

# THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K MAHASHIVRATRI GREETINGS TO ALL OUR ESTEEMED READERS Vol. 30 Issue 56 • Jammu • Wednesday • February 26, 2025 • Pages 12+4=16 • ₹ 5.00

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

India's Space economy to increase fivefold in next few years: Dr Jitendra

**Impressive Shobha Yatra organized** on eve of Maha Shivratri

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## Maha Shivratri Special: Miraculous Shivling of Dalsar!

## India will always advocate 'zero tolerance' for terrorism: Jaishankar

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#### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: There is a clear and urgent need for a new multilateral system that reflects contemporary global realities as past few years "exposed" the "stark inadequacies" of the existing structures, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has

In a virtual address at the 58th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, he also asserted that India will always advocate "zero tolerance" for terrorism and call out any effort to normalise it.

Delving into geo-political turmoils in various geographies, Jaishankar said the world continues to grapple with conflicts and it is growing more fractured, uncertain, and unstable in the face of emerging challenges.

"There is a clear and urgent need for a multilateral system that reflects contemporary global realities,



one that is better equipped to respond to modern challenges, and, in essence, one that is fit for purpose," he

"The past few years have exposed the stark inadequacies of existing multilateral structures. When the world needed them the most, they were found wanting," he

Jaishankar said India has always played an active role in the global promotion and protection of human rights. "Our approach has been centered on building capacity and strengthening human resources and infrastructure in alignment with the priorities of our partners -- always upholding the principles of fiscal responsibility, transparency, and sustainability,"

Jaishankar said India's development partnerships with countries across the world reflects this commitment.

he said

"At the same time, we have been firm and uncompro-

cate zero tolerance for terrorism and call out any to normalize it," he

"We do not merely speak of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam -the world as one family; we live by it. And today, more than ever, this perspective is urgently needed," he said.

"The world continues to grapple with conflicts and crises, growing more fractured, uncertain, and unstable in the face of emerging challenges, even as it struggles to recover from the recent ones," he added.

The external affairs minister further said India remains ready to support and lead efforts toward reforms.

"Let me conclude by reaffirming India's steadfast commitment to the global promotion and protection of human rights and to ensuring their full realisation for

#### LG, CM greets people on Maha Shivratri, Herath

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the occasion of Maha Shivratri.

message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, I convey my hearty greetings and felicitations to all and wish them health, happiness

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#### **Kumbh Mela to** conclude today ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR (UP): The grand Maha Kumbh Mela, which began on January 13 at Triveni Sangam, is set to conclude tomorrow (February 26). In light of this, authorities have imposed strict new restrictions to manage the massive crowd expected on the final day. So far, an estimated 630 million devotees have taken

part in the Kumbh

## Top security officers discuss plan to crackdown on terror ecosystem in Chenab Valley

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

BANIHAL/JAMMU: Top security officers met in Ramban district on Tuesday and discussed an integrated plan to crackdown on the terror ecosystem in Chenab Valley which was rocked by several terror incidents last year, officials said.

The government's plan to arm ex-servicemen, supplementing the existing Village Defence Guards, was also discussed during the joint security review meeting, which took place at Dharmund military garrison, they said.

The officials said this initiative seeks to harness the expertise of the ex-servicemen, enabling them to actively combat terrorism and safeguard the communities.

The meeting was presided over by General Officer Commanding, Counter Insurgency Force (Delta), Major General A P S Bal, and was among others

DB further observed that

respondents are charging

hefty toll fees at Bann Toll

Plaza, whereas toll fees at

other Toll Plazas are also

high. Thus, not only the

treasures of NHAI are being

filled with thousands of

crores of rupees, the private

contractors are also enrich-

ing themselves by accumulat-

Since the toll fee must be

fair enough for the general

public and should not be a

source of revenue-generating

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mechanism, respondents,

ing crores of rupees



General of Police, Jammu

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir;

Jammu, Srinagar receive rainfall

zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, and Inspector General of CRPF R. Gopala Krishna Rao. Deputy Inspector General

of Police, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban region, Sector Commanders, Commanding Officers, Superintendents of Police (SSPs) of Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar and representatives of central and local intelligence agencies also attended the meeting, the officials said.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The higher

reaches of Kashmir received

fresh snowfall, while the

plains of the Valley and

Jammu were lashed by

rains on Tuesday, officials

Jammu witnessed drizzle

The famous tourist resort

town of Gulmarg and the

surrounding areas received

fresh snowfall, while the

higher reaches in other

parts of the valley also wit-

nessed snowfall this after-

The plains of the valley,

including Srinagar, were

lashed by rains, which

noon, officials said.

during most of the day.

