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**Omar appeals for ...**



SRINAGAR



JAMMU

and urged the administration to handle the situation with sensitivity and discretion, ensuring that those who wish to mourn are able to do so respectfully, without fear or undue restrictions, while maintaining public order.

**PM Modi chairs...**

Shaktikanta Das, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri also attended the meeting.

It is believed that the meeting discussed the safety of Indian nationals living in West Asia, and also those who are stranded, and how to deal with the situation if it deteriorates, the sources said.

Currently, the airspace of West Asia is almost closed. With flight services disrupted due to the military escalation in West Asia, hundreds of Indians are stranded in Dubai, Doha and other key airports in the region, with many taking to social media to appeal to the Indian government for assistance.

The meeting is also learnt to have taken stock of the situation arising out of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which is a major shipping route for Indian oil carriers, by the Iranian authorities, the sources said.

There are around 10,000 Indian citizens who live, study and work in Iran, while over 40,000 live in Israel. The number of Indians living in the Gulf and West Asia is about nine million. In the past, India successfully evacuated thousands of its nationals from different parts of the world, including West Asia, amid conflicts.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Indian missions across the region are in continuous contact with its nationals, while helplines have also been activated.

Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei was killed in a major attack on Iran launched by Israel and the United States early Saturday. Iranian state television and the state-run IRNA news agency announced the 86-year-old's death early Sunday.

**Pak drone enters ..**

However, the drone escaped the gunshots and immediately returned.

A search operation was launched to ensure that there was no airdropping of weapons or narcotics by the drone, the officials said.

On February 27, troops had also fired on a Pakistani drone in the same area.

**DWs' regularisation likely...**

maintenance of transmission and distribution systems, particularly during peak winter snowfall and summer load seasons. PHE workers maintained that they are central to implementation of rural water supply schemes, including works under the Jal Jeevan Mission, yet continue to lack job security. Similarly, PWD workers have repeatedly highlighted the risks they face during snow clearance and emergency restoration works without insurance or legal safeguards.

Several phases of agitation saw detentions of protesting workers. Many continued their struggle despite salary stoppages, expressing hope that the government would frame a comprehensive regularisation policy.

The issue has remained entangled in legal and administrative complexities, particularly in view of the Supreme Court's ruling in the Uma Devi case, which placed restrictions on blanket regularisations. However, employees argue that their engagements were made through departmental processes and that their continuous service over decades warrants a policy intervention.

Earlier governments had constituted committees and explored one-time settlement mechanisms, but the proposals failed to reach implementation stage, leading to growing discontent among workers.

Sources said the present dispensation is examining a structured framework that may include fixing a cut-off date, verification of engagement records, categorisation based on length of service and skill qualification, phased absorption and assessment of financial implications.

The Finance Department is understood to be evaluating the fiscal impact of regularising the workers. Officials believe that since these employees are already drawing wages from the state exchequer, formal regularisation may rationalise expenditure rather than create entirely new liabilities.

The proposed Cabinet consideration assumes political significance as the government led by Omar Abdullah seeks to address long-standing employee grievances. Regularisation of daily wagers has remained one of the most sensitive socio-economic issues in Jammu and Kashmir, affecting thousands of families across the Union Territory.

Union leaders have cautiously welcomed reports of the matter being placed before the Cabinet but said they would await a formal order.

"We have received assurances in the past as well. This time, we hope the decision culminates in a concrete government order," a union representative said.

With the Cabinet meeting expected shortly, all eyes are on the government's final decision. If approved, the move could mark a major step towards resolving the decades-old issue of daily wagers in the PWD, PDD and PHE departments across Jammu and Kashmir.

**Over 6,000 penalised...**

amenities at stations to ensure a comfortable travel experience with enhanced amenities.

"Jammu Division is taking various steps including introduc-

ing special trains in a planned manner to improve passenger amenities and make their journey comfortable in view of festive rush at various railway stations," Singhal said.

He said the football in Jammu and Katra, which was around 50,000 before Holi festival, has now increased to 58,000.

"Commercial staff have been directed to cooperate with passengers," he said.

The officials said a large contingent of the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police has been deployed to boost security arrangements.

Every corner of the stations is monitored by a high-definition CCTV network, while the Railway Protection Force and Commercial Department personnel have been deployed in the CCTV and control rooms, they said.

**LG reviews security...**

united in this hour. I salute the unwavering, synchronized resolve of our Police, security forces and civil administration upholding law and order," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He stated that the government is closely tracking the West Asia situation, with senior UT officials coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs for safety and welfare of J&K residents and students.

**Court extends judicial...**

Umar Farooq, Rubul Islam, Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, Mohammed Saifayat Hussain, Muhammad Zahidur Islam, Muhammad Litton, Muhammad Ujjal and Muhammad Umar were produced before the court.

