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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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## Centre firmly committed to developed, prosperous J&K: Amit Shah



Home Minister Amit Shah flanked by LG Manoj Sinha and CM Omar Abdullah chairing development review meeting in Jammu on Saturday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India remains firmly committed to the vision of building a developed and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

"Due to the continuous and dedicated efforts being made by the Modi government to accelerate development, the development projects in Jammu and Kashmir have made unprecedented progress", the Home Minister said while chairing review meeting in Jammu to assess the progress of development projects in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Union Home Minister Amit Shah undertook a comprehensive review of key sectors such as road infrastructure, power, industry, tourism, 4G and optical fibre connectivity.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Union Home Secretary, and senior officials from both, the Central Government and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir

- ▶ Union Home Minister reviews progress of development projects in J&K
- ▶ Undertakes comprehensive review of key sectors such as road infrastructure, power, industry, tourism, 4G and optical fibre connectivity
- ▶ Says, due to continuous, dedicated efforts of Modi government, development projects in J&K have witnessed unprecedented progress
- ▶ Ensure 100 pc saturation of Central Government's welfare schemes, benefits of all development projects reach intended beneficiaries
- ▶ Focus should be given to developing sports infrastructure for youth and establishing sports academies
- ▶ Efforts should be made to promote dairy sector in Jammu and Kashmir through the NDDB

needs to develop the full potential of its hydropower projects. He said that special focus should

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## Four held for assaulting tourist

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: Police on Saturday detained four persons for assaulting a tourist in Doda district, officials said.

A written complaint was received at Police Station Bhaderwah from Suresh Kumar of Nagni Bhalra, Bhaderwah, regarding the assault of a tourist in the area on Friday, they said.

Taking prompt cognizance of the complaint and to prevent any further escalation or breach of peace, police initiated preventive action under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Saanhitā, they said.

In this connection, four persons - Javed Iqbal, Owais Ahmed, Khurshid Ahmed and Avinash Manhas - all belonging to Bhaderwah, were detained, they said.

All the detained persons have been produced before the Executive Magistrate, Bhaderwah, for further legal proceedings as per law.

Police remain steadfast in ensuring the safety and security of tourists and

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## No plan to create new administrative units, priority to operationalise existing ones: CM

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said that the government has no intention of creating new administrative units at present and is focused on operationalising those already sanctioned.

Abdullah was replying to supplementary questions by members in the Assembly seeking new administrative units in Jammu and Kashmir.

"This issue should end here. The government, as of now, has no intention to open new administrative units," he told the House.

The chief minister said the units already created have not been properly operationalised. "It is our responsibility to operationalise them, to make them function properly and to put systems in place wherever gaps need to be filled," he said.

He further said MLAs have complained that units set up



in their constituencies have not been operationalised. "The units that were opened have not been operationalised. Our first responsibility is to make them functional," he said.

"After making them functional, we will take necessary steps wherever new administrative units need to be established," he added.

Replying to a question by MLA Dr Rameshwar Singh in the Assembly, the chief minister said the matter is being taken seriously, and new administrative units will not be created arbitrarily.

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## No proposal to relax change of land use: Govt

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The government on Saturday clarified that there is no proposal under consideration in the Revenue Department regarding relaxation in the Change of Land Use (CLU) norms.

This was revealed by Minister Javed Ahmed Rana in response to a question raised by Legislator Surjit Singh Salathia in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister was replying on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The Minister stated that the government does not

intend to grant any relaxation in respect of change of land use at present. It was further clarified that there is no proposal to exempt rural areas from the existing provisions related to CLU.

The government also stated that there is no proposal under consideration to reduce the prescribed fees or to ease the prescribed formalities in respect of change of land use.

Legislators Vikram Randhawa, Rajiv Jasrotia and R S Pathania raised supplementary questions on the subject.

## Tehsildar booked on corruption charges; ACB conducts searches at his Srinagar, Baramulla residences

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a case against Maen Azhar Kakroo, the then Tehsildar South Srinagar, for allegedly abusing his official position by demanding and accepting illegal gratification in connection with land restoration and demarcation matters.

An official spokesperson of the ACB said that FIR 03/2026 has been registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) against the accused



public servant.

"The case originated from a complaint alleging illegal

encroachment and bribery related to restoration and demarcation of land during

the year 2021. A discreet verification was conducted, which substantiated the allegations," an ACB official said.

According to the bureau, verification revealed that land measuring 4 Kanals 9 Marlas and 165 square feet, including Survey No. 998/54, was recorded in the names of several individuals, including the complainant. During the enquiry, it surfaced that the accused allegedly demanded illegal gratification for facilitating the restoration of 14 Marlas of land situated at Gulbahar Colony,

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## General discussion on Budget begins in LA

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Saturday began discussion on the Budget 2026-27 presented by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, on Friday.

