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BJP proud; our...

memorial complex dedicated to the life and ideals of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, features 65-foot-high bronze statues of Vajpayee, Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya. It also houses a state-of-the-art museum designed in a lotus-shaped structure spread over 98,000 square feet.

After the inauguration, Modi, along with other leaders, visited the museum and viewed the displays showcasing the contributions of Vajpayee, Mookerjee and Upadhyaya.

According to an official statement, the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal, developed at an estimated cost of Rs 230 crore over 65 acres, is envisaged as a permanent national asset promoting leadership values, national service, cultural consciousness, and public inspiration. The memorial, described as an "inspirational complex of enduring national significance", is expected to serve as a source of motivation for present and future generations, reflecting the pivotal role of Vajpayee, Mookerjee, and Upadhyaya in shaping India's political thought and public life.

Two gangsters arrested...

facility. The police said the action was taken because the duo had repeated managed to secure bail from the courts. The detention under the PSA is meant to prevent them from continuing their criminal activities, they added.

Modi realising India's...

preservation. Inspired by this approach, statues of three towering personalities who shaped independent India and gave the nation dignity, self-respect and a new identity have been installed at the inspiration site, he said.

Singh congratulated Chief Minister Adityanath for establishing, what he described, a grand "national inspiration site" in Lucknow.

Speaking about Mookerjee, Singh said he struggled relentlessly to safeguard India's unity and integrity and even sacrificed his life in pursuit of this goal, particularly in the context of Jammu and Kashmir, which earlier enjoyed a special status under Article 370.

He said Mookerjee's resolve was fulfilled in independent India by Prime Minister Modi through the abrogation of Article 370.

Singh said the philosophical concepts of "Integral Humanism" and "Antyodaya" were articulated by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, adding that Modi has been consistently striving to build a strong, self-respecting and self-reliant India based on these ideals.

He said Upadhyaya believed that human happiness could not be measured by material wealth alone and emphasised dignity, self-respect, intellectual development and spiritual well-being.

He said the NDA government's commitment to the welfare of the poor under Modi's leadership draws inspiration from Upadhyaya, whose statue was unveiled at the site.

On Vajpayee, Singh said the former prime minister needs no introduction, adding that the people of the Lucknow parliamentary constituency shared a deep bond with him. He said Vajpayee's genial and witty nature was well known.

Singh said Vajpayee's contribution to Indian politics, society and culture was unparalleled and that under Modi's leadership, India is progressing rapidly along the same path towards new heights of development.

He claimed "inflation has fallen to below one per cent for the first time in independent India's history and the country is witnessing a growth rate of over eight per cent during Modi's tenure".

He said Modi has raised India's stature internationally and transformed global perceptions about the country. Earlier, India's voice on international platforms was not given due weight, but today, under Modi's leadership, the world listens attentively to what India has to say, he added.

Highlighting initiatives for villages, the poor and farmers, Singh said Modi has undertaken major steps for rural development. He alleged that irregularities were common under the earlier MGNREGA scheme and said the government has instead introduced a new legislation titled "Viksit Bharat-G Ram G", under which rural workers would now get employment for 125 days instead of 100, along with the creation of permanent infrastructure in villages.

Singh urged the thousands present at the rally to raise their hands and applaud the changes brought about under Modi's leadership. He also paid tributes to renowned sculptor Ram Sutar, who passed away recently aged 100, and expressed appreciation for the work done by other artists involved in creating the statues installed at the Rashtra Prerna Sthal.

Deceased JCO cremated...

mortal remains of the JCO were brought to his home, where senior Army, police and civil officers laid wreaths on his coffin, the officials said.

Thousands of people from various parts of the district thronged the village, joined the funeral procession and raised slogans in praise of the officer, the Army and the country.

Amid slogans of "shaheed amar rahe" (long live the martyr) renting the air, hundreds of people, including family members and relatives, paid their last respects to Singh with tearful eyes.

He was later cremated with full military honours after a gun salute and the sounding of the last bugle.

The Rising Star Corps of the Indian Army paid a solemn tribute to braveheart Subedar Surjeet Singh.