The arrests followed coordinated raids in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, after investigators traced the group's involvement in putting up "pro-Pakistan" and "pro-terror" posters, featuring photographs of terrorist Burhan Wani at multiple locations in Delhi.

According to the police, the LeT operatives were planning a major terror attack in the country with the support of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI and terrorist organisations based in Bangladesh.

Police claimed that the module was being handled from Bangladesh by Shabir Ahmad Lone alias Raja alias Kashmiri, a trained LeT terrorist from Jammu and Kashmir who was previously arrested by the Delhi Police's Special Cell in 2007 in a case involving recovery of arms and ammunition, including an AK-47 rifle and grenades.

Lone, who hails from Kangan in Srinagar, had fled to Bangladesh after his release from Tihar Jail in 2018 and was working to revive the LeT's terror network in India by activating sleeper cells of Bangladeshi operatives residing illegally in the country, they said.

The posters put up in Delhi featured photographs glorifying slain Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist Wani and carried messages, such as "India stop genocide" and "Free Kashmir", along with Urdu slogans translating to "Hum Pakistani Hain, Pakistan Hamara Hai" and "Kashmiri Ekjut-ta Divas".

**Religious conversions happening...**

the Hindu religion, "there would not have been a single Hindu left in the world".

He noted that some people had earlier objected to this statement but insisted that "everybody should accept this truth".

Paying homage, the senior BJP leader said the Guru faced grave injustice and atrocities and fought against enemies far more powerful than him.

"His sacrifice inspired and gave courage to Hindus to continue their fight," he added.

Shah said Guru Nanak had emphasised chanting God's name, prayer and sharing meals, underlining togetherness, which later provided moral strength in resisting the Mughal invaders.

He also referred to Mughal ruler Aurangzeb, claiming that when atrocities were inflicted in Jammu and Kashmir, Kashmiri Pandits sought protection from the Guru and continue to hold him in high regard.

"Guru Tegh Bahadur had said that if Aurangzeb can convert me, then all the people will get converted. Aurangzeb accepted it as a challenge.

**Khamenei among 48...**

war. Diplomatic efforts are under strain as both sides trade military blows and warnings. With Trump asserting that 48 Iranian leaders were eliminated in a single operation, the situation marks one of the most significant escalations in US-Iran tensions in recent years, leaving the region on edge.

US President Donald Trump says 9 ships in the Iranian navy have been sunk. Trump said on social media Sunday that the ships had been "destroyed" and sunk, "some of them relatively large and important." Trump said the rest of Iran's fleet of military vessels "will soon be floating at the bottom of the sea, also!" The president said that in a separate attack that Iran's naval headquarters was "largely destroyed."

**IA cancelled 350...**

due to the Middle East crisis. According to SpiceJet, 33 flights to and from the UAE have been cancelled.

Air India Express extended the suspension of flights to and from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates until 2359 hours IST on March 2.

IndiGo said the temporary suspension of select international flights that use Middle East airspace, has been extended until 2359 hours IST on March 2.

All airlines provided the updates through posts on X while Air India Express issued a statement.

Meanwhile, the ministry also said it was closely coordinating with airlines, airport operators and other stakeholders to proactively monitor the situation and facilitate necessary passenger support.

Airlines are also offering waivers for rescheduling and cancellation charges. Air India and Air India Express said that for bookings made on or before February 28 with travel originally planned up to March 5, passengers can reschedule flights at no additional charge or request a full refund.

This is for travel to and from the Middle East, which has been impacted due to the ongoing situation. At least 225 flights were cancelled at Delhi and Mumbai airports on Sunday. These include departures and arrivals.

**Maj Gen Ajai ...**

Batote area of Ramban district. The force has been instrumental in eliminating terrorism to a large extent in the Chenab valley districts of Ramban, Kishtwar and Doda.

After assuming charge as the General Officer Commanding of Delta, Maj Gen Dabas paid homage to the bravehearts by laying a wreath at the War Memorial and extended his best wishes to all ranks, Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

Maj Gen Dabas exhorted all personnel to uphold the highest standards of operational excellence, maintain unwavering vigilance and continue fostering peace and stability in the region. Maj Gen Bal had taken over the command of the Delta force in November 2024 and led the troops in a successful operation that led to the killing of three Pakistani terrorists including their commander Saifullah of proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit in Chatroo area of Kishtwar on February 22.

A total of seven Pakistani terrorists were neutralized in the upper reaches of Kishtwar in the past one year during the relentless year-long operation.

**Two drug peddlers arrested with 21 grams heroin**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug trafficking, Jammu Police South Zone, under the supervision of SP South, SDPO South, SHO PS Gandhi Naga, has achieved a significant success by recovering approximately 21 grams of heroin-like narcotic substance and arresting two drug peddlers in the jurisdiction of Police Station Gandhi Nagar.

