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campus should also be organized in the hospitals in collaboration with all stakeholders to inform and encourage people, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the youth to imbibe the ideals and teachings of Lord Mahavir and dedicate themselves to the service of humanity.

Lord Mahavir's eternal message of Samyak Darshan - Right Faith, Samyak Gyan - Right Knowledge and Samyak Charitra - Right Conduct, will continue to guide us on the path of non-violence, truth and compassion, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Bharatiya Jain Sangathan (BJS) on the beginning of its community connect program 'BJS Moksh Path' aimed at promoting organ donation amongst community leaders and debunking the myths around organ donation.

Bharatiya Jain Sangathan also initiated 'BJS Khilona Bank' to provide educational toys to children belonging to underprivileged sections of the society. Youth were also conferred with the BJS Pratibha Samman on the occasion.

Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Sandeep Jain, President, Bharatiya Jain Sangathan, J&K; Monika Jain, General Secretary, Bharatiya Jain Sangathan, J&K; senior officials of civil and police administration; members of Bharatiya Jain Sangathan, SS Jain Sabha and various social organizations were present.

Mother-son pair...

Gull and Rayees of Anantnag - were arrested after over 30 grams of heroin was recovered from their car during a check at a warehouse in Jammu.

In Kathua, the spokesperson said, another drug peddler, Vinod Singh, was nabbed while selling charas to a youth in the Bani area.

Around 85 grams of contraband was seized from his possession.

All five were separately booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, he said.

Train to Kashmir...

stretch in February, last year.

The work on the 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section was also completed in June last year, leaving a total of 17 km stretch between Reasi and Katra. And this section was finally completed in December 2024 as announced by the Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

On January 4, a successful trial run of an electric train was successfully conducted on the Katra-Banihal section. The railways has conducted six trials over the past month on various segments of the track, including the two major milestones of the Anji Khad and Chenab bridges.

With ‘zero casualty’...

the National Disaster Response Force's (NDRF) 10th Battalion campus near Vijayawada, along with inaugurating and laying foundation stones for various projects worth approximately Rs 220 crore.

"Today I can say with confidence, NDRF's implementation of NDMA policies on the ground has played a pivotal role in positioning India as a global leader in disaster management. India has taken a lead in the entire world in disaster-resilient infrastructure by setting up CDRI," he said.

He said the Modi-led government has worked towards bringing in big changes in approach, methodology and objective in the field of disaster management.

Shah said that earlier the approach to disaster was relief-centric, but now the approach is 'rescue-centric' to save people from disaster. This 360 degree change in approach of disaster management has come into implementation after the Modi government came to power in 2014, he said.

The working style has changed from reactive to proactive methodology, he said. Now the 'zero casualty' goal is being adopted during disasters, he said, adding that to achieve this goal NDRF, NDMA, and NIDM have worked in coordination.

In such a short span of time, NDRF has established itself as a credible organisation not only within India but also globally, he said.

Shah said in the last six years being the Home Minister, he made field visits during many disasters and after noticing NDRF personnel, people express confidence that they are now safe.

He recalled earlier in a cyclone strike in Odisha, 10,000 people lost their lives and now in the last two years, two cyclones struck, but we achieved the goal of zero casualty.

Shah noted that the NDRF's efforts in countries such as Nepal, Indonesia, Turkey, Myanmar, Vietnam, and others have been widely recognised and appreciated by their respective heads of state.

The Narendra Modi government allocated Rs 61,000 crore in 14th Finance Commission towards disaster management as against Rs 12,500 crore in 12th Finance Commission, he said.

He said that under PM Modi's leadership, India established the CDRI (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure), and today, 48 countries are working under the leadership of CDRI as its members.

Shah further emphasised the support of the Modi-led government for Andhra Pradesh, announcing that the Centre has approved projects totalling over Rs 3 lakh crore for the state in just six months.

He also said that PM Modi has ensured Rs 27,000 crore for Amaravati capital city development through HUDCO and World Bank.

