarter of the year and strong momentum in the fourth quarter," it said in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) update.

Growth is projected to moderate to 6.4 per cent in 2026-27 and 2027-28 as cyclical and temporary factors wane, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said.

According to India's statistics ministry, GDP during April-September of 2025-26 registered a growth rate of 8 per cent, on the back of a robust 8.2 per cent growth in July-September period.

The Indian economy is likely to expand by 7.4 per cent in the current fiscal, according to the First Advance Estimates released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The growth during 2024-25 fiscal was 6.5 per cent.

On inflation, IMF said it is expected to go back to near target levels after a marked decline in 2025 driven by subdued food prices.

The Reserve Bank has a target to maintain consumer price index (CPI) based headline inflation at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side.

The IMF update further said that the global growth is projected to remain resilient at 3.3 per cent in 2026 and at 3.2 per cent in 2027.

The forecast marks a small upward revision for 2026 and no change for 2027 compared with that in the October 2025 WEO.

In emerging market and developing economies, growth is expected to continue to hover just above 4 per cent in 2026 and 2027.

Relative to the projection in October, growth in 2025 for China is revised upward by 0.2 percentage point to 5 per cent, the IMF said.

Global headline inflation is expected to decline from an estimated 4.1 per cent in 2025 to 3.8 per cent in 2026 and further to 3.4 per cent in 2027, it said.

### IMF growth upgrade...

and sustained momentum in the fourth quarter underline the transformative impact of bold structural reforms, massive capital expenditure, infrastructure expansion, and manufacturing growth under the Modi government," Chugh said.

He said that India's consistent focus on macroeconomic stability, ease of doing business, and the creation of world-class digital public goods has strengthened investor confidence and enhanced economic resilience. "From highways to railways, from digital infrastructure to manufacturing ecosystems, India's growth is rooted in strong fundamentals," he added. Highlighting India's global role, the BJP leader noted that even as global economic growth moderates, India continues to remain a key engine of the world economy.

"The IMF's projection of 6.4 percent growth for India in 2026 and 2027 clearly shows that India's growth trajectory is sustainable and future-ready," he said.

Tarun Chugh emphasized that this sustained economic momentum is the result of stable leadership and decisive governance. "Stable leadership, structural reforms, and strong fundamentals have made India a beacon of growth and opportunity in an uncertain global environment," he asserted.

He said that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India is steadily moving towards becoming a developed nation, with inclusive growth benefiting all sections of society and strengthening India's position on the global economic stage.

### MHA to roll...

will lay down in detail. Citing an example, he said Agniveers coming from the Navy can be "relevant" for CISF duties related to seaports security.

In June 2022, the government rolled out the Agnipath recruitment scheme with an aim to bring down the age profile of the three defence forces.

Under the scheme, selected candidates in the age bracket of seventeen-and-a-half to 21 years are enrolled in the Army, Air Force and Navy as Agniveers for four years, with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years, while the remaining 75 per cent exit. The government has already reserved 10 per cent jobs for ex-Agniveers in all future constable appointments in the 11 lakh-strong CAPF, which includes the Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, CISF, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Sashastra Seema Bal.

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

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In a swift and effective action, District Police Reasi have busted an extortion gang operating on the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Ban Ganga track, ensuring safety and justice for innocent pithu operators.



It is pertinent to mention that reliable information was received at Police Post Ban Ganga regarding illegal activities being carried out near the Jalpan Ticket Counter on the SMVD track. Upon due verification which was conducted by PSI Rahul jamwal I/C PP Ban Ganga it was found that several pithu operators were being unlawfully stopped and harassed by a local shop worker namely Arshad Ahmed, in connivance with Shankar Singh alias Dhamu Raja, an employee of M-Tech Innovations, and Bittu Singh alias Babbu Shah.

The accused were found to be threatening the victims with false implication, denial of services and continuous harassment. Under fear and coercion, the victims were extorted with an amount of ₹500 each for being allowed to cross the checkpoint.

Taking immediate cognizance of the matter, Case FIR No. 23/2025 U/S 308(2)/3(5) BNS has been registered at Police Station Katra. All the accused persons have been taken into custody and further investigation is underway.

### Unauthorised travel agents booked; vehicle seized

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a continued drive to streamline travel services and safeguard the interests of passengers, Police Station Bus Stand Jammu detected and booked unauthorised travel agents illegally soliciting passengers at BC Road Bus Stand during night hours.

On 18.01.2026 at around 2305 hours, a police party led by PSI Mohd. Haseeb Ranyal, along with flying squad officials, under the close supervision of SHO Police Station Bus Stand, Inspector Inderpal Singh noticed two persons loudly calling out destinations such as Amritsar and Delhi to attract passengers. On verification, the persons identified as Gurvinder Singh and Parveen Kundal failed to produce any valid travel agency licence, office authorisation, or route permit.

Their unauthorised activities were causing public nuisance and posed risks to passenger safety. One vehicle used for the illegal operation was seized, one accused was arrested on the spot, while the other managed to flee and is absconding.

Accordingly, FIR No. 08/2026 under relevant sections of BNS and Motor Vehicles Act has been registered at Police Station Bus Stand Jammu, and investigation has been taken up. Further action is underway.