On 27.02.2026, a police team of Police Station Gandhi Nagar, led by PSI Arun Thakyal under the close supervision of SHO Ghandhi Nagar, Inspector Jaipaul Sharma were performing Patrolling duty in Valmiki colony. During patrolling, two persons were apprehended, who disclosed his identity as Vishal Kumar S/o Daleep Kumar, R/o Gandu Chawni Jammu and Rohit Singh S/O Darshan Lal R/O Nanak Nagar Jammu.

Upon personal search of Vishal Kumar approximately 11 grams of heroin (chitta)-like substance along with Digital weighing machine and cash rupees 7200 was recovered from his possession & 10 grams of heroine like substance along with sharp edged weapon (toka) from accused Rohit Singh.

Accordingly, FIR No. 52/2026 U/S 8/21/22/27-ANDPS Act, 4/25 Arms Act, 111 BNS was registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar. Further investigation in the case is underway to trace out the backward/forward linkages in the case.

**4 vehicles seized; 2 FIRs registered**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SHOPIAN: Continuing its sustained drive against illegal mining, police in Shopian have seized 04 vehicles involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in the Turkwangam area of the district.

During routine patrolling, a police party from Police Post Turkwangam intercepted a tipper and tractor engaged in illegal mining activities without valid royalty documents. In this regard FIR No. 20/2026 under relevant provisions of law has been registered at Police Station Zainapora and further investigation has been initiated. In another similar action in the Heff area, a police team from Police Post Turkwangam intercepted tipper and JCB involved in the unauthorized extraction of minerals. Accordingly, FIR No. 21/2026 under relevant provisions of law has been registered at Police Station Zainapora and investigation is underway. Police reiterates its firm commitment to safeguarding the district's natural resources and ensuring strict legal action against individuals involved in illegal mining activities. The general public is urged to cooperate with the police by reporting any such unlawful practices. The identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential and stringent action will be taken against violators.

**Night-Long crackdown against illegal mining; 7 Dumpers, 5 Tippers, 4 JCBs and 1 LNT seized**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

PULWAMA: Continuing its sustained drive against illegal mining, police in Pulwama launched a major night-long crackdown across various areas of the district and achieved significant success in curbing unlawful extraction and transportation of minerals.

Acting on specific inputs, police teams conducted coordinated raids in Rahmoo, Parigam, Rabitar, Nowpora, Wampora, Dairy Farm Pulwama and Lasipora. During the operation, a total of 17 vehicles and heavy machines including 7 dumpers, 5 tippers, 4 JCBs and 1 LNT machine were seized in two separate actions for their involvement in illegal mining activities.

At Dairy Farm Pulwama, 1 dumper, 4 tippers and 1 LNT machine were seized on the spot. In another operation at Lasipora, police teams apprehended 6 dumpers, 1 tipper and 4 JCB machines engaged in unlawful mining and transportation.

In this regard, cases have been registered at the concerned Police Stations. At Police Station Pulwama, FIR No. 26/2026 under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 3 of the Prevention of Public Damage Act has been registered. Similarly, at Police Station Litter, FIR No. 23/2026 under Section 303(2) of BNS and Section 3 of the Prevention of Public Damage Act has been lodged. Investigation in both cases has been taken up.

Police reiterates its zero-tolerance policy towards illegal mining, which poses a serious threat to the environment and public infrastructure. The general public is urged to cooperate with the police and share credible information regarding such unlawful activities. Pulwama Police remains committed to maintaining law and order and safeguarding the natural resources of the district.

**Bovine smuggling attempts foiled; 22 bovines rescued**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police has successfully foiled two separate bovine smuggling attempts in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal, rescued seven bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers and seized a vehicle involved in

the illegal transportation of bovines.

Acting on information received from reliable sources, a team of Police Station Ghagwal during vehicle checking at Naka NHW Tapyal, intercepted a Mahindra Load carrier bearing registration No. JK21IH-3811 for its checking. During checking, four bovines were found inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the bovines have been rescued and the vehicle involved in the illegal transportation of bovines has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 23/2026 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.

In another incident, a Police party of Police Post Rajpura of PS Ghagwal has successfully foiled bovine smuggling attempt and rescued three bovines which were being smuggled by foot at village Malani near Chan Prothian. All the rescued bovines have been shifted to safer location.

A case FIR No.22/2026 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.

Acting on an information received from reliable sources, a Police team of Police Station Samba intercepted a truck bearing registration No. PB03AP-0728 near Nanak Chak. During checking, fifteen bovines were found inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the bovines have been rescued and the vehicle has also been seized.

