

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 60 • Jammu • Monday • March 2, 2026 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00
Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

05 Drinking water in Jammu found contaminated: Report

05 Anjuman Imamia Jammu mourns martyrdom of Ali Khamenei

10 T20 World Cup: India beat WI by five wickets to seal semifinal spot

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Omar appeals for calm amid strikes on Iran, protests in J&K over Khamenei's death

Destabilising development: Farooq on middle east crisis

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday said that the Government of Jammu & Kashmir is in close coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to ensure the safety and well-being of J&K residents, including students, currently in Iran.

Protests broke out in several parts of the Union Territory on Sunday against the killing of Khamenei in a US-Israel strike, officials said.

Thousands of protestors took to streets at various places in areas with large Shia population in most parts of Kashmir and a few pockets in Jammu, including Bhatindi in the outskirts of the city and Chanderkote in Ramban district, they said. In Jammu, protesters, largely women, took out candle march late evening at Wazarat Road chanting, slogans against the USA and Israel.

Expressing deep concern over the unfolding events in Iran, particularly the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, the Chief Minister



appealed to all communities to uphold peace and maintain calm. "I am deeply concerned about the unfortunate developments in Iran, including the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. I appeal to all communities to remain calm, uphold peace, and avoid any actions that could lead to tension or unrest," he said.

The Chief Minister further emphasized that those mourning the killing must be allowed to grieve peacefully.

"We must ensure that people in Jammu and Kashmir who are

Schools, colleges to remain closed for 2 days in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Schools and colleges in Kashmir will remain closed for two days starting Monday as a precautionary measure following protests across the valley against the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, officials said.

"The schools and colleges, both government and private, in Kashmir division shall remain closed on Monday and Tuesday," a senior official said here.

He said the educational institutions will remain closed for two days as a precautionary measure.

mourning are allowed to do so peacefully. The police and civil administration should exercise utmost restraint and refrain from using force or unnecessary restrictive measures," he added.

Reiterating the government's commitment to the safety of residents abroad, he said, "The Government of Jammu & Kashmir remains in close coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs to safeguard the interests and well-being of our residents in Iran."

Meanwhile, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah expressed "profound anguish" over the assassi-

nation of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in joint strikes by the US and Israel.

"Abdullah has strongly denounced the act, describing it as a tragic and destabilising development with serious implications for peace and stability in the region," the ruling National Conference (NC) said in a statement here.

The former chief minister said such incidents deepen uncertainty and grief, and underscored the urgent need for wisdom, restraint and adherence to the principles of justice and international law. Abdullah appealed for calm

CONTD ON PAGE 9

PM Modi chairs CCS meet in Delhi as chaos unfolds in Middle East



PM Narendra Modi chairing Cabinet Committee meeting on Security on Sunday night.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday night chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, the highest decision-making body on security and strategic matters of the country, and it is learnt to have discussed the evolving situation arising out of the fresh conflict in West Asia.

The meeting was convened to take stock of the situation emerging in the wake of the attack on Iran by the US and

Israel and the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"The prime minister chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)," a source said, without disclosing details of the meeting.

The CCS meeting was held shortly after Modi arrived in the national capital at around 9.30 pm following his two-day tour of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The meeting, which was

attended by committee members, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was briefed by top officials on the prevailing situation in West Asia and its implications on India, the sources said.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, principal secretaries to the prime minister, P K Mishra and

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Over 6,000 penalised in February ticket checking drive in Jammu Rly Div

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: More than 6,000 passengers were penalised and Rs 38 lakh realised during an intensive ticket-checking campaign across Jammu division of northern Railway in February, an official said on Sunday.

Led by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal, ticket checking teams conducted intensive checks at major stations, including Jammu Tawi, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Udhampur, and Pathankot cantonment, as well as on various trains passing through the division, the official said.

During the month of February, over 6,000 passengers were caught travelling without tickets or with irreg-

ular tickets, resulting in realisation of Rs 38 lakh fine from them.