Taking a jibe at the previous YSRCP government, Shah asked the people of Andhra Pradesh not to dwell on the "wasted" five years, saying Chief Minister Naidu and PM Modi would work together with renewed focus and accelerated efforts to develop the state.

"I want to assure that the Narendra Modi government at the Centre is standing like a rock (supporting) with Chandrababu Naidu for AP's development," he said.

He asserted that after the massive wins in the 2024 Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana, the NDA is poised to form the government in Delhi as well in early 2025.

While the NDRF responds during natural disasters, the NDA steps in to serve the people during "man-made" crises.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu appealed to the Union Minister to ensure continued support from the Centre until the state fully recovered.

He also thanked Shah for the Centre's revival package for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and funds for Polavaram Irrigation project and Amaravati Capital project.

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Union Ministers K Ram Mohan Naidu and Bandi Sanjay Kumar were among the dignitaries who were present.

Shah also virtually laid the foundation stone for a new 'Integrated Indoor Shooting Range' at the National Police Academy (NPA) in Hyderabad, where IPS probationary officers will be trained in firing skills.

Efforts on to...

institutions in the country have been roped in to understand the causes of the deaths. The patients complained of fever, pain, nausea and loss of consciousness before dying within days of their admission to hospitals.

Earlier, a Jammu and Kashmir government spokesperson said investigations and samples empirically indicated that the incidents were not due to a communicable disease of bacterial or viral origin and that there is no public health angle.

Amid an ongoing probe into the mysterious deaths of 17 members of three families in a remote Jammu and Kashmir village, authorities have sealed a spring in the affected area after its water tested positive for "some pesticides or insecticides".

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Kotranka subdivision) Dil Mir ordered the spring to be sealed and round-the-clock deployment of two to three security personnel at the water source in the Badhaal village of Rajouri district.

"Whereas, the samples of water taken from the spring ('bawli') of village Badhaal have been tested positive for some pesticides or insecticides. The said 'bawli' has been blocked by PHE (public health engineering department), Jal Shakti division, Rajouri, and sealed by the magistrate concerned," Mir has said in a order.

"There is an apprehension that the tribal population of the village may collect the flowing water of this spring stealthily. Therefore, tehsildar, Khawas, shall ensure that no villager must use the water from this spring in any case," he further said.

Mir directed the Kandi SHO to depute two to three security personnel round-the-clock at the 'bawli' to prevent the use of its water.

"The matter is most urgent in the interest of public health and safety," he said.

Congratulate EC for...

which has modernised and strengthened our voting process from time to time. The Commission has used the power of technology to give more strength to the power of the people. I congratulate the EC for its commitment to fair elections," he said.

"I would like to urge the people of the country to use their right to vote, always, in maximum numbers and also become a part of the country's democratic process and strengthen this process," he said in his first Mann Ki Baat of 2025 which was held on the third Sunday this month as against the last, which is usually the case, as next Sunday is Republic Day.

His remarks come amid Opposition parties' criticism and questioning of the

integrity of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Modi's remarks can be seen as an endorsement of the EVMs.

Pointing out that this year's Republic Day is very special as it is the 75th anniversary of the Indian Republic, Modi said, "I salute all those great personalities of the Constituent Assembly, who gave us our sacred Constitution. During the Constituent Assembly, long deliberations were held on many subjects. Those discussions, the thoughts of the members of the Constituent Assembly, their words, are our great heritage."

The prime minister played short audio clips of three members of constituent assembly -- chairman Rajendra Prasad, B R Ambedkar and Syama Prasad Mookerjee -- to highlight the values they promoted.

Ambedkar called for everyone to work together in everyone's interest, while Prasad highlighted India's commitment to humanistic values, he noted.

"We, the citizens of the country, taking inspiration from these thoughts, have to work towards building such an India that even the makers of our Constitution would be proud of," the prime minister said.