"The Indian Army stands firmly with the bereaved family in this hour of grief and assures unwavering support," it said in a post on X.

On Wednesday, a defence spokesperson said the incident is under investigation and further details will be shared as facts are established.

"A JCO of an Army unit in Samba sustained a gunshot wound while on duty in Jammu and unfortunately succumbed to his injuries in the line of duty. At this stage, the terror angle has been ruled out", the spokesperson said.

Fake Jobs, land...

has been a habitual offender, involved in multiple FIRs across Srinagar district, and several complaints are under investigation. She has been placed under suspension, and a departmental inquiry has recommended her premature retirement under Article 226(2) of J&K Service Conduct Rules."

The probe established that victims were misled with fake allotment orders for shops at Jehangir Chowk, 5-marla plots at Bemina, and government job appointments for Junior Assistant posts. The investigation concluded the case as "PROVED," and the chargesheet has now been submitted for judicial adjudication.

The EOW official added, "This case underscores our commitment to cracking down on economic offences and ensuring that those who misuse public office to defraud innocent citizens are held accountable."

The chargesheet marks a significant step in legal proceedings against Fouzia Afzal, reflecting the authorities' zero-tolerance approach towards corruption, forgery, and financial fraud in public service.

Use of chemical...

single indigenous cow can help cultivate 21 acres of land,

he said.

"It (natural farming) increases income, saves water, and relieves people from many diseases," he added.

Shah, who is also Minister of Cooperation, said approximately 40 lakh farmers in the country have adopted natural farming and he has personally practised it on his farms.

This has increased production, not decreased it, he said.

"There is a huge market for natural farming in the world and to ensure that the produce of the country's farmers reaches the global market in a better way, a complete system is being developed - from soil testing to certification, laboratory testing of the produce and packaging," Shah added.

According to him, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has established two big cooperative institutions through the Ministry of Cooperation, which are doing the work of certification of natural farming produce, its testing in world-class and modern labs, packaging, marketing and export.

Shah said, "In the coming time, more than 400 laboratories across the country will provide certificates to the farmers, due to which their income will increase by almost one-and-a-half times."

It can guide many farmers and cowherds towards progress, he said.

"There is also a cowshed here, and a complete range of natural farming methods based on cow dung has been developed. This approach, which generates incomes of up to Rs 1.25 lakh per acre of land, will certainly prove to be a great blessing for small farmers," he said.

Earlier, Shah visited the Basaman Mama Cow Project and described it as a "very good approach".

Basaman Mama is worshipped as a folk deity in the Vindhya region. It is believed that he sacrificed his life to protect the environment in this region in the 8th century.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, minister Prahlad Patel and several other leaders were present at the event.

India moving confidently...

in politics and his life demonstrates a unique combination of fostering scientific excellence and exhibiting deep commitment to humanity. His life was guided by the principles of Peace, Social Justice, Human Service, Human Dignity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that Babu Markandeya Singh Ji was a true disciple of the revered Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji.

Mahamana always emphasized skill development, better education, and independent thinking, which he considered essential for socio-economic development and the establishment of a welfare state. Babu Markandeya Singh Ji was a living embodiment of these ideals, and he dedicated his entire life to the progress of society and nation-building, the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that India is moving confidently towards historic growth with clear objectives of sustainable development, capacity building and skill development, equal opportunity for all, to achieve the new frontiers of Knowledge for Innovations and creativity to build intellectual capital.

Mercury drops below...

drop of 5 notches from 3 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, the officials said.

Central Kashmir's tourist resort of Sonamarg was the coldest place in Jammu and Kashmir with a low of minus 7.3 degrees Celsius.

The resort, along with other higher reaches, received snow-fall on Sunday and Monday.

North Kashmir's ski resort of Gulmarg was the second coldest place at minus 5.4 degrees Celsius, followed by south Kashmir's Pahalgam at minus 4.4 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, Kokernag minus 0.7 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 2 degrees Celsius -- a drop of four notches from Tuesday night.

The Meteorological Department has forecast generally dry weather in Kashmir till December 28. Spells of wet weather are likely around New Year's Eve.