Singhal said the primary objective of the drive was to provide passengers with a safe and respectful travel experience.

"The ticket checking campaign is not only meant to impose penalties, but also to create awareness among passengers. We appeal to passengers to always travel with valid tickets and use the Railways' digital payment systems such as the UTS on Mobile App and the 'RailOne' app," he said.

In view of the heavy rush of passengers, Jammu Division has decided to operate special trains and strengthen security and civic

CONTD ON PAGE 9

DWs' regularisation likely to get Cabinet nod in next meeting

Years of protests, strikes may finally yield results

VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: In a significant administrative development, the long-pending issue of regularisation of Daily Wagers (DWs) engaged in the Public Works (R&B), Power Development Department (PDD) and Public Health Engineering (PIHE) is likely to be placed before the Cabinet in its forthcoming meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, official sources said.

The proposed move follows years of protests by thousands of Daily Wagers, Need-Based Workers, Casual Labourers, ITI-trained

Helpers and CP Workers who have been serving these key infrastructure departments for periods ranging from 10 to 25 years without formal service status.

These workers play a crucial role in maintaining roads, clearing snow, restoring damaged highways, repairing and maintaining power transmission and distribution networks, and operating rural drinking water supply schemes. During harsh win-

ters, floods and peak summer breakdowns, they are often the first responders, working in difficult and hazardous conditions to restore essential services.

Despite prolonged service, many continue to receive meagre wages, frequently delayed for months. In the absence of regularisation, they remain deprived of GPF, medical cover, insurance and promotional avenues, leaving thousands of families in financial uncertainty.

Over the past two decades, the demand for regularisa-

tion has triggered repeated protests across Jammu, Srinagar and various district headquarters. Workers, under different unions, have staged dharnas outside the Civil Secretariat, held sit-ins at Chief Engineer offices, organised pen-down strikes and work boycotts, blocked roads and undertaken hunger strikes. Memorandums were submitted to successive governments seeking a one-time settlement.

In the Power Development Department, employees had cautioned that continued neglect could impact

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Pak drone enters Indian side along LoC in Poonch, Army opens fire



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Army troops opened fire to bring down a Pakistani drone after it entered into the Indian side from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir early Sunday, officials said.

However, the drone returned to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) after hovering briefly in Digvar

area, the officials said.

This was the second time in three days that troops opened fire after picking up drone movement from across the border.

The officials said the troops manning a forward post noticed the enemy drone at around 6.10 am and fired over a dozen rounds to bring it down.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Maj Gen Ajai Singh Dabas takes over as GOC Delta force in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Major General Ajai Singh Dabas has assumed command of Counter Insurgency Force (Delta) in Jammu and Kashmir, replacing Maj Gen A P S Bal, army said on Sunday.

Delta Force was raised on September 5, 1994 and is headquartered in

CONTD ON PAGE 9

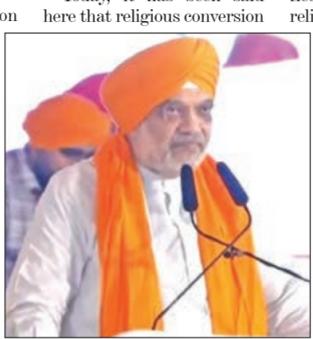
Religious conversions happening in Punjab: Amit Shah, asks state Govt to act

STATE TIMES NEWS

NAVI MUMBAI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said religious conversions are happening in Punjab and appealed to the Bhagwant Mann government and common people to stop this practice driven by "greed".

Shah invoked the sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur while addressing the 'Hind-Di-Chadar' commemoration event to mark the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

"Today, it has been said here that religious conversion



is taking place in Punjab. Guru Tegh Bahadur sacri-

ficed himself to save others' religions. They faced atrocities, but we today prefer to convert because of some greed, then we cannot be called followers of our great leaders. The Punjab government and Punjab society should stop religious conversions," Shah said.