The bovine smugglers identified as Razzak Ahmed S/o Altaf Hussain R/o Usdhara Trigam district Kishtwar and Mohd Dilawar S/o Mohd Iqbal R/o Miran Sahib district Jammu have been arrested.

A case FIR No. 53/2025 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started.

**Vehicle laden with Khair wood seized**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Ms. Mohita Sharma IPS seized 01 Mahindra Load Carrier laden with "Khair Wood" logs at Mahanpur area of PS Basohli

On 01/03/2026 police team led by IC PCP Mahanpur SI Bua Ditta under the guidance of SDPO Basohli Sh. Om Parkash & SHO PS Basohli Insp. Rajeshwar Singh during naka checking at Mahanpur area intercepted one Vehicle (Mahindra Pick Up) bearing Reg. No. JK08F-8417 loaded with Khair wood logs. Accordingly the vehicle alongwith the Khair wood logs were seized. As the matter pertains to the Forest Department the vehicle along with Khair wood handed over to the forest department officials for the further course of action.

**120 bottles of illicit liquor seized; bootlegger arrested**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BANI: Acting sternly against the sale and purchase of illicit liquor, J&K Police kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma IPS recovered/seized 120 bottles of JK Excise Whisky 750 ml each (illicit liquor) and 01 person was arrested in the jurisdictional area of PS Bani.

On 28.02.2026 an information was received through a reliable source at PS Bani that few persons were involved in sale and purchase of illicit liquor in the Jurisdictional area of PS Bani. Acting swiftly police team led by SHO PS Bani Insp. Sandeep Chib under the guidance of DySP PC Bani during special checking/patrolling in its jurisdictional area noticed one suspicious person who was doing the trade of selling illicit liquor to the people in order to gain illegitimate profit. During checking the police team was able to apprehend one person namely 1. Lalit Singh S/o Lok Raj R/o Galak Tehsil Ramkot J&K and recovered 120 bottles of JK Special Whisky 750 ml each from his illegal possession. Thereafter all the recovered consignment of illicit liquor i. e 120 bottles of JK Special Whisky were seized and 01 person was arrested on spot. On this instant case vide FIR No. 13/2026 U/S 48(a)/ Excise Act got registered at PS Bani and further investigation into this matter has been geared up.

**Notorious Fraudster arrested**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

DOMANA: Jammu (Rural) Police has achieved a major success by arresting a notorious fraudster, Manjeet Kumar, son of Sh. Rattan Lal @ Shru Baba, resident of Lower Thather, near the Gas Agency area. The arrest was made by a police team of Police Station Domana after sustained efforts, as the accused had been evading arrest for a long time.

The accused is allegedly involved in multiple cheating cases amounting to crores of rupees. He deceived innocent members of the public through various fraudulent activities, including cheating in land deals, falsely promising to arrange visas for foreign travel, and impersonating a fake spiritual baba to gain public trust and extract money.

The accused is involved FIR No. 48/2026 under Sections 318(4), 304, 74, 351(2), 352 BNS and FIR No. 202/2025 under Sections 420, 403, 406 BNS at Police Station Domana. In addition to the above, several other complaints of a similar nature have also been received against the accused at Police Station Domana.

**'India stands in solidarity': PM speaks to UAE president, condemns attacks on Gulf nation**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday night spoke to the President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and strongly condemned the attacks on the Gulf nation, saying India stands in solidarity with the UAE in these difficult times.

Mod also thanked the UAE president for taking care of the Indian community living in the Gulf nation, and said New Delhi supports de-escalation, regional peace, security and stability.

"Spoke with President of the UAE, my brother Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Strongly condemned the attacks on the UAE and condole the loss of lives in these attacks. India stands in solidarity with the UAE in these difficult times.

"Thanked him for taking care of the Indian community living in the UAE. We support de-escalation, regional peace, security and stability," Modi wrote on X.

**Azad expresses concern over escalating tension in Middle East**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Democratic Progressive Azad Party chairman Ghulam Nabi launched retaliatory military strikes targeting several American military bases in the Middle East, including in Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE.

"Recent events in the Middle East are deeply worrying. I am following the conflict with grave concern, particularly for the civilians caught in the crossfire. This is a time for restraint and responsibility," former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Azad said in a post on X. All sides must return to the path of diplomacy and avoid steps that could further inflame tensions, he said.

"Dialogue remains the only credible way forward. I sincerely hope cooler heads prevail to prevent further suffering and to safeguard stability in an already fragile region!" Azad said.



Azad voiced deep concern over the escalation of conflict in the Middle East, stressing the urgent need for restraint and responsible action by all parties involved.

The US and Israel launched a joint attack on Iran early Saturday, which came after days of build-up with US President Donald Trump ramping up the pressure on Tehran to agree to a