They said the deliberation

including the security situation and terrorists support system, was carried out. In addition, upcoming

activities in the region were discussed to ensure complete synergy between all security and intelligence agencies for a coordinated effort towards achieving common goals, the officials said.

They said the meeting was centered on the escalating threat posed by terrorist organizations in the

brought the day tempera-

ture down by several

Department has forecast

wet weather in the valley

over the next 96 hours, with

some areas likely to receive

heavy snowfall or rain dur-

Kashmir has experienced a

mostly dry winter this year,

with January and February

recording a precipitation

deficit of around 80 percent.

spell, along with the forecast

of more precipitation, has

raised hopes among the peo-

ple of reducing the high

rainfall deficit in Kashmir.

However, the wet weather

degrees, they added.

ing this period.

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Meteorological

## J&K IT Deptt wins 'Technology Sabha Award-2025' for e-Unnat



Aijaz Qaiser, Additional Secretary, IT J&K and Rachna Sharma, Deputy Secretary, IT Department receiving the award.

Award-2025

Technology

Enterprise Application cate-

gory to the Information

Jammu & Kashmir, for

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/CHANDI-

GARH: BJP National

General Secretary Tarun

Chugh on Tuesday said that

the AAP has been misusing

the images of Baba Saheb

Ambedkar and Shaheed

Bhagat Singh for political

gains while sitting at the

Chugh said the BJP holds

both national icons in the

highest esteem and, unlike

Kejriwal and his party, gen-

uinely works to uphold their

He said that under Arvind

Kejriwal, AAP in Delhi has

ideals and principles.

table with liquor barons.

Department,

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### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Indian Express Group, in its 37th edition of the Technology Sabha & Awards, has conferred the Technology

## Companies urged by Govt to set up skill centres in-house to boost employment

STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: The Centre has urged the corporate sector to set up skill centres in-house so that the employability of graduating youth improved and the overall hiring scenario is boosted, an

official said on Tuesday.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs Secretary Deepti Gaur Mukherjee said that there is a need to upscale the numbers of skilled youth in

Under the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) launched in 2024, the target is to provide skills to 1.25 lakh youth in the pilot phase and one crore over the next five years.

Speaking at an event organised by CII here, said, Mukherjee response from companies is very encouraging and there is a need to upscale the numbers. The companies should set up skilling cells in-house so that the quantum of the employableworkforce increases." The internship programme under

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 WEATHER Max: 17.9°C Max: 85 Max: 10.4°C Max: 86

Sunset: 18:16 Hours

Sunrise: 07:01 Hours

#### Only 20 pc toll fee till NH from Lakhanpur to Udhampur gets fully operational: DB DB directed respondents to full toll at both these toll objective of minting money from the general public.

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In major relief to the people of J&K and also the pilgrims who visited Vaishno Devi, a Division Bench (DB) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice MA Chowdhary directed respondents to withdraw the order/direction regarding redistributing the influence length from ${\bf Lakhanpur} \ \ {\bf to} \ \ {\bf \overline{Udhampur}}$ among Lakhanpur and Bann Toll Plazas with effect from January 26, 2024 after the closure of Thandi Khui Toll

AAP insulted Ambedkar, Bhagat

Singh to please liquor mafia: Chugh

**Demands CBI probe into Punjab financial irregularities** 

become synonymous with

corruption and extravagant

luxuries, as exposed by the

CAG report, tabled in the

In fact, Kejriwal and his

party leaders have mocked

Delhi Assembly today.

withdraw the aforesaid order/direction positively within a period of one week from today.

DB further directed respondents to levy only 20 per cent of the toll fee with immediate effect, i.e., the toll fee at Lakhanpur Toll Plaza and Bann Toll Plaza shall be 20 per cent of the rates earlier in force before January 26, 2024 till the National Highway (NH) from Lakhanpur to Udhampur gets fully operational for smooth utilization of the

Respondents to charge the

the legacy of Ambedkar and

indulging in corruption

worth Rs 2,000 crores.

Chugh said the CAG report,

which the AAP government

had been hiding for months,

has now laid bare the extent

of deceit and corruption that

AAP has carried out in the

name of Baba Saheb

Ambedkar and Shaheed

Even in Punjab, AAP is fol-

lowing the same modus

operandi that Kejriwal's gov-

ernment used to orchestrate

Bhagat Singh.

the liquor scam in

Singh

plazas only after the issuance of a certificate in this regard by an independent surveyor, DB said.