The Punjab government, society and people of all faiths must stop religious conversions going on there, he added. Shah said that had Guru Tegh Bahadur not sacrificed himself to save

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Court extends judicial custody of 8 LeT operatives by 14 days

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Sunday extended the judicial custody of eight operatives of an Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) module who illegally entered India and procured forged identity documents by 14 days.

The LeT operatives, seven of whom were Bangladeshi nationals, were produced with heavy security presence at the court, with a previous seven-day judicial custody ending on Sunday.

On February 22, in a major counter-terror operation spanning three states, the Delhi Police dismantled an LeT module.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

LG reviews security situation in J&K



LG Manoj Sinha chairing security review meeting in Jammu on Sunday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha held a review meeting in Jammu on Sunday on the security situation across the UT of Jammu Kashmir. Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, DGP,

Nalin Prabhat, other senior officials and all DCs and SSPs attended the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor said that peace is our collective responsibility and he appealed to all communities to uphold it. He also com-

mended the unwavering, coordinated resolve of J&K Police, security forces and civil administration in safeguarding law and order.

"I urge all communities to remain calm and

CONTD ON PAGE 9

ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME: 05:35 (MARCH 3)
IFTAAR TIME: 06:30 (MARCH 2)

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 29.0°C Min: 12.7°C

Humidity
Max: 71 Min: 66

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 21.0°C Min: 1.4°C

Humidity
Max: 84 Min: 68

Sunset : 18:27 Hours
Sunrise : 06:59 Hours

Khamenei among 48 Iranian leaders killed in US attack; 9 warships sunk

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/DUBAI: US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that 48 Iranian leaders were killed in a joint military operation carried out by the United States and Israel against Iran. The development comes after it was confirmed that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in the strikes.

"Nobody can believe the success we're having, 48 leaders are gone in one shot. And it's moving along rapidly," Trump said in an interview with Fox News.

The US president described the operation as a decisive blow against Iran's leadership and military com-

mand structure. In another interview, he said Iran wants to hold talks and he has agreed for it.

On Sunday morning, Trump also announced the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

He said the development gives the Iranian people their "greatest chance" to "take back" their country. However, he warned Tehran against escalating the conflict, posting on Truth Social that the United States would respond "With a force that has never been seen before!" if attacks continued.

According to officials, the joint US-Israel strike had been planned for months.



The operation targeted key Iranian military infrastructure, including Revolutionary Guard command facilities, air defence systems, missile and drone launch sites, and military

airfields.

Israel said it had killed the commander of the Revolutionary Guard Corps, Iran's defence minister, and the secretary of the Iranian Security Council.

The strikes took place during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and at the start of the Iranian workweek.

Following the strikes, Iran launched what US officials described as "hundreds of missile and drone attacks." About 12 hours after the operation began, the US military reported no American casualties and minimal damage at US bases.

Several Gulf nations reported intercepting missiles, and regional tensions rose sharply amid fears that the conflict could widen.

The escalation has triggered concern among world leaders about the risk of a broader regional

CONTD ON PAGE 9

IA cancelled 350 flights

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: Indian airlines cancelled 350 international flights on Sunday as operational disruptions continued for the second day due to the escalating Middle East conflict.

With airspace closures in the Middle East and security concerns, Air India and IndiGo have also cancelled their flights that use these airspaces.

"In view of airspace restrictions arising from geopolitical developments in the Middle East, a total of 350 flights operated by Indian domestic carriers have been cancelled on 01.03.2026," the civil aviation ministry said in a post on X at 1634 hours on Sunday.

At 0125 hours, the ministry in an X post said that 444 international flights were expected to be cancelled on Sunday due to airspace restrictions over Iran and parts of the Middle East.

On February 28, the ministry said 410 flights of domestic carriers were cancelled. Air India and SpiceJet shared details about the number of flights cancelled through X posts. Air India said Sunday morning it had cancelled a total of 22 international flights, besides 28 it had announced on February 28

CONTD ON PAGE 9