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**Adopting 'Swadeshi', 'Swabhasha'...**

mantra is 'Swadeshi'," said Shah, calling upon businesses to venture into manufacturing at least one product which is not being made in the country yet, along with what they have already been producing, in order to make 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Recognising the role of the community, the minister said that right from the era of the freedom struggle to post-independence phase of an evolving India, the Maheshwari community has played a crucial role.

"Whether it be the struggle against the Mughals, the freedom movement, or efforts to make the country self-reliant, the Maheshwari community has contributed to every task of nation-building. They have a very big role in the cultural renaissance of the country," said Shah.

Terming such conventions of communities a binding force for the country, Shah said that they "strengthen the nation, not divide them".

"Our communities never divided the country. This does not symbolise narrowness, but unity and power. Unity is important not only for the community but for the nation as well," he said.

"If every community takes care of its poor, the entire country's poor will be taken care of. If every community becomes independent, the entire nation becomes independent," he said.

Shah said that the Maheshwari community, which has contributed to numerous nation-building efforts, is providing momentum to the work for making a 'developed India' through investments, innovation, and startups.

A dialogue was held with entrepreneurs and youths at the 'Maheshwari Global Convention and Expo, 2026, organised by the community in Jodhpur. This expo is proving to be significant in providing global exposure to Indian businesses, bringing various industries onto one platform, and exploring opportunities for exports, Shah said. On the occasion, the minister also released a stamp recognising the contribution of the Maheshwari community in the development of the country.

**J&K BOSE notifies...**

between Computer Science paper will be held on February 19 and Home Science on February 27. The examination for Science subject has been scheduled on March 6.

The examination will conclude on March 10 on which vocational subjects are scheduled. In between, subjects with smaller number of candidates like Music on March 5, Painting/Art and Drawing on March 7 whereas additional/ optional subjects including Dogri/ Sanskrit/ Arabic/ Kashmiri/ Bhoti/ Punjabi/ Hindi/ Urdu/ Persian have been scheduled on March 9.

The J&K BOSE has urged students to prepare seriously for the examinations while renewing its commitment to conduct the examinations in observance of high standards of transparency.

**Army Commander reviews...**

operating in Kashmir Valley. "These units are the backbone for the active formations in responding to emergency situations and provide logistics support to the troops deployed in inaccessible places," the Army said. It said the Army commander also awarded the Northern Command Annual Flight Safety Trophy to two front-line aviation squadrons, recognising their professionalism and dedication.

**ACB arrests Patwari...**

allegedly demanded an illegal gratification of Rs 10,000, later increasing the demand to Rs 30,000, for preparing and issuing the required revenue documents.

Unwilling to pay the bribe and expressing his resolve to stand against corruption, the complainant approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Srinagar, seeking legal action against the accused official.

Following receipt of the complaint, the ACB conducted a discreet verification, which confirmed the demand of bribe by the accused public servant. Consequently, Case FIR No. 02/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar, and investigation was set into motion.

During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted. The team laid a well-planned trap and successfully caught the accused, Riyaz Ahmad Khan, Patwari Halqa Rakh Soothu, Budgam, red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 10,000 from the complainant.

After completing all necessary medico-legal and procedural formalities, the accused public servant was taken into custody.

The ACB has reiterated its commitment to act firmly against corruption and has appealed to the public to come forward and report instances of bribery and misuse of official position. Further investigation in the case is underway.

**Arms consignment dropped...**

a search operation in the Paloora village of Ghagwal late Friday night following information about suspected movement of a drone from across the border.

The search parties found a packet, wrapped in yellow tape, from the banks of a stream and opened it with the help of a bomb disposal squad, leading to the recovery of the weapons, the officials said, adding the operation was still continuing when the ast reports were received.

Meanwhile, a suspicious pigeon was caught from a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnour sector near here, officials said.

The pale grey pigeon with two black bars on each wing is carrying red and yellow rings in legs inscribed with 'Rehmat Sarkar' and 'Rizwan 2025' followed by certain numbers was caught by a 13-year-old boy, Aryan, at Kharah village this morning, the officials said. The wings of the pigeons were also found stamped, the officials said, adding the bird was handed over to Pallanwala police for further investigation.

**Three SIM-less...**

They said Kumar was on remand to the Gandhi Nagar police station in connection with the case. During questioning, he revealed the presence of the mobile phones and accordingly, a joint operation by police, jail staff and CISF personnel was conducted, leading to the recovery, the officials said. One of the phones was found damaged, the officials said, adding that further investigation is underway.

