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Full implementation of 3 new criminal laws in J&K to be ensured by April 2025: Amit Shah

"Urgent need to implement provisions of Trial in Absentia in UT"



Home Minister Amit Shah chairing a meeting at New Delhi. LG Manoj Sinha and CM Omar Abdullah also participating.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah on Tuesday chaired a review meeting on the implementation of three new criminal laws in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah were present in the meeting, held in the national capital, to review the implementation and present status of various new provisions related to police, prisons, courts, prosecution, and forensics in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was also attended by the Union Home Secretary, Chief

Secretary and Director General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD), Director General of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), and other senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the UT administration.

During the discussion, Union Home Minister asked the UT administration to ensure full implementation of the three new criminal laws, made under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Jammu and Kashmir by April 2025. He said that optimum use of technology should be made to ensure speedy jus-

tice under the three new criminal laws.

The Union Home Minister said that for the full implementation of the new laws, it is imperative to change the attitude of the police personnel and the administration and create awareness about the new laws among the citizens. He stated that with decline in terror activities and improvement in security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, the Police should now prioritize safeguarding the rights of its citizens.

Amit Shah added that there is an urgent need to use the provision of Trial in Absentia in the Union Territory.

- ▶ Union Home Minister holds meeting with Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister of J&K to review implementation of three new criminal laws
- ▶ With decline in terror activities and improvement in security scenario in J&K, protecting the rights of the citizens should be top priority of J&K Police
- ▶ Emphasizes need to fix responsibility of police officers to expedite process of filing chargesheets
- ▶ Every police station in J&K should maximise use of NAFIS
- ▶ Training of all Investigating Officers on provisions of new laws should be completed at earliest

The Union Home Minister stressed on the need to fix responsibility of police officers to expedite the process of filing chargesheets. He said that every police station in Jammu and Kashmir should put the maximum use of the

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55 Cr devotees have taken holy dip at Maha Kumbh



Devotees arriving at Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: The Uttar Pradesh government Tuesday said an unprecedented 55 crore devotees at the Maha Kumbh Mela have taken a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam.

The Kumbh Mela which started on January 13 will continue till February 26 (Maha Shivratri).

Half of India's 110 crore

Sanatan followers have immersed themselves, and this number is expected to surpass 60 crore by the final bathing ritual on February 26, an official statement said, adding this Maha Kumbh has seen the largest participation in any religious, cultural, or social event.

According to the World Population Review, Pew

Research, India's population is approximately 143 crore (1.43 billion), with 110 crore (1.10 billion) followers of Sanatan Dharma, the statement said.

The number of those who took bath at the Triveni Sangam represents 50 per cent of India's Sanatan followers, it claimed. Compared to India's total population,

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SFs neutralise 2 IEDs in Shopian, Pulwama



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Tuesday neutralised two improvised explosive devices in Shopian and Pulwama districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said here.

A joint patrol party of

police and army detected a suspected pressure cooker IED planted by terrorists on a link road at Chitragam in Zainapora area of Shopian, the officials said. They said a bomb disposal squad

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Two Kashmiri youth arrested along with Rs 3.36 cr cash

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Two Kashmiri youth were taken into custody after Rs 3.36 crore were recovered from their vehicle in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police officials said.

The Kashmir-bound vehicle (Hyundai Creta bearing registration number HR98J- 9889) was coming from Delhi and was intercepted at Lakhampur, the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir bordering Punjab, the officials said.

They said a total of Rs 3.36 crore were recovered from the vehicle and both of its occupants, hailing from Srinagar, were apprehended and handed over to income tax department for further investigation.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua Shobhit Saxena said the cash



Car along with accused persons and seized money at Lakhampur.

was found hidden in a specially built cavity under the seats at the back side of the vehicle.

"So far no terror funding angle emerged during investigation which is at a very initial stage," the SSP said.

CRPF jawan shot himself dead

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself dead with his service rifle in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Tuesday, officials said.

The jawan was part of a road opening party deployed in Tikri area along Jammu-Srinagar national highway when he shot himself dead, they said. They said the deceased was identified as Praveen Patil, a resident of Maharashtra. The motive behind his extreme step was not known immediately, the officials said, adding that police have started inquest proceedings in this connection.

Application of 3 new criminals laws in J&K largely successful: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the three new criminal laws have been "by and large" implemented successfully in the Union Territory and it was important that the citizens are made aware about the provisions of the new Acts.

Abdullah was speaking to reporters outside the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) office after participating in a review meeting of the three laws that was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"The meeting discussed the



CM Omar Abdullah briefing media at New Delhi.

shortcomings and the areas to work upon for the smooth implementation of the three laws in Jammu and Kashmir," Abdullah said.

The Home Minister (Shah)

said in the meeting that so far a similar exercise has been completed for 11 states and UTs, he added. "In case of Jammu and Kashmir,

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Two sisters abducted from Jammu rescued in Chhattisgarh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two teenage sisters from Jammu, allegedly abducted a week ago, were rescued from Chhattisgarh and handed over to their family, police said on Tuesday.

The accused Shiva Dass and Manoj Kumar, both residents of Chhattisgarh, are yet to be arrested, they said.

Jammu's Janipur Police Station received a complaint from the father of the girls, aged 16 and 17, alleging that his daughters were abducted by Dass and Kumar who were living in Janipur Colony, they said.

A special team was immediately formed and after extensive investigations, intelligence gathering, and coordinated efforts the girls were recovered from Balooda in Chhattisgarh on Monday and later handed over to their family, the police said.

Meanwhile, a girl who was reported missing from

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 26.1°C Min: 10.4°C

Humidity
Max: 57 Min: 36

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 15.7°C Min: -0.8°C

Humidity
Max: 80 Min: 34

Sunset : 18:16 Hours
Sunrise : 07:10 Hours

CB arrests 5 accused including J&K Bank officer in multi-crore loan scam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested five accused, including a former manager of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank and a fake District Horticulture Officer, in connection with an alleged multi-crore-rupee loan scam here, the agency said on Tuesday.

"The arrested accused have been identified as the then J&K Bank Manager (Scale-II) branch Rajouri Jatinder Singh (now demoted), son of Dharampal Sharma, resident of Narval Bala Jammu; fake District Horticulture

Officer Mohd Kabir, son of Mohd Yousuf, resident of Fatehpur Poonch; fake Social Mobilizer IWMP Poonch, Mohd Zafeer Khan, son of Zahoor Ahmad Khan, resident of Narol Mendhar Poonch; fake Horticulture Technician-II in Water Shed RDD Poonch Zafar Iqbal, son of Mohd Younis, resident of Ari Mendhar Poonch and fake Horticulture Technician-I in IWMP RDD Poonch Mohd Shakeel, son of Said Mohd, resident of Nowshera Rajouri," Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu Benam Tosh said.

He said that this case was registered on the written complaint lodged by Chief Manager S&C Division, Zonal office J&K Bank Jammu Mohd Shakeel wherein he alleged that Saleem Yousuf Bhatti, who was contractual employee with IWMP Poonch and others had got activated the inactive accounts of Water Shed Committee at Branch Lassana, Surankote Poonch.

The accused got the nomenclature of the accounts changed, issued fake salary certificates and confirmation letters to different

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Mission YUVA accomplishes baseline survey of over 1.1 Cr people

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday convened a meeting with all the stakeholders to assess outcomes of a month long baseline survey conducted under Mission Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (YUVA) aiming identification of potential entrepreneurs and challenges faced by the existing enterprises in J&K.

The survey, carried out digitally from 1st of January this year, encompassed whole adult population of the UT residing in both rural and urban areas. The mammoth exercise was accomplished with the help of nearly 18,000 investigators and 800 supervisors who visited around 23.64 lakh house-



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu.

holds in different districts of J&K to identify the potential entrepreneurs (PEs).

Dulloo, while making observations about this survey, remarked that carrying out such a massive exercise in record time is commendable. He termed it crucial for determining a roadmap to deal with the unemployment issue in the region. He impressed upon the concerned to come up with a

comprehensive report based on the insights made in the survey. He advised for stacking the data so that the relevant stacks are used by the Universities and research institutions for completing research papers over the same subject matter.

The Chief Secretary also advised the developers to separately categorise the self employment schemes from social security and others.

He stressed on making provision of scheme advisor in the YUVA application so that the potential entrepreneurs are guided as per their strengths and area of interest.

He reiterated the significance of augmenting the institutional structure envisaged under this scheme so that the handholding of applicants is done to transform them into successful entrepreneurs. He directed the bank authorities to make a customised loan product to be offered under YUVA scheme.

Dulloo also enjoined upon the Deputy Commissioners to identify the quality manpower in their districts for acting as 'YUVA Doots' who would groom the PEs in

strategising to become entrepreneurs of their choice. He sought suggestions from the participating Vice Chancellors of local Universities, Chairman J&K Bank, Director IIM Jammu, IIT, CGM NABARD in framing a better roadmap to deal with unemployment across J&K.

While speaking about this baseline survey, DG, E&S, Satveer Kour, gave out some insights about the data collected from each surveyed member. She revealed that the questionnaire was comprised of 15 household related queries, 10 individual specific questions and 42 questions posed to PEs. Besides, 37 queries were related

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Kashmir may see 'drought' as Jan, Feb record 80 pc precipitation deficit: MeT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Kashmir has witnessed a dry winter this year with the months of January and February recording a precipitation deficit of around 80 per cent, which has raised the possibility of drought in the valley this summer, the MeT department officials said.

Several water bodies are flowing below the zero level mark at many places while some springs in south Kashmir have dried up completely due to the receding water table, they said.

"There has been a 79 per cent deficient precipitation in the month of January and the situation in February so far is worse. If the dry weath-

er continues, it is going to cause problems for the residents of the valley as there won't be enough water for drinking or irrigating the fields," a MeT department official said.

An official of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department said the water level in River Jhelum and several other water bodies was more than a metre below the usual water level for this time of the year.

"If it does not rain or snow in the next fortnight, there is a possibility of crisis with regards to water for drinking and irrigation purposes," he added. Social media is flooded with videos and

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