Speaking of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, he said people of various castes and regions have come together. There is no discrimination of any kind, he added.

Modi said extensive participation of the youth is visible in the gigantic get-together of devouts, saying it will strengthen civilisational roots and assure a gold future.

The event's global popularity is a matter of pride for every Indian, he added.

He also pointed out that this month the first anniversary of the 'Pran Pratishtha Parv' of Ram Lalla was celebrated on the day of 'Paush Shukla Dwadashi'.

"This year 'Paush Shukla Dwadashi' fell on the 11th of January. On this day, lakhs of Ram devotees had a darshan of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya and received his blessings. This Dwadashii of Pran Pratishtha is the Dwadashi of the re-establishment of the cultural consciousness of India," he said.

Therefore, this day of Paush Shukla Dwadashi has also become the day of 'Pratishtha Dwadashi' in a way, Modi said.

"While walking on the path of development, we have to preserve our heritage and move forward taking inspiration from that," he added.

Modi further said that in the beginning of 2025 itself, India has attained many historic achievements in the field of space.

"Today, I am proud to convey that an Indian space-tech start-up, Bengaluru based Pixxel has successfully launched India's first private satellite constellation - 'Firefly'. This satellite constellation is the world's topmost high-resolution hyperspectral satellite constellation," he said.

This achievement has not only made India a leader in modern space technology, but is also a big step towards a self-reliant India i.e. Aatmanirbhar Bharat, he said.

"This success is a symbol of the growing strength and innovation of our private space sector. On behalf of the entire country, I congratulate the team of Pixxel, ISRO and IN-SPACe for this achievement," Modi said.

During the broadcast, he also highlighted that a few days ago, Indian scientists have undertaken space docking of satellites.

"This technology is important for sending supplies to space stations and crew missions in space. India has become the fourth country to have achieved this success," he said.

"Our scientists are also making efforts to grow plants in space and make them survive. For this, ISRO scientists chose seeds of cowpea. These seeds, sent on the 30th of December, germinated in space itself. This is a very inspiring experiment which will pave the way for growing vegetables in space in future," Modi said.

Modi also highlighted how IIT Madras's ExTeM Centre is working on new technologies for manufacturing in space.

This Centre is conducting research on technologies like 3D-printed buildings, metal foams and optical fibres in space, he informed.

This Centre is also developing revolutionary methods like concrete construction without water, Modi said.

"This research of ExTeM will strengthen India's Gaganyaan mission and the future space station. This will also open new avenues of modern technology in manufacturing," he said.

Ahead of Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary on January 23, Modi hailed his valour:

KPs observe 35th...

Samaj (YAIKS) and Kashmir Pandit Sabha (KPS) held separate events during the day to pay tributes to the victims and to reaffirm commitment to the cause of the Kashmiri Pandits.

At a joint event organized by Panun Kashmir and Youth 4 Panun Kashmir, a photo exhibition, displayed at Jagti pandit settlement along Jammu-Srinagar national highway highlighted the pain of exile and sufferings of the community.

They also showcased life in tents after their migration from Kashmir:

"This is a crucial moment of remembrance, resilience, and a call for justice. We want the government to carve out a homeland for the community in the valley," a spokesperson of Panun Kashmir said.

He said the organization has taken a renewed pledge to rededicate itself to the cause of a "separate homeland" in the valley.

Sushma Pandita, a woman who was present in one of the tents, said the community has suffered a lot over the past three decades and wants the government to come forward and announce a special package for the community's proper rehabilitation. "The government should pay attention towards the displaced community and announce a job package for our unemployed youth," she said, adding that they have moved from the tents to one or two-room settlements but "now it is time for us to get a permanent house".

PoK crown jewel...

he said. He also claimed that India had emerged as the world's largest digital economy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

India, which now has the highest number of 5G users, is on track to becoming a developed nation by 2047, Singh asserted.