**We have to...**

the 81-year-old former Intelligence Bureau director told the gathering of 3,000 young delegates from across the country.

"People like Bhagat Singh were hanged, Subhash Chandra Bose struggled all his life and Mahatma Gandhi had to do satyagraha for us to gain independence," he said.

"Revenge is not a good word, but it can be a huge force. We have to avenge our history and take this country to the point where it is great again not just in terms of border security, but economy, social development, every aspect," he said.

Calling those present at the event leaders of the future, Doval stressed the need for strong leadership, which he said has been demonstrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Napoleon once said, 'I am not afraid of 1,000 lions led by a sheep, but I am afraid of 1,000 sheep led by a lion'. That is how important leadership is," the NSA said.

"We were a progressive society. We did not attack other civilisations or their temples, but since we were not self-aware when it came to security, history taught us a lesson. Did we learn that lesson?" he asked.

"It is important that we remember that lesson because if the youth forget it, then it would be tragic for the country," he said.

Doval said every conflict in the world is born out of security concerns.

"Why do conflicts happen? It is not that people are psychopaths and enjoy seeing dead bodies. It is because you want to subjugate the enemy nation to protect yourself and make it agree to your terms. You see any conflict in the world right now, it is about imposing one's terms on the other country for security," he said.

"So, we also have to protect ourselves. It is a powerful sentiment; we should be inspired by it," he added.

Doval began his speech by saying that he was taken aback by the invitation from Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to address a gathering of youngsters.

"Most of you are at least 60 years younger than me... and I was wondering what could I possibly discuss with you. My youth is long over, I do not even know what your youth is all about," he quipped.

But he did have some advice for the youngsters based on "lived experiences" -- be decisive and have the conviction to stick to those decisions.

"And please remember, dreams do not make a life, they merely give direction to it and also, they are not fulfilled in a day," he said.

"For dreams to become real, you have to prove your decisions to be correct. Also, motivation is temporary, but discipline is enduring. So, do not quit, tenacity is very important. Do not lose faith in yourself," he added.

The NSA said the youth should focus on innovation in technology and science.

"No message is more powerful than performance. Innovate and achieve silently. Propaganda cannot deliver the message, only what you do gets it across. Remember that all courageous people are patient, all cowards are impatient and noisy," Doval said.

**Security tightened amid...**

the past fortnight, officials said on Saturday.

The visible deployment of security personnel at popular high-altitude meadows, including Chattergalla (11,000 ft), Panj Nallah (10,200 ft) and Guldanda (9,555 ft) along the Bhaderwah-Pathankot highway, is aimed at boosting visitors' confidence and maintaining strict vigilance to ensure their safety, the officials said.

Despite harsh weather conditions, the strong presence of Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) and paramilitary forces, coupled with local hospitality, has helped allay initial apprehensions, enabling tourists to enjoy the natural scenery and activities such as playing with snow.

"Bhaderwah is one of the most beautiful destinations and attracts a large number of tourists, but heavy snowfall in the high-altitude mountains surrounding the valley poses significant security challenges, as visitors tend to venture into snow-covered meadows and passes, particularly along the Bhaderwah-Pathankot Highway and the Bhaderwah-Chamba inter-state road," Superintendent of Police Vinod Sharma told PTI.

Despite recent snowfall and very harsh weather conditions with night temperatures dropping to several degrees below the freezing point, the forces are providing security cover in high-altitude tourist destinations for the tourists so that they can feel completely secure.

Visitors are also appreciating the round-the-clock security arrangements and hospitality extended by local vendors.

"We were initially a bit skeptical about safety before coming here, but after reaching Guldanda and visiting Chattergalla Pass, all our fears fizzled out. The police presence along these snow-covered passes is excellent, allowing us to enjoy ourselves to the hilt. The warm hospitality of the locals has made our visit truly memorable, and we would surely love to visit Bhaderwah again," Vishal Sharma, a tourist from Maharashtra, said.

Another tourist, Satish Singh Jhadav from Gujarat, said they received full support from the policemen, noting that adequate check posts were in place and that the friendly attitude of the local made the trip more enjoyable.

Local stakeholders and tourism strategists have attributed the recent boom in the industry to timely snowfall, coupled with the robust security grid provided by the police and other security forces.