### Two women traced, reunited with families

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA/DODA: Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Ms. Mohita Sharma IPS today traced out one missing lady in the jurisdictional area of PS Basohli and reunited her with family members.

On dated 04-01-2026, one lady resident of Rehan Tehsil Basohli District Kathua came at this P/S and lodged a written complaint regarding missing of her daughter namely Parveen Bano Age- 20 years. On receiving a complaint a missing report was entered at this P/S Basohli vide GD No.06 dated 04-01-2026 and a team of P/S Basohli led by SHO PS Basohli PSI Swaran Singh Manhas under the close supervision of SDPO Basohli Om Parkash searched various places and with the help of technical assistance along with timely human intervention recovered the missing lady. After completing all legal formalities the said missing lady was handed over to her legal heirs. Moreover missing report stands closed today vide DD No. 10 dated 19.01.2026

In another case, On 23.12.2025, a missing complaint was lodged at Police Station Bhaderwah by a woman resident of Dharfa, Tehsil Bhalla, Bhaderwah (A/P Domail, Tehsil Bhaderwah), reporting that her daughter had gone missing from her residence on 22.12.2025. Despite efforts made by the family to trace her, no clue could be found, following which a missing report was entered at PS Bhaderwah.

On the directions of SSP Doda, Sandeep Mehta, a special police team was constituted to trace the missing woman.

During the course of investigation and sustained efforts, it was established that the missing woman was present in Hyderabad. Accordingly, a team comprising, PSI Mohit Salgotra, L/SPO Amreka Devi was deputed to Hyderabad, where the missing woman was successfully traced. Her statement was recorded, and after completing all legal formalities, she was safely handed over to her legal heirs. Consequently, the missing report has been traced and closed.

### Bovine smuggling attempt foiled; 31 bovines rescued; 2 arrested

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In continuation to thwart the conspiracies of Bovine Smuggling from the society, District Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Ms. Mohita Sharma IPS today succeeded in foiling two bovine smuggling attempts at Londi Naka area of PS Hiranagar; 31 bovines rescued, 02 persons arrested and seized two vehicles (Trucks) involved. On dated 19.01.2026 Police team led by Insp. Ashish Sharma SHO PS Hiranagar under the supervision of SP Ops Kathua Sh. Mukund Tibrewal IPS & SDPO Border Sh. Dheeraj Katoch JKPS while on Naka/checking at Londi naka noticed two suspicious Vehicles (Trucks) bearing Reg. No.s JK05C-8891 driven by an unknown person and other bearing Reg. No. UP11BT-3685 driven by a person namely Adil Ganri S/o Tahir Hassan R/o Megh Chapper Tehsil Nakur District Sharanpur UP who was alongwith his accomplice namely Bhakoor Khan S/o Mohd Latief R/o Dhak Basti Maralian Tehsil RS Pura Jammu enrouted from Punjab side towards J&K, were signalled to stop for checking. Sensing danger driver of the vehicle bearing Reg. No. JK05C-8891 managed to fled away from the spot while leaving behind the vehicle abandoned and driver of the other vehicle alongwith his accomplice got arrested on spot. On thorough checking of both the vehicles, the Police team was able to found 17 bovines from one vehicle and 14 Bovines from another vehicle making a total of 36 bovines which were being transported without any legal permission got rescued. Thereafter all the 31 bovines were rescued, 02 persons arrested and seized both the vehicles involved. Accordingly, two instant cases vide FIR No.s 09 /2026 & 10/2026 U/S 223/ BNS, 11PCA act were registered at Police Station Hiranagar and further investigation into this matter has been initiated.

### SSP Reasi reviews security ahead of Republic Day

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In view of the forthcoming Republic Day-2026 celebrations, a comprehensive security review meeting was held today at the District Police Office, Reasi under the chairmanship of SSP Reasi, Paramvir Singh. The meeting aimed to assess the overall security preparedness and strengthen coordination among various security and intelligence agencies to ensure peaceful and incident-free celebrations across the district. During the meeting, all participating agencies shared their respective inputs, intelligence updates and ground-level assessments. Emphasis was laid on seamless inter-agency coordination, real-time information sharing and proactive policing to effectively counter any potential security threats.



The chair stressed upon maintaining a high level of alertness, activating all sources and enhancing surveillance across the district. Directions were issued to conduct joint CASOs, LRPs and SRPs in vulnerable and sensitive areas.

Special instructions were also given to intensify surprise naka checking, night patrolling, tenant verification drives, hotel and lodge checking and census of pony porters. It was further directed that robust security arrangements be put in place at all important installations, public places, tourist places and event venues.

### Three drug peddlers arrested in Valley

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three alleged drug peddlers were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir in two separate operations, a police spokesperson said on Monday.

In the first instance, police arrested two men in Shopian district and recovered 58 grams of heroin from them.

"Shopian Police arrested two drug peddlers at Naghard Wachi and recovered 58 grams of heroin from their possession," the spokesperson said.

He said a case was registered against the duo under relevant sections of the law and an investigation has been taken up.

Meanwhile, a third alleged drug peddler was arrested in the neighbouring Pulwama district and a large quantity of contraband was recovered from him, the spokesperson said. The man was apprehended from Nikloora area, when a police patrol team was carrying out routine checking, he added.