Light snow at isolated higher reaches is likely on December 29. There is a possibility of light rain in the plains and light snow in the higher reaches from December 30 to January 1, the weather office said.

DDC Rajouri presides over grievance redressal camp under 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' at Gundi, Khawas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today presided over a grievance redressal camp at Gundi, Khawas, a far-flung area of district Rajouri, under the ongoing 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' campaign being observed as part of Good Governance Week.

During the camp, the general public raised several issues pertaining to improvement of road connectivity, requirement of electricity poles in certain areas, functioning of water supply schemes, health facilities and other civic concerns.

The DDC listened patiently to the grievances and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for their timely redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC emphasized that the objective of the 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' campaign is to take the administration to the doorsteps of the people, especially in remote and border areas and to ensure prompt delivery of services.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to transparent, responsive and citizen-centric governance, directing officers to maintain close coordination and ensure that public grievances are addressed within stipulated timelines.

Similar grievance redressal camps were also organized across different blocks of district Rajouri, including Niabat Office Ujhan, Community Hall MC Kalakote, Panchayat Ghar Kalsian, BHSS Thanamandi, TRC Shadra, Village Prori, and Panchayat Ghar Dhokbanyad, Beripatan, enabling wider public outreach under the campaign.

The camps witnessed active participation from local residents, who appreciated the initiative for bringing governance closer to the people and addressing their issues at the grass-roots level.

ADC Kotranka, Dilmir, along with other district and sectoral officers, accompanied the DDC Rajouri and participated in the grievance redressal process, providing necessary clarifications and assistance to the public.

Online classes launched for classes 9th to 12th in Education Zone Khari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The District Administration Ramban, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Alyas Khan has launched online classes for students of Classes 9th to 12th in Education Zone Khari, an Aspirational Block.

This initiative ensures continuity of education and addresses teacher shortages in remote areas. Students will receive subject wise academic support through structured online teaching and guidance. Teachers have been directed to conduct regular interactive classes and monitor progress. Appreciated by students and parents, the step strengthens digital learning infrastructure and reaffirms the Administration's commitment to providing quality education and bridging educational gaps in underserved communities.

Bovine smuggling attempts foiled ; 9 bovines rescued, three smugglers arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police has successfully foiled a bovine smuggling attempt in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal, arrested two bovine smugglers and rescued three bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers. The vehicle used in the illegal transportation of bovines has also been seized.

Acting on information received from reliable sources, a Police team of Police Post Rajpura of PS Ghagwal intercepted a Tata Youdha load carrier bearing registration number JK21D-2417 near village chachwal for its checking. During checking, three 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 Rakesh Kumar S/o Milkhi Ram R/o Palura Samba and Tara Singh S/o Janak Singh R/o Chachwal Samba have been arrested.

A case FIR No. 120/2025 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.

Doda Police also rescued six bovines, arrested the accused, and seized the vehicle involved in illegal transportation.

At about 0230 hours today, a naka party of PS Thathri deployed at Kalnai bridge intercepted a vehicle bearing Registration No. JK06B-1503 for checking. During inspection, the driver-identified as Mohd Haneef, S/o Alf Gujjar, R/o Barthal, Batote-was found illegally transporting six bovines (four buffaloes and two cows) towards Kashmir in a cruel manner, in contravention of the District Magistrate, Doda's orders.

Accordingly, a case FIR No. 76/2025 under Section 223 BNS and Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act has been registered at Police Station Thathri. The accused has been arrested, the vehicle seized, and the rescued bovines have been taken into safe custody. Further investigation is underway. Police has requested ARTO Doda for cancellation of driving license of the accused and for cancellation of RC of the vehicle.

Missing person traced; reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Police traced a missing person and reunited him with his family. The missing report was lodged at Police Post Changa, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Gandoh.

On 20-10-2025, a missing report regarding Nayeem Iqbal, son of Javid Iqbal, resident of Gowari, Tehsil Gandoh, aged 23 years, was entered at Police Post Changa vide DDR No.04 dated 20-10-2025. Despite continuous efforts by the family members, the whereabouts of the missing person could not be ascertained.