"Earlier, we used to see only the Army deployed at high altitudes during this time of the year when snowfall occurs and temperatures drop well below zero. However, this time, despite limited resources, Jammu and Kashmir Police is doing a commendable job by providing round-the-clock security," Rashid Choudhary, a local, said.

According to president of the vendors association Guldanda, Yasir Wani, more than 19000 tourists have visited the destination in the last 15 days after the first snowfall.

Meanwhile, the residents of Bhaderwah in general and tourism stakeholders in particular have welcomed the Centre's decision to construct a multi-crore cable car project from the Mathola village to 12,500-foot-high Seoj Dhar in the foothills of mighty Kailash Kund glacier.

Seoj Dhar is one of the largest and most beautiful meadows, spread over 30 km, which starts from Bhaderwah in the Doda district to Basantgarh area of the Udhampur district. The meadow remains covered with snow for seven months from November to May, making it the ideal destination for adventure and winter sports.

**Kashmir shivers as...**

the previous night's minus 6.0 degrees Celsius, which was the coldest in the city so far this season, they said. The minimum temperature in the city was 3.8 degrees below the seasonal average.

The bone-chilling cold conditions led to the freezing of the parts of several water bodies, including the interiors of the Dal Lake here.

In south Kashmir, Shopian town was the coldest across the valley, as the mercury settled at minus 8.2 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam tourist resort, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra, registered a low of minus 7.8 degrees Celsius.

The night temperature in the popular ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district settled at a low of minus 6.8 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 7.2 degrees Celsius, they said.

The tourist resort of Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district recorded a minimum temperature of 6.3 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town of the valley, registered a low of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius, the season's coldest, officials said. Kokernag recorded a low of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius, and Kupwara minus 6.1 degrees Celsius, they added.

Kashmir is currently in the midst of 'Chilla-i-Kalan', 40 days of extreme cold, during which night temperatures often drop several degrees below the freezing point, and the chances of snowfall are the highest.

**10 Finance Deptt...**

Audit & Pensions, J&K has been posted as Financial Advisor/CAO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra; Deepshikha Sharma, Financial Advisor/CAO, under orders of transfer as Chief Pay & AO, J&K Power Development Corporation has been posted as Joint Director, Divisional Fund Office, Jammu; Ashok Kumar, Financial Advisor/CAO, District Fund Office, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Financial Advisor/CAO, SC,ST & OB Corporation, J&K; Poonam Makhnotra, Joint Director, Divisional Fund Office, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Chief Pay & AO, J&K Power Development Corporation, Jammu; Shabana Azmin, Chief Accounts Officer, under orders of transfer as Sr. Instructor, Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute, Jammu shall continue as Deputy Director (Central) Local Fund, Audit & Pensions, till further orders.

Abdul Jalil Khan, awaiting orders of adjustment in the Directorate General of Accounts & Treasuries has been posted as Chief Accounts Officer, District Fund Office, Doda; Vikas Atri, Chief Accounts Officer, under orders of transfer to the office of Financial Commissioner, Revenue has been posted as Chief Accounts Officer, District Fund Office, Jammu; Priya Badyal, Chief Accounts Officer, under orders of transfer to the Directorate of Family Welfare shall continue as Chief Accounts Officer, in the office of Financial Commissioner, Revenue till further orders; Vaneet Singh, Chief Accounts Officer, J&K Health Society (NHM) shall hold the charge of the post of Chief Accounts Officer, Directorate of Family Welfare in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

**CB registers FIR...**

son in the J&K High Court and obtained his documents, with the intention to defraud him. Verification later revealed that the appointment order was forged," Parihar said.

In this manner, the accused allegedly cheated both the complainants of a total amount of Rs. 4,00,000, causing wrongful loss to them and wrongful gain to himself. On receipt of the complaints, a preliminary verification was conducted by Inspector Deepak Bharti, which substantiated the allegations. Accordingly, a formal case has been registered at Police Station Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Jammu under relevant sections Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Parihar said adding that investigation into the matter has been entrusted to Dy SP Javaid Iqbal Tabassum and further proceedings are underway.

**Tera Kya Hoga...**

had also raised the same concerns when he was in INC in 2010 for which the then High Command had been too displeased with him; but he held his grounds. To me, he is at the moment the beacon light to strive for a separate Jammu State- although we all realise this is a Herculean Task.

