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other 29 states of the country? Like Jammu and Kashmir, the whole country is yours," he said.

Peace is most important for everyone and, under the Modi government, peace and development have come to Jammu and Kashmir; hospitals, roads and bridges have come, infrastructure has been created, he added.

"The entire country looks at the people of Jammu and Kashmir with love and respect. It is because peace is prevalent there. It is because of peace, development is taking place in Jammu and Kashmir," the home minister said.

There are 30 states in the country and Jammu and Kashmir is one of them. Together, all these 30 states become India, he said.

"Our country is our home. If you don't step out of Jammu and Kashmir, you will not be able to know the country. So, don't you think that you should visit and know the country well? In your next school vacation, you must visit any of the states along with your parents. If required, have a fight at home but you must visit one of the states," he added.

In the past 10 years, terrorism has come to an end in Jammu and Kashmir, incidents of blasts and stone pelting have come to an end, and schools are opening regularly, the home minister noted.

Shah said there was no theatre earlier and no one could go to watch a film.

There was no 'tazia' procession but, now, all these are happening, he said.

Elections were held for local bodies and 36,000 people elected as panch, sarpanch. All these have happened in the past 10 years, he added.

"When the country will progress, you will progress too. As much as the country progresses, becomes modern, you will also become prosperous. This is what Prime Minister Modi is doing," he said.

The world's tallest railway bridge is now located in Jammu and Kashmir, Asia's longest tunnel is located in the Union Territory. It is the only place with two AIIMS and two IIMs, Shah said.

Twenty-four colleges, eight universities have been established in Jammu and Kashmir in the past 10 years, he said.

Shah also asked the youngsters not to leave their studies midway as there were many opportunities available to them throughout the country due to initiatives taken by the Modi government.

SAMAGAM-2025: CM...

Chief guest at the event, commended the organizers and acknowledged the exemplary work of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, and GMC Jammu in the field of kidney and corneal transplants.

Emphasizing the need for wider awareness and acceptance of organ donation, the Chief Minister suggested that medical experts should collaborate with religious scholars and other stakeholders to foster informed discussions and reach a consensus on the subject.

He assured full government support in strengthening these institutions to promote a healthier society.

He also highlighted the adverse effects of self-medication, lifestyle diseases, and lack of physical activity, urging people to adopt healthier habits. On the occasion, the Chief Minister felicitated ambassadors of organ and tissue donation from Kashmir, including the family of late Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, former Head of the Department of Ophthalmology at GMC Srinagar and a renowned eye surgeon.

His eyes were donated posthumously by fellow ophthalmologists Dr. Khurshid Ahmed and Dr. Seema Mian. Additionally, Ms. Heenu Mushtaq, a kidney transplant recipient leading a healthy life, was also felicitated.

The event featured expert deliberations on various aspects of organ donation and transplantation besides presenting the present scenario of organ donation in India, evolution of cadaveric organ donation and transplantation, Islam and organ/tissue donation and cadaveric organ donation in J&K: way forward.

Director General of Health Services, Government of India, Dr. Atul Goel; Director of NOTTO, New Delhi, Dr. Anil Kumar; Director of SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganai; Principal of GMC Srinagar, Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah; and Principal of GMC Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta were also present on the occasion.

Delegates from Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (ROTTOs) and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOs) from across the country participated in the event. These included representatives from ROTTO North, SOTTO J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Haryana, ROTTO East Kolkata, SOTTO Odisha, Bihar, ROTTO Guwahati, SOTTO Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim.

Vehicle rolls down...

Devi (33) died on the spot, 12 others, including four women, were evacuated to sub-district hospital by the rescuers. Condition of two of the injured was stated to be "critical", the officials said.

All-party meet...

February 27 ahead of the start of the budget session to discuss important issues for smooth running of the House.

"People have high hopes with their legislators. They should give preference to the issues of the public and also perform their duty responsibly," he said.

On Mehbooba Mufti's criticism, Rather said he had made a simple statement based on the rules which makes it clear that all notices with regard to questions, resolution, adjournment motions or bills should not be given publicity unless approved by the speaker and tabled in the House.

"We also want publicity of questions, resolutions, and bills but only after these are tabled in the House and not before that because it is not provided or permitted by the rules. I conveyed my displeasure on the subject in a proper way otherwise I would have proceeded against the members, knowing that they have been elected for the first time," the Speaker said.

Referring to rule 368 of the procedure and conduct of business in J&K Assembly and 334A of the procedure and conduct of business in Lok Sabha, he said the guidelines are clear and the members should study these rules to avoid such mistakes in future.