"Today, when India speaks, the world listens attentively. Our scientists are manufacturing defence equipment on Indian soil and exporting those to other nations. Moreover, 1.30 lakh start-ups are operational in the country," the defence minister said. Singh urged youngsters to delve deep into India's history and said it reflected the country's accomplishments across domains.

Cylinder blast triggers...

have managed to douse the fire, the statement issued by the government here said.

The Maha Kumbh 2025 official X handle posted, "Very sad! The fire incident at #MahaKumbh has shocked everyone. The administration is ensuring immediate relief and rescue operations. We pray Maa Ganga for everyone's safety."

It also shared a clip that showed a thick black column of smoke billowing out from the affected area.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to enquire about a fire incident.

Officials said Modi spoke to Adityanath over the phone following the incident.

In a post on X, the Samajwadi Party expressed its grief over the incident and asked the government to run relief and rescue operation in fast pace.

The 45-day Maha Kumbh 2025 started on Paush Purnima on January 13. More than 7.72 crore people have taken the holy dip, according to official figures available till Saturday.

Officials said that more than 46.95 lakh devotees took a dip at the Sangam on Sunday.

TikTok shuts down as US ban takes effect

■ **AGENCY**

HOUSTON: TikTok's app effectively shut down in the US, just hours before a law banning the popular video-sharing platform was set to go into effect.

The app was shut down on Saturday.

"A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the US Unfortunately, that means you can't use TikTok for now," a message reads when American users open the app.

"We are fortunate that President Trump has indicated that he will work with us on a solution to reinstate TikTok once he takes office. Please stay tuned!"

While the Biden administration dismissed TikTok's shutdown threat as a "stunt" and handed enforcement to the Trump administration, TikTok maintained that without clear assurances, it had no choice but to suspend its services in the US.

An internal email to employees stated that President Trump has expressed his intention to work on a solution to restore TikTok once he assumes office on January 20th. TikTok assured teams are working to resume services as soon as possible.

On Saturday evening, a warning appeared in both TikTok and CapCut apps at 9 PM Eastern time:

"We regret that a US law banning TikTok will take effect on January 19th, forcing us to temporarily suspend our services. We're working to restore our service in the US as soon as possible. Thank you for your support. Stay tuned."

By 10:30 PM ET, users were blocked from accessing both apps, with TikTok displaying a message that the app "isn't available right now," but expects resolution under President-elect Trump. It comes after days of speculation and confusion over the platform's future. The Supreme Court on Friday unanimously upheld the divest-or-ban law, which gave TikTok's China-based parent company ByteDance until Sunday to divest from the app.

Drug peddler nabbed with heroin

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: In continuous drive against Drug Abuse launched by District Police Reasi, surprise naka & checking is being conducted to check the offenders & criminals.

Police team of Police Station Reasi laid a surprise naka, while conducting surprise checking, apprehended one person namely Vikram Singh alias Sahil S/O Sunder Singh R/O Trinthia, Tehsil & District Reasi.

During checking, the Police team recovered heroin like substance (0.82 grams) from his possession.

On this FIR No. 09/2025 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Reasi and investigation is ongoing to unearth backward and forward linkage.

Doda Police organises awareness programme on three new criminal laws

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DODA: Doda Police organized an awareness programme on the newly amended criminal laws in different schools, Community centres and Town Hall in Doda.

The public of the area was made aware about the procedures and benefits of New Criminal Laws BNS, BNSS and BSA.

SSP Doda said that the event aimed to educate the general public about the three updated criminal laws: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.

The programme was conducted in Gandoh, Bhaderwah, Thathri and Doda to spread awareness through out the district.

During the session, concerned supervisory officer, subdivisional Police officers and SHO's elucidated and deliberated upon the of the new laws, providing clarity on their implementations in their area of responsibility.

They said that they will also keep making general public, students and those who are more prone to fall into cyber-related crimes or frauds on how to protect themselves and their families. The officers pledged that they would reach every village, panchayat and educational institutions for organizing such programmes.

The practice will continue throughout the years and also when schools and colleges open in this hilly district.