Initiating the debate on the Budget, Legislator, Javid Hassan Baig described Budget 2026-27 as a pro-people document that addresses and fulfils the aspirations and needs of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

He stated that despite challenges, consistent efforts are being made to ensure better governance and public wel-

fare. Legislator, Devyani Rana in her maiden speech submitted that local feedback must be welcomed with the intent of institutionalisation, not treated as a mere formality. She said that the legislators have collective responsibility to do better and merely repackaging central schemes will not address the ground realities. She raised the issue of the dearth of staff in power development department. She asked for facilities like ramps for physically challenged persons in the proposed free bus service. Joining the debate

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RSS not against anyone, does not seek power: Bhagwat

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

MUMBAI: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday said the Sangh is not "against anyone", and it does not seek power or popularity.

Speaking at a public gathering here, Bhagwat referred to various streams of thought that emerged during the freedom movement, represented by reformers and leaders including Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda and Dayananda Saraswati.

"But still it is seen, to some extent, that the work of giving a direction to society and creating an (enabling) environment is not happening," he said.

The RSS was not "against anyone" and did not work as a reaction to any incident, Bhagwat said, adding that its focus was supporting and strengthening positive efforts underway in the country.

The Sangh was also not a paramilitary force even though it conducts route marches, and though its

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 22.2°C Min: 9.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 82 Min: 77

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 11.7°C Min: 3.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 94 Min: 86

Sunset : 18:08 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:21 Hours

## J&K women emerging as strong partners in nation-building: Chugh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary and Prabhari J&K Tarun Chugh, on Saturday addressed the Mahila Samvad Programme organised by B-JP Mahila Morcha at Karan Palace.

Chugh said that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, women empowerment has become the central pillar of governance and development in the country. He said the Modi Government has transformed women empowerment from a slogan into a structured national mission through strong policies, welfare schemes and socio-economic reforms focused on strengthening the status of women across India.



Chugh said that the Union Budget 2026-27 reflects the government's strong and clear commitment towards empowering women by prioritising women-centric schemes and initiatives. He said special emphasis has been laid on education, skill development and entrepreneurship for women, particularly those from rural and border regions. He added that initiatives such as girls' hostels in every district, scholarships in technical education and support for women entrepreneurs are creating new

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## Police arrests conman

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

GANDERBAL: Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested a man in Ganderbal district on charges of cheating investors by allegedly offering them government or disputed land for sale.

The accused, Javid Ahmad Gojree, was posing as a land broker and cheating innocent people by falsely presenting disputed and government land as his private property, a spokesperson said.

He allegedly deceived multiple individuals by showing them land which, upon verification, was found to be either disputed or

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## Article 370 is "Dead and Buried," BJP CM in J&K not far away: Sethi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: MLA Jammu East

Yudhvir Sethi on Saturday delivered a strong and wide-ranging address in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, declaring that Article 370 is "dead and buried" and will never return under any circumstances.

Termining the abrogation of Article 370 as a historic and irreversible decision, Sethi asserted that the political future of Jammu and Kashmir is firmly

aligned with national integration and development.

Speaking during the Assembly proceedings, Yudhvir Sethi said, "Article 370 is over. It will not come back under any circum-

stances. The day is not far away when a BJP Chief Minister will be sitting in this Assembly."

His remarks drew attention across the House, as he linked the political transformation of Jammu and Kashmir with peace, development, and democratic empowerment.

The MLA said that the abrogation of Article 370 had weakened the ecosystem of terrorism, stating that the

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## Army Chief visits Poonch sector; reviews preparedness



Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi interacting with troops during visit to forward area of Poonch sector on Saturday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday visited forward areas of Poonch sector and assessed deployment posture, surveillance measures and readiness of deployed formations. The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on Friday attended a high-level security review chaired by Union Home Minister

Amit Shah and also visited the headquarters of the Jammu-based White Knight Corps to assess the operational preparedness in the region.

"The COAS visited forward areas of Poonch sector to review operational posture, surveillance measures and security arrangements, and reviewed the overall

readiness of formations deployed in the sector." Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Army wrote on X.

During the visit, Gen Dwivedi interacted with troops and lauded the high standards of professionalism and readiness demonstrated by the soldiers deployed in the challenging terrain, commending their unwavering dedication and exceptional preparedness.

Officials said the Army chief visited the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri and was briefed by senior officers on the ground.

Gen Dwivedi met with field commanders of the Army and officers of other security agencies, officials said, adding that he took stock of the security situation, both along the LoC as well as in hinterland areas, in view of ongoing counter-terror operations in Poonch.

Later, he chaired a security review meeting at Counter Insurgency Force (CIF) Romeo headquarters in Rajouri to assess the situation in the twin districts, officials said.

## Amit Shah meets BJP delegation, discusses key J&K issues



BJP delegation calling on Home Minister Amit Shah in Jammu.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A BJP delegation on Friday called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah and discussed various issues related to Jammu and Kashmir, a party spokesperson said.

The delegation included BJP national general secretary and UT in-charge Tarun Chugh, Jammu and

Kashmir B-JP president Sat Sharma, LoP Sunil Sharma, besides several party MLAs and senior leaders, the spokesperson said.

"Meaningful discussions were held on important issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir," he said, without elaborating. Shah arrived in Jammu

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