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Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



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INBRIEF

J-K Cabinet expansion set for today

SRINAGAR: The two-year-old cabinet of Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is set for a reshuffle on Tuesday, with the possibility that all berths will be filled by introducing new faces, officials said.

Ahead of the reshuffle, all the ministers submitted their resignations to help party president Farooq Abdullah and the chief minister to prepare a fresh team to run the government in the Union Territory.

While the J&K government has kept the new list secret, officials said that the fresh cabinet will be complete with all nine ministers, including the chief minister.

The earlier strength of the Omar Abdullah-led cabinet was six. As per the rules, a cabinet in a UT can be up to 10 per cent of the assembly strength, which is 90 in J&K.

The Congress, which is an ally of the government, has distanced itself from the cabinet and stuck to its stand of not joining the council of ministers until statehood is restored.

Some of the ministers in the cabinet may also lose some departments, the officials said, adding that emphasis has been ► **P11**

BJP holds nationwide protests, demands Kharge's apology on remarks against PM

“ MLA Shagun Parihar leads protest in Jammu

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU/NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday staged a protest at Dogra Chowk here, alleging "indecent and offensive" remarks by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's late

father. In response to a comment at a Patna event on Sunday, Kharge reportedly said, "Modi ka baap bhi jayega (Modi's father will also go)", triggering a sharp reaction from senior BJP leaders, who accused the Congress of resorting to personal attacks against the prime minister and his family.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Kharge had "torn apart all norms of decorum".

Led by BJP MLA and national vice-president of

the party's youth wing, Shagun Parihar, and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha's (BJYM) Jammu and Kashmir president Arun Prabhat, hundreds of party workers and leaders took out a rally through Dogra Chowk in Jammu. The protesters raised slogans and burnt posters of Congress leaders, including Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. They also staged a brief sit-in on the road.

Talking to reporters, Parihar said Kharge's re-

marks were not merely an attack on the prime minister's father but also an affront to elderly people who had passed away.

"If they do not respect the prime minister's father, how will they respect the father of an ordinary citizen?" she asked, strongly condemning the Congress party.

She said Modi has dedicated himself to the nation and worked in the national interest, and hence, such remarks about his late father were highly objectionable.

Parihar also ► **P11**

Blaze ravages market near Jammu Railway Station, 40 shops charred

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU: The once-bustling Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station presented a picture of devastation on Monday morning, with a large portion of the four-decade old market reduced to charred remains.

Burnt shop structures, twisted sheets of metal and heaps of debris lay scattered across the premises, where traders had been conducting business until the previous evening.

The acrid smell of burnt goods lingered in the air as shopkeepers sifted through the wreckage, trying to assess the extent of the damage and salvage whatever little remained.

For many traders, the sight was difficult to comprehend.

Around 40 shops dealing in dry fruits, blankets, shawls, clothes and readymade garments had been gutted, leaving behind little more than ashes and damaged structures.

The fire, which broke ► **P11**

Search Operation launched after suspicious movement

JAMMU: Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in a forest area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Monday following reports by villagers about the presence of suspected persons, officials said.

A joint team of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Special Operations Group (SOG), Army and CRPF launched a search operation in the Karnadi area to verify the reports and strengthen security in the area, they said.

The operation was going on when the last reports came from the area, they said.

Meanwhile, Samba Police in coordination with security forces conducted a joint foot patrol and area domination exercise along the border road as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen security and maintain heightened vigilance in the ► **P11**

India's efforts to achieve Atmanirbharta in defence entering 2nd phase: Rajnath

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said India's efforts to achieve 'atmanirbharta' in defence are entering the "second phase", asserting that innovators will play the role of "impact players" in the endeavour.

In his address at the plenary session of the Indian Navy's annual seminar Swavlamban 2026 here, he also suggested building a roadmap of specified areas in which self-reliance is needed, and the timelines for achieving those goals.