Father detained in Panchari for mercilessly beating his children

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: Police have arrested a man for mercilessly beating his two minor children, aged five and three years, in the Panchari area of District Udhampur.

The incident came to light after a disturbing video went viral on social media, showing Sudesh Kumar S/O Late Sh. Parkash Chand R/O Naagni Chulna brutally assaulting his children.

Upon becoming aware of the viral video, a team of Police Station Panchari was promptly deployed to investigate the matter.

The accused Sudesh Kumar, was detained for questioning, and the children were immediately rescued from his custody.

In connection with the incident, the accused has been arrested preventively. The children have been handed over to their relatives for their safety and care.

Missing girl traced out, re-united with family

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A missing report of a Girl resident of Katala Tilogra Tehsil Chilly Pingal District Doda was entered in PS Gandoh on Dec 19, 2024 and now she has been traced and re-united with her family.

Reports said that one Girl had gone missing and her missing report was entered at PS Gandoh on Dec 19-12-2024.

Soon after getting the information regarding her missing, on the directions of SSP Doda a team was constituted under the supervision of SDPO Gandoh and SHO PS Gandoh in search of missing girl.

The Police team by using all possible means as well as technical help, succeeded in tracing her out today on 18-01-2025.

Accordingly, after completing all codal formalities, the girl has been handed over to her family and missing report has been closed.

Army provides training to VDGs in Poonch

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

MENDHLAR/JAMMU: The Indian Army on Sunday provided comprehensive training to Village Defence Guards (VDGs) in a forward area of the Mendhlar sector in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, security officials said.

A total of 43 VDG members attended the training session, which aimed to enhance their skills in minor tactics, endurance and firing, the officials added.

The training was conducted by the Rashtriya Rifles battalion under the aegis of the counter-insurgency force, Romeo, at Balnoi, located near the Line of Control (LoC).

The session covered detailed instructions on weapon maintenance for the newly issued Self-Loading Rifles (SLR), insights into the modus operandi of terrorist groups and grievance redressal.

Participants also received practical guidance in cleaning and performing minor repairs on their personal weapons.

The event also facilitated an open forum for informal dialogue, encouraging discussions on the current security situation, the officials said.

Mortar shell found near IB in Samba

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA/JAMMU: A rusted 82-mm mortar shell was recovered on Sunday by the Border Security Force (BSF) near the International Border in Samba district, officials said. The mortar shell was noticed by a BSF patrolling party near Border Outpost Kamour area in Ramgarh sub-sector around 9.45 am, the officials said.

The area was immediately cordoned off and the explosive device is being safely defused.

Four storey shop gutted

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SUNDERBANI: Four storey building of JJ Ornaments Jewellery shop completely gutted in fire on Sunday. Meanwhile Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chowdary and MLA Kalakote Sunderbani Randhir Singh also reached on the spot.

According to reports, fire broke out in JJ ornaments shop at hospital road Sunderbani. The owner of shop S. Jujhar Singh in the shop and making ornaments at time the of incident. The fire was so devastating that Jujhar Singh and his workers barely managed to save their lives. People contact to fire emergency service the vehicles of fire emergency services rushed on the spot and doused the fire.

Kashmir likely to witness week-long wet spell till Jan 24

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Minimum temperatures rose marginally across Kashmir, bringing residents some respite from the intense cold. The respite, however, is likely to be short-lived as several parts of the valley are expected to receive rain and snow till January 24, officials said on Sunday.

Minimum temperatures across Kashmir were higher than usual on Saturday night. The mercury settled at a low of minus 1 degree Celsius in Srinagar, down from last night's minus 0.9 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius, a marginal increase from minus 3.4 degrees Celsius the night before. The tourist resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir, known for skiing, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.4 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature was minus 2.8 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, minus 2 degrees Celsius at Konibal in Pampore town, minus 2.6 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and minus 3.4 degrees Celsius in Kokernag.