DB further ordered not to establish any toll within 60 kms of the National Highway-44. Further, if there is any toll plaza in the UT of J&K or in the UT of Ladakh within 60 Kms on National Highway, respondents to remove the same within two months from today. Further, there should not be mushrooming of toll plazas in the UT of J&K and the UT of Ladakh only with the sole aim and

**STATE TIMES NEWS** KUPWARA: Jammu and

trict, officials said. The properties, which were attached after obtained a court order,

The properties belonged to Tahir Ahmad Peer and Mohammad Ramzan Ganie, both residents of Kupwara currently based out of Pakistan, the officials said.

#### Properties of two Pak-based terror handlers attached

Kashmir Police on Tuesday attached properties worth lakhs of rupees belonging to two Pakistan-based terrorist handlers in Kupwara dis-

police included land measuring three kanals and 12 marlas.

The properties were

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JAMMU: Setting the stage

et that addresses public aspirations and strengthens key sectors of the economy. Chairing a series of pre-



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

for the upcoming budget presentation on March 7, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday emphasized the need for a pragmatic and growth-oriented budg-

budget meetings with several key government departments at the Civil Secretariat here to finalize proposals for the upcoming budget, Omar Abdullah reiterated the government's commitment to

the new Assembly Complex



CM Omar Abdullah chairing a pre-budget meeting in Jammu.

parent governance and efficient utilization of public

The Chief Minister directed the departments to prioritize flagship projects, accelerate ongoing initiatives, and ensure timely implementation of development schemes.

The discussions delved into both Capital Expenditure (CapEx) and Revenue Expenditure (RevEx), with a focus on optimizing budgetary allocations for infrastructure development, social welfare programs, and

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## Speaker assures every assistance for smooth coverage of LA proceedings

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, on Tuesday chaired a crucial meeting with the media fraternity to facilitate smooth and efficient coverage of the maiden Budget Session of Omar led government.

The meeting was attended by Director Information, Nitish Rajora; Secretary, Manoj Kumar Pandit; SSP Traffic, Faisal Qureshi; SSP Security Civil Secretariat, Sajjad K. Bhat; Director IT, Raman Gupta; Deputy Director Information (PR), Deepak Dubey, along with Bureau Chiefs, senior journalists, correspondents and editors from various media houses including All Radio



media fraternity in Jammu on Tuesday.

Doordarshan.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on various issues concerning media professionals, focusing on ensuring hassle-free entry to the Legislative Assembly premises and smooth regulation of traffic on roads leadto the Assembly

Secretariat and MLA's Hostel, Jammu.

The Speaker emphasized the importance of taking necessary measures to prevent inconvenience to journalists covering the proceedings.

erage and extension of other logistical support. Senior journalists high-

Addressing these concerns, the Speaker directed the SSP Security, Civil Secretariat to make appropriate arrangelighted key concerns includments for media personnel, ensuring parking facilities at designating parking

spaces, provision of high-

speed Wi-Fi for seamless cov-

and Zanana Park in the vicinity of the LA complex. Further, the Speaker instructed the senior officers from JAKEGA and the IT Department to provide highspeed Wi-Fi connectivity throughout the session, ensuring uninterrupted digital access for media persons. Additionally, he directed the Information Department to coordinate between the press and the Assembly Secretariat to facilitate comprehensive coverage of the proceedings through both print and elec-

To enhance media accessibility, the Speaker directed the officials to install sufficient number of microphones and Public Address

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## 1984 anti-Sikh riots: Delhi court awards life to ex-Cong MP Sajjan Kumar

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Tuesday awarded life-term imprisonment to former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a murder case connected to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Special judge Kaveri Baweja pronounced the judgement for the murders of Jaswant Singh and his son Singh Tarundeep November 1, 1984. A detailed verdict is await-

The court on February 12 convicted Kumar for the offence and sought a report from Tihar Central Jail on his psychiatric and psychological evaluation in view of a Supreme Court order asking for such a report in cases attracting capital punishment.

The offence of murder

attracts a maximum punishment of death penalty, while the minimum sentence was life imprisonment.

complainant. Jaswant's wife, and the prosecution, had sought maximum punishment for Kumar. He is currently lodged in Tihar jail. Though Punjabi Bagh

police station registered the case initially, a special investigation team later took over the investigation. On December 16, 2021, the

court framed charges against Kumar, finding a "prima facie" case against him. According to the prosecu-

tion, a huge mob, armed with deadly weapons, resorted to large-scale looting, arson and destruction of properties of Sikhs to avenge the

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