Let us think with a cool and calm mind. Dividing the present UT into two as Jammu State and Kashmir State will be ultimately beneficial for all. Everyone knows that the leadership of Kashmir does not get full support from their counterparts, and the vice-versa. And under given political arrangement, it is also not possible that a person from Jammu (please read Hindu) can ever become the Chief Minister of the State! The division of the State into two will satisfy all. Kashmir has a great potential of tourism, handicrafts and local products. With a full-fledged State, it will surely prosper giving an envious touch to the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir that is yearning to join with India; besidescountering the general perception created among them by vested interest that Jammu people are their parasites, once and for all. As is being claimed by our many Central Senior leaders, POK will itself become part of India without any war. Again, in that situation, One separate Kashmir State will suit the purpose of everyone.

On similar terms, Jammu will also prosperwith its own political setup and multiple opportunities for people. Nature has been too kind in bestowing upon Jammu its bounties; with tourist circuits and religious attractions calling for religious-tourism opportunities, providing much needed boost to the hospitality sector of Jammu. The feeling of being betrayed among younger generation and scary unemployment among them will be much taken care of.

But then all this is not too simple, I know that. It is now the ripe time that Sham Lal Sharma Ji, Prof. Hari Om, General G.S. Janwal, Prof. Virender Gupta and their kind come out in the open vociferously, providing much needed momentum to this yearning desire of whole of Jammu. We, not may, but surely will have to make sacrifices too in making this dream come true for the coming generations. To quote

an example, three hundred plus people were martyred in Haridwar when Uttrakhand was to come into existence.

**Many of my friends ask me: Is this possible to have a separate Jammu State? And I smile and reply:Modi hai to mumkinhai !**

**Jammu Div Canals...**

notified separately. All the concerned Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers have been directed to complete works before the scheduled reopening of the canals".

**Hardcore criminal arrested with country made pistol**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: Samba Police has made fourth arrest in a case related to organized crime registered at Police Station Vijaypur by arresting a hardcore criminal and recovering of one country made pistol from his possession .

During the investigation of the case FIR No. 71/2025 U/S 111 BNS, 3/25 Arms Act of Police Station Vijaypur, a team of PS Vijaypur has arrested a hardcore criminal namely Pritam Singh @ Sethi S/o Mohan Singh R/o Jedra tehsil Ramgarh district Samba. Following sustained questioning, Police has recovered one country-made pistol from his native village Jedra on the disclosure of said accused person. Further, investigation of the case is going on.

It is worthwhile to mention that three accused persons had already been arrested earlier in the case and three pistols had been recovered.

**Four narco smugglers nabbed with heroin**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Continuing its actions under the ongoing war against narcotics, Police Station R.S. Pura achieved a one more breakthrough by arresting 01 drug peddler and recovering 03.30 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like substance.The action marks another step in Jammu Police's intensified crackdown on drug trafficking and illegal substances.

On 09.01.2026, a police team of Police Station R.S. Pura led by PSI Majid Shafi No.196456/EX-J Incharge BPP Chakrohi under the supervision of SHO R.S. Pura, Inspector Ravi Singh Parihar while on routine patrolling near Petrol Pump, Chakrohi, Suchetgarh, intercepted a suspicious Hyundai Creta vehicle bearing registration No.JK02CF-0650. On noticing the police presence, the occupants attempted to flee, however the alert team successfully stopped the vehicle and detained 01 individual for questioning.

During preliminary enquiry the accused was identified as Sunil Choudhary S/o Chuni Lal R/o Hansa Tehsil Suchetgarh District Jammu

Personal search led to the recovery of 03.30 grams of heroin-like substance from Sunil Choudhary.

Following the recovery, a case FIR No.09/2026 U/S 8/21/22/60 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station R.S. Pura. The accused was arrested on the spot and further investigation is underway to trace the supply chain, financial links and other individuals connected with the illicit trade.

Meanwhile, a police team of Police Station Miran Sahib led by PSI Mohd Irfan NO. GEC245632 under the supervision of SHO Miran Sahib,Inspector Azad Ahmed\*while on routine patrolling near Simbal Head, Miran Sahib intercepted a suspicious movement of suspect On noticing the police presence, the occupants attempted to flee, however the alert team successfully stopped the suspect and apprehended him for questioning.

During preliminary enquiry the accused was identified as Anil Kumar S/o Harbans Lal R/o Kullian, Miran Sahib Tehsil R S Pura District Jammu. Personal search led to the recovery of 10.08 grams of heroin-like substance from Anil Kumar.