Subsequently, following sustained and diligent efforts coupled with technical assistance, a police team of Police Post Changa, Gandoh, successfully traced the missing person. The missing report was closed vide DDR No. 10 dated 25-12-2025, and the recovered person was handed over to his family after completing all necessary legal formalities.

Three apprehended in assault case, sharp edged weapon recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against the criminals & anti-social elements, Samba Police has apprehended three accused wanted in an assault case registered at Police Station Bari Brahmana and recovered a sharp edged weapon (Toka) from their possession. The vehicle used in the commission of offence has also been seized.

Brief facts of the case are that on 23-12-2025, a person namely Bunt S/o Rattan Lal R/o Rajeev Colony Bari Brahmana has lodged a written report at PS Bari Brahmana stating therein that his nephew was attacked with sharp edged weapon by some unknown persons causing grievous injuries to him.

Acting over the complaint, a case FIR No.212/2025 U/S 126(2)/115(2)/352/191(2) BNS 4/25 Arms Act registered at Police Station Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

During the course of investigation, team of Police Station Bari Brahmana after conducting multiple raids, succeeded in arresting accused Mohit Kumar S/o Jeet Raj R/o R.S Pura district Jammu and apprehending two more accused (juvenile) in the instant case. The accused were absconding after the commission of crime and were apprehended by police after continuous strenuous efforts.

Further on disclosure of the accused persons, Police has recovered the weapon of offence 'Toka' from their possession. The car Hyundai i20 bearing registration No. JK21C-7354 used in the commission of offence has also been seized. Investigation of the case is going on.

This arrest sends a strong signal to anti-social elements that there will be absolutely zero tolerance for any criminal activity in Samba district. Samba Police reassures its commitment towards the safety and security of its citizens.

Thieves arrested; stolen property recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police have achieved a significant breakthrough in a theft case registered under FIR No. 153/2025 at Police Station Miran Sahib, reported on 27.11.2025, demonstrating swift and result-oriented policing.

Following the case registration, a focused investigation was launched by the police team of PS Miran Sahib, led by ASI Balbir Singh, I/C BPP Nari, under the overall supervision of the SHO PS Miran Sahib, Inspector Azad Manhas. Sustained efforts, coordination, and close monitoring were maintained throughout the investigation.

During the course of investigation, two suspects-Jugesh Kumar and Dheeraj Kumar-were identified. Through meticulous questioning, technical analysis, and continuous follow-up, their involvement in the theft was firmly established, leading to their arrest.

On the basis of disclosures made by the accused during interrogation, multiple raids were conducted at different locations. These operations resulted in the phased recovery of stolen property, further strengthening the case against the accused persons.

Further investigation is in progress to ascertain the involvement of other individuals and to effect more recoveries.

Three drug peddlers nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a continued crackdown against drug trafficking, Jammu Police, South Zone achieved another success by arresting a drug peddler and recovering heroin-like substance from his possession.

During naka checking, the police party of Police Post Gadigarh apprehended Harjinder Singh @ Kaka S/o Jagir Singh R/o Chak Jandr, Arnia, R.S. Pura, A/P TCP Kharian, District Jammu, at Lower Gadigarh, within the jurisdiction of Police Post Gadigarh, Jammu.

During search, 7.25 grams of heroin-like substance along with a weighing machine were recovered from his possession.

In this regard, FIR No. 245/2025 under Sections 8/21/22/27(A) NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Satwari, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the source and forward/backward linkages.

Rajouri Police also Arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 22 grams of heroin like narcotic substance.

During routine Naka checking by Police Party from Police Post Chingus led by IC PP Chingus on suspicion about two persons who were moving through the Chingus area. On being intercepted and questioned the individuals disclosed suspicious behaviour, the police party to conduct a thorough check.

The apprehended persons have been identified as Nahid Choudhary S/o Mohd Shafi R/o Ward No. 13 Peer Kanju Talwal Rajouri and Mohd Asim S/o Mohd Shafi R/o Ward No. 13 Peer Kanju Talwal Rajouri.