The Navy is hosting the fifth edition of its flagship seminar at the Manekshaw Centre here on October 26 and 27.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen N S Raja Subramani, Army Chief Gen Dhiraj Seth and Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan were also present on the dais.

The defence minister said the sector, in its bid to achieve self-reliance, has

"earned good marks" in its phase one, and now it is entering its second phase.

He said in this next phase of 'atmanirbharta' in defence, focus should be on delivering outcomes which are of "top end" and of the "state-of-the-art" level.

Efforts in the second phase should also aim to achieve cost-effectiveness, global competitiveness, high quality, and output which meet the operational requirements in a larger way.

Singh also asserted that innovators will play the role of "impact players" in this phase.

Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry today approved the procurement of military platforms and weapons, including light multi-role helicopters and long-range Kamikaze drone systems, at a cost of Rs 2.12 lakh crore.

The procurement proposals were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by ► **P11**

Apologise or go to Pakistan: Protests erupt over Farooq Abdullah's remark

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU: NC supremo Farooq Abdullah's remark regarding Pakistan has sparked protests against him here on Monday, with a BJP MP asking him to either apologise to the people of India or consider living in the neighbouring country.

The protests followed Ab-

dullah's remarks in Bara-mulla, in which he said Pakistan is protecting Kashmiris, triggering strong reactions and even demands for his arrest from BJP leaders and several organisations.

"If you don't keep it, you will be erased. Even our trace and identity will disappear. Nothing will be left. They are silent today because there is

noise in the world, and our neighbour is constantly behind this. Everywhere they say, 'the decision regarding Kashmir has not been made'. That is what is saving us. Otherwise, their intentions are not good," Abdullah has said.

Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), ► **P11**

Navy Chief stresses for adoption of new techs

NEW DELHI: Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Monday pitched for accelerating the pace of translating innovation into operational capabilities for the naval force, and urged all stakeholders to endeavour to stay ahead of the technology curve.

Addressing the plenary session of Indian Navy's flagship annual seminar 'Swavlamban 2026' here, he said advances in Artificial Intelligence and autonomous systems should be leveraged to bolster naval ► **P11**

Swachhata should be a way of life, not a 'one-time drive': Dr Jitendra

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, on Monday reviewed the activities undertaken under Special Campaign 6 for Swachhata during his visit to the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) at Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi. He emphasised that cleanliness must become an integral part of everyday work culture and reiterated the Government's commitment to citizen-centric pension administration and improving the ease of living for pensioners.

Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the newly established Li-

brary-cum-Reading Hall at DoPPW to promote reading, knowledge-sharing and continuous learning among officers and staff. He also inaugurated a Swachhata-themed Selfie Point

to encourage employees and visitors to participate actively in the cleanliness campaign.

Addressing officers and staff, the Minister stressed that Swachhata is not a ► **P11**

Hosabale: Those benefitted from society must give back to others

JAIPUR: RSS general secretary Datatreya Hosabale on Monday urged people to come forward to help the needy and said those who have benefitted from society's support should also contribute to the welfare of others.

Addressing the annual function of Seva Bharati Samiti, Jaipur, Hosabale said the organisation's objective was not merely to provide assistance but to empower people so that they could eventually help others.

"Serving humanity is serving God," he said, adding that society had the resources and willingness to help those in need, but greater efforts were required to encourage people to participate in social service.

Hosabale said economically and socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods should be referred to as "Seva

Bastis" (service settlements) rather than slums.

He said residents of such areas needed support in education, healthcare, livelihood opportunities, safety and self-respect.

"Service is not limited to financial assistance or providing ► **P11**

EC tells SC: SIR roll-out orders agreed unanimously

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Monday told the Supreme Court that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was undertaken in accordance with the law with the three orders on its roll-out approved unanimously by the Commission's three members, and rejected the contention that Form 6 had been amended.

The Election Commission stated this in its response to pleas alleging that the Election ► **P11**