"If any member insists, then I have no option but to take action against that person as per the rules. Similarly, if anyone instigates any member (to violate the rules), action will be taken against that person as well," the speaker warned.

Rather said a three-day orientation program was held here last month to make the newly elected members understand the rules and procedures of the House to ensure their active participation.

Rs 35 lakh...



registration number at Bagthali village on the Jammu-Pathankot highway and seized a bag containing Rs 35,08,800, officials said.

The driver abandoned the car and managed to escape, while another occupant present in the vehicle was detained for questioning, they said he has been identified as Sajad, son of Koiga, resident of Bathra Sua No. 1 Jammu.

The income-tax department has been informed and further investigation is underway, the officials said.

Pakistan destabilised by...

He dismissed apprehensions of local businesses and transporters that the direct train to Kashmir would adversely impact Jammu, saying, "We need to strengthen our capabilities."

"Jammu records the highest pilgrim footfall at Vaishno Devi. Border tourism in Jammu and the locations have their own importance, and there is no competition with Kashmir. We have to see and come out with a joint package that will benefit both the Jammu and the Kashmir divisions," he said.

Highlighting the Union budget for 2025-26, Thakur said it would play a very important role in making India developed.

"Jammu and Kashmir lives in the heart of the prime minister and is very impor-

tant for the BJP, like it is for the rest of the country. Every attempt will be made to make Jammu and Kashmir more developed," he said.

Thakur also welcomed the formation of a new party by a group of former leaders of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami in Kashmir to contest elections and work for the return of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, saying everyone should make an attempt in this direction.

Asked about Rashtriya Swyamsevaka Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat issuing guidelines to Hindus, including wearing traditional clothes and giving up speaking English, the BJP leader quipped in Hindi, "I will follow the directions."

He also referred to India's victory over Pakistan in the ICC Champions Trophy on Sunday.

He also waded into the ongoing row over USAID funding, claiming the USD 21 million for voter turnout in India "fully exposed" those conspiring with foreign countries to weaken democracy in India.

Asked about the USAID row, Thakur said, "I said earlier some foreign powers were trying to weaken Indian democracy. The top Congress leadership has already been exposed for links to US-based billionaire investor George Soros in a bid to oust the BJP from power. This is part of an agenda under which big powers are working to weaken the Indian government and democracy."

"Congratulations to the people who thwarted the attempts of these forces and strengthened democracy by electing the Narendra Modi-led NDA (National Democratic Alliance) government for a third term. We are working in the direction of making India developed," the former Union minister said.

A controversy erupted in the country earlier this month after the Elon Musk-led DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) in the US claimed that it had cancelled a USD 21 million grant to India to boost "voter turnout".

Asked about Modi nominating Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah among the 10 people from different walks of life to fight obesity, Thakur said the prime minister's initiative would help create health awareness among the country's 140 crore people and reduce the burden on health infrastructure.

"They (people nominated by Modi) should reach out to more and more people and speak on the subject in their public discourses," he said.

Chugh slams AAP...

government, which came to power with tall claims, has completely abandoned its commitments, leaving Punjab in a state of despair, he added.

Chugh said both AAP and Congress have systematically pushed Punjab decades backward. He pointed out that their reckless governance has trapped the state in a vicious cycle of debt while law and order have been compromised for political gains. The people of Punjab-farmers, youth, and traders-are living in fear as the government lacks any concrete policy or solutions to their problems, he added.

He said that the people of Punjab, 3 crore strong, are demanding answers from these two parties that have ruined the state with their mismanagement and deceitful politics.

Chugh reaffirmed that the BJP remains committed to exposing the failures of AAP and Congress and ensuring a better future for Punjab under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of development and good governance.

Modi nominates Omar...

movement gets bigger," Modi posted on X.

Bhojpuri singer-actor Nirahua, Olympians shooter Manu Bhaker and weightlifter Mirabai Channu, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, actor R Madhavan, singer Shreya Ghoshal and philanthropist and Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty were the other personalities nominated by the prime minister.

Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra said to achieve the mission of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, "we not only need a strong economy, but a healthy population as well".

"Making small changes like using even 10 per cent less cooking oil can build up to big contributions; be it to your well-being, to your wallet, or to a healthier world. Thank you, PM @narendramodi, for your call to action," Mahindra posted on X.

The businessman nominated actors Anil Kapoor and Gul Panag, Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath, India's first chess grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand, and ace badminton player P V Sindhu to take forward the campaign. Nilekani said apