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STATE TIMES

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SOWING SKILLS

SHAPING INDIA

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20 lakh get homes under PMAY in single day, Amit Shah hails PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
PUNE: Union Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said with 20 lakh beneficiaries receiving their sanction letters under the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in a single day, the long cherished dream of these families to own a home has been fulfilled.

This is a rare occasion where 20 lakh beneficiaries have simultaneously experienced the joy of owning a home, Shah said in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar.

At the event, where the first instalment under the scheme was also transferred into the accounts of 10 lakh beneficiaries, Shah took a jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his negative comments on initiatives of the Union government and asked the latter to witness for himself "Modi's magic".



Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said the second phase of PMAY was approved in the first cabinet meeting after the NDA government came to power for a third consecutive term.

"Today is a very momentous day as 20 lakh families have got their first house as part of the scheme. While schemes take time to implement, the Fadnavis government has successfully ensured 20 lakh beneficiaries got homes under PMAY and 10 lakh

beneficiaries received the first instalment in their bank accounts," Shah said.

"At this moment, I am reminded of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. When Modiji launched the Jan Dhan Yojana, Rahul baba mocked the initiative, questioning what would be deposited into these accounts. Rahul Baba, witness Modi's magic today. With just a click, the first instalment has been seamlessly transferred into the accounts of beneficiaries,"

the Union minister said.

Stating that he had goosebumps when CM Fadnavis called him and informed that 20 lakh beneficiaries would receive sanction letters under PMAY, Shah said the long-cherished dream of these families to own a home has been realized thanks to the combined efforts of the state and Union governments.

"If there is one state that has got the maximum number of houses under PMAY, it is Maharashtra. Besides housing, the PM has ensured every household has a toilet, which has protected their self esteem. Beyond housing, people are getting access to toilets, solar power and gas cylinders," he said.

By 2029, a total of five crore houses will come up under the scheme, of which allotment of 3.80 crore tenements is already over, the Union minister informed.

"Modiji has taken a vow

Special Lok Adalat: 27,402 traffic Challans, 3311 electricity disputes resolved

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority as well as under the able guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, a Special Lok Adalat was organized throughout the UT of J&K on Saturday, with a special emphasis on the amicable settlement of traffic challans and disputes related to electricity bills pending disposal before various courts in the UT of J&K.

As per the data received from various District Legal Services Authorities in the UT of J&K, a total of 28881 Traffic challans and 4520 Electricity disputes were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which 27402 Traffic Challans

SFs launch search operations at multiple places across Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Security forces on Saturday launched anti-terror operations at nearly three dozen places across Jammu region, security officials said.

The operations were launched over suspicious movements in some parts and as part of an area domination exercise in other places. No contact has been established with the terrorists so far, officials said.

Operations were going on in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri, higher reaches of Udhampur-Kathua belt, mountainous Doda and Kishtwar and the forests near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu district when the last reports of suspicious activities were received.

According to officials, a search operation was started at Maidaan Mohalla in Sangote area of Gursai in Poonch district after two suspected foreign terrorists



Multi-agency security review meeting held in Jammu

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding of Jammu-based White Knight Corps Lt Gen Navin Sahdeva on Saturday conducted a joint security review meeting here with focus on maintaining peace in the region, the Army said.

The meeting comes amid intensified search operations across Jammu to counter terrorists, who have shown their presence in different districts of the division by carrying out a number of attacks last year.

"A Joint security review meeting chaired by GOC White Knight Corps was conducted along with representatives of intelligence agencies, J&K Police, and CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force).

"The aim was to maintain peace and tranquility in the region with operational synergy," Army's White Knight Corps, also known as XVI Corps, said in a post on X.

President JKESL, BJP leader call on LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lt Gen RK Sharma (Retd.), President, J&K Ex-Services League called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday and apprised him of various welfare issues of ex-Servicemen.

A delegation of Devsthan Marh led by Ram Lal Sharma, Social Activist also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

Meanwhile, Murtaza Ahmed Khan, former MLC and senior BJP Leader called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj



Lt Gen RK Sharma (Retd.), President, JKESL calling on LG Manoj Sinha.

60 Cr devotees have taken holy dip at Maha Kumbh: UP Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday said an unprecedented 60 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 on the occasion of Maha Shivratri.

Over half of India's 110 crore Sanatan followers have bathed in the holy confluence, and this number is expected to surpass 65 crore by the final 'amrit snan' on February 26, an official



This Maha Kumbh has seen the largest participation in any religious, cultural, or social event, it said.

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.

This means that over 55 per cent of the Indian population has taken part in the Maha Kumbh, it said.

On a global scale, according to Pew Research 2024, the number of Sanatan followers stands at 1.2 billion (120 crore), meaning that over 50 per cent of the Sanatanis worldwide have immersed themselves in the Sangam,

Omar holds public Darbar at Ganderbal; addresses issues



CM Omar Abdullah listening to public issues on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday convened a public darbar at Dak Bungalow, Ganderbal, where he directly interacted with numerous delegations and individuals

from across the district to address their day to day issues and other concerns relating to development of the area. During the public meeting, the Chief Minister patiently listened to

Soldier injured in landmine blast

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MENDHAR: A soldier was injured in an accidental landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) on Saturday, officials said.

In another incident, an old rusted mortar was recovered in a village in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, they said. The landmine blast occurred at 10.50 am in the Nangi-Bakeri area of Krishna Ghati sector of Mendhar when the Army personnel were on patrol duty, the officials said. They said a soldier was injured when he accidentally stepped over the landmine and was rushed to hospital. As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with land mines which sometimes get washed away by rains resulting in such types of accidents, the officials said.

Officials said that the army troops found a rusted mortar shell in Fazalabad village in the Surankote area during the area domination patrol late this afternoon. The area was immediately cordoned off and the shell was safely defused, the officials said.

J&K Judicial Academy organises refresher programme on 'Digitisation'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Tashi Rabstan and guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, J&K Judicial Academy today organised one day refresher programme on "Digitisation" (ECT_6_2024 & ECT_15_2024) for High Court Bench Secretaries, Digitisation officials, staff

and Readers of Jammu Wing at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

The refresher programme was designed to impart practical knowledge and give hands-on experience on crucial digital tools and systems integral to judicial functioning.

The first technical session was headed by Fayaz Ahmed Qureshi (CPC), who gave an overview of e-Courts Mission Mode Project, a Pan-India Project, monitored and funded by Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.

Nikhil Kohli (Senior Developer) and Shweta Sharma (Technical Assistant) gave a practical demonstration and explained the concept of CIS 1.0. They covered various aspects of CIS 1.0, including Filing & Registration of Cases, Caveat/Document Filing, Case Proceeding, Roster Creation, Cause List Generation, e-Court services and the process involved in issuing certified copies. This session aimed to enhance participants' familiarity with the digital case management system, ensuring seamless court operations.

Driver killed, 17 injured as bus carrying pilgrims falls into gorge near Jammu



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A driver from Himachal Pradesh was killed and 17 pilgrims were injured when a bus returning from Mata Vaishno Devi shrine skidded off the road and plunged into a 30-feet gorge

near here Saturday evening, officials said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the accident and lauded the rescue teams and officials for their prompt and commendable effort.

LG expresses grief

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the tragic road accident at Manda in which driver of the Bus, carrying pilgrims, lost his life and many pilgrims have been injured.

The Lieutenant Governor posted on X: "The road accident at Manda in Jammu is saddening. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the family of the driver who lost his life. I hope that the injured recover at the earliest. I have directed the senior officials to extend all possible help to the injured pilgrims".

The bus, bearing registration number UK-07PA-5640, was on its way to Delhi and the accident took place near Manda, nearly eight kilometres from the Jammu bus stand, the officials said.

They said a rescue operation was launched soon after the driver lost control while negotiating a curve and the bus plunged into the gorge.

All the 17 injured

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 24.0°C Min: 7.6°C

Humidity
Max: 62 Min: 61

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 15.2°C Min: 3.2°C

Humidity
Max: 80 Min: 39

Sunset : 18:16 Hours
Sunrise : 07:05 Hours

JNEG submits memorandum to Govt; seeks support for media industry

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant move aimed at addressing pressing issues within the newspaper industry, the Jammu Newspaper Editors Guild submitted a comprehensive memorandum to Administrative Secretary Information Department, M. Raju (IAS).

The delegation, led by Chairman Raj Daluja and President A.K. Sawhney, outlined key grievances affecting the region's media landscape. Other present on the occasion were Munir Ul Islam Secretary Information Department, Nitish Rajora, (IAS) Director Information, Atul Gupta (JKAS) Joint Director Information (Jammu) among others.



JNEG delegation led by Chairman Raj Daluja and President A.K. Sawhney along with Administrative Secretary Information, M. Raju (IAS) and other senior officers of Information Department.

The memorandum highlighted the critical role newspapers play as a bridge between the government and the public, emphasizing their importance in fostering accountability and informed dialogue within the democratic framework.

Among the main concerns raised were the longstanding advertisement rates, which have not been revised since Jammu and Kashmir's transition to a Union Territory on August 5, 2019. The Guild urged the government to align these rates with national standards to provide equitable support to all newspapers operating in the region.

Additionally, the Guild called for the issuance of official accreditation cards to journalists and editors to recognize their professional status and facilitate their work. The need for regular committee meetings to address pending

empanment issues was also stressed, ensuring timely acknowledgment of deserving publications.

The memorandum further requested the establishment of printing support facilities in Srinagar and improved office infrastructure in Jammu, along with a commitment to

timely government advertisement payments within 45 days.

The delegation comprised was General Secretary Iqbal Kazmi (Editor, Udaan Urdu), Senior Vice President Vijay Gupta (Editor, Young Bites), Chief Spokesperson Vishal Chopra (Editor, Jammu Metro), Vice President Ram Kumar Dubey (Editor, Kattu Sattya), Secretary Vinod Kumar (Editor, Truly Times), Cashier Puneet Arora (Editor, Early Post), Media Incharge Abhishek Kapoor (Editor, Daily Reality Speaks), Amit Sawhney (Editor Journey Line) Abhinav Suri (Bureau Chief Danik Saveria National Hindi Daily Newspaper), Rajni Sharma (Editor Daily North In News), Anshuman (Editor Daily Rural Message), Sanjeev Chadha (Editor Daily Zinda Sach), Abhishek Koushal (Editor Daily Complete News), Dr. Peter Andres (Editor Bold News), Vicky Khalsa (Editor Daily Khalsa Express) among others.

Administrative Secretary, Information Department, M. Raju (IAS), listened to the Jammu Newspaper Editors Guild (JNEG) delegation and assured that their suggestions would be thoroughly considered and addressed in a phased manner.

The Guild expressed optimism for a constructive dialogue with the government, aiming to enhance the operational environment for the newspaper industry in Jammu and Kashmir.