Following the recovery, a case FIR No. 06/2026 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Miran Sahib. The accused was arrested on the spot and further investigation is underway to trace the supply chain, financial links and other individuals connected with the illicit trade.

In another case, Police team of PS Rehanbal while performing naka checking duty at near Kali Mata Mandir, Rehambal, a WagonR car bearing registration number JK14C-9728, coming from Phalata side towards Garhi side, was stopped for checking. During checking, two persons were found onboard the vehicle.

On questioning, the driver disclosed his identity as Manik Oberoi S/o Rajeev Oberoi R/o Garhi, Udhampur, while the passenger disclosed his identity as Sachin Kumar S/o Sham Lal R/o Rehambal, Udhampur.

During their personal search, a total of 4.23 grams of heroin was recovered from their possession. Both the accused failed to give any satisfactory explanation regarding the recovered substance.

Accordingly, FIR No. 008/2025 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Rehambal. The accused persons have been arrested and further investigation into the matter is underway.

**Arms case: Last absconding accused nabbed**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu Police have achieved a significant breakthrough in FIR No. 01/2025 registered at Police Station City Jammu under Sections 109/191(2)/111/115(2) BNS and 4/25 Arms Act by arresting the last absconding accused involved in the case, marking a decisive turn in the investigation.

Earlier, four accused persons had already been arrested during the course of investigation. Their sustained interrogation and technical analysis helped police narrow down the movements of the remaining accused, who had been evading arrest.

Acting on specific and credible inputs, a police team led by PSI Aaqib Lateef apprehended the absconding accused, Danish S/o Mohd Riaz R/o Gujjar Nagar, Jammu, today near Hari Singh Park, Gujjar Nagar. The operation was conducted under the close supervision of SP City North Jammu, SDPO City North and SHO PS City Inspector Shakti Devi.

During sustained interrogation, on the disclosure of the accused, police recovered the weapons of offence, including three sharp-edged weapons (Tokas), along with one vehicle bearing registration number JK02CC-4330, which was used in the commission of the crime.

With the arrest of the said accused and recovery of incriminating material, all five accused involved in the instant case have now been arrested, effectively cracking the case and strengthening the prosecution.

Further investigation is in progress to complete all procedural formalities and ensure a strong case before the court. Jammu Police reiterate their firm commitment to maintaining law and order and taking strict action against criminal elements.

**Missing lady traced, reunited with family**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

DODA: Doda Police have successfully traced a missing lady and reunited her with her family.

A lady R/o Nagri Paryote tehsil and District Doda, had gone missing from her residence on 29.11.2025. Accordingly, a missing report was registered at Police Post Pul Doda vide DD No. 06 dated 29.11.2025.

On the directions of SSP Doda, a special district-level technical team was constituted to trace missing persons and absconders. On 09.01.2026, through sustained technical surveillance and human intelligence, the missing lady was successfully traced.

After completion of all legal formalities, the missing report was closed vide DDR No. 07 dated 09.01.2026, and the lady was safely reunited with her family.

**Kashmiri man detained over 'attempt' to offer namaz at Ayodhya Ram Mandir complex**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

AYODHYA: A 55-year-old man from Kashmir, said to be mentally ill, was detained here on Saturday after he allegedly attempted to offer namaz inside the Ram Mandir complex and raised slogans when stopped, officials said.

According to Superintendent of Police (Security) Balramchari Dubey, the man has been identified as Ahmed Sheikh, a resident of Shopian district in Jammu and Kashmir.

Police said Sheikh's family has claimed that he is mentally ill and has shared medical records from the psychiatry department of Srinagar Medical College as evidence. "We didn't know anything about it. He is totally unwell," Sheikh's son, Imran, told reporters at their residence in Shopian when asked about the incident.

The official said the accused entered the temple premises during the day, visited the shrine and later sat near the Sita Rasoi area, allegedly preparing to offer namaz. Security personnel noticed his actions and intervened immediately, following which he was detained by temple security staff and handed over to the local police. Some sources claimed that the man raised slogans when he was stopped, he added.

Investigators are questioning the man to ascertain his intent and are also verifying his travel details, including the purpose of his visit to Ayodhya, and whether anyone else was involved, the official said.

During preliminary checks, police found items such as cashews and raisins in his possession. Police sources said the man told investigators that he was travelling to Ajmer. Senior police officers and intelligence agencies are also reviewing the security arrangements at the Ram Mandir complex in the wake of the incident. The district administration and the Ram temple trust have so far declined to comment.