During their personal search the police party recovered 22 grams of heroin-like narcotic substance from their possession. The accused were operating in the Rajouri area and were passing through Chingus with the intention of selling the drug consignment.

In this regard a Case FIR No. 605/2025 under relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Rajouri. Both accused have been arrested and further investigation is underway to ascertain the source and wider network involved in drug trafficking.

Three vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: Rajouri Police Seized three vehicles for illegal mining in Nowshera.

Police Station Nowshera seized three dumpers involved in illegal extraction/transportation of minor minerals during naka checking at Thalka Naka.

The vehicles seized include Dumper No. JK02CU-0505, Driven by Harman Sharma S/o Lok Nath resident of Lamberi; Dumper No. JK11D-5921, Driven by Arif S/o Mohd Aslam resident of Naili Manjakote and Dumper No. JK12B-8654, Driven by Shakeel Ahmed S/o Ghulam Hussain resident of Poonch.

All the vehicles were intercepted at Thalka Naka and were found operating without valid permission/documents. Accordingly the vehicles were seized and legal action under relevant provisions of law has been initiated.

Man held for assaulting his father

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: A video circulating on social media has come to the notice of Baramulla Police, wherein an individual is seen assaulting an elderly man, reportedly his father.

Taking cognizance of the matter, a case has been registered at Police Station Tangmarg under relevant sections of law. The accused, identified as Manzoor Ahmed R/o Hajibal, Tangmarg, has been detained by the police.

Further investigation into the matter is underway and strict legal action shall follow as per law.

Baramulla Police reiterates that any form of violence, especially against senior citizens, will be dealt with firmly and urges the public to report such incidents promptly.

Action against illegal mining: JCB, tipper seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: As part of its sustained drive against illegal mining, Police Post Berthipora have seized one JCB and one Tipper involved in the unauthorized extraction and transportation of minerals in the Berthipora area of the district.

During routine patrolling, a police party from Police Post Berthipora intercepted one JCB and one Tipper that were found illegally extracting minerals without valid royalty documents.

In this regard, FIR No. 53/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Keller and further investigation has been initiated.

SMVDS Samiti protests in Jammu, warns of shutdown over medical college admissions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Several right-wing Hindu groups held a protest in Jammu on Thursday evening, demanding the shifting of Muslim students from the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence and reservations for Hindu students.

They also warned of intensifying the agitation if their demands are not met.

The controversy began after admissions for the inaugural MBBS batch of 50 students were completed through the NEET merit list last month. This batch includes 42 Muslim candidates, mostly from Kashmir, seven Hindu students from Jammu and one Sikh candidate.

Protesters, including members of trade associations, the Bar Association, social organisations and religious bodies, gathered under the banner of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti, a recently-formed conglomeration of organisations. They held a demonstration

against the Shrine Board and the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Led by Samiti convener Colonel Sukhvir Singh Mankotia, the protesters raised slogans against Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Shrine Board members and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and burnt an effigy of the LG, calling for what they described as the fulfilment of the Hindu community demands.

"If this decision is not changed immediately, the agitation will intensify. We are holding small protests and will move towards a complete shutdown of Jammu if the demands are not fulfilled. The government is pushing us towards a massive agitation like the 2008 land row," Colonel Mankotia told reporters.

He said devotees make offerings at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine out of faith and devotion.

"To ensure proper management of these offerings and to facilitate the pilgrimage, the Shrine Board was constituted in 1988. Its primary

responsibility is to ensure safety, accommodation and smooth darshan for millions of pilgrims every year," he said.

Mankotia added that the Board's priorities should also include promotion of Sanatan Dharma, operation of gurukuls, establishment of gaushalas and preservation of ancient temples.

The Samiti leaders alleged that for nearly two decades, offerings made by devotees have been used for activities that fall under the purview of the government, including construction of hospitals, universities, medical and nursing colleges and roads.

They maintained that offerings at the shrine should be utilised "exclusively for religious and Sanatan Dharma-related activities".

During the protest, the Samiti warned the Shrine Board administration to resolve the admission issue immediately and make changes in the functioning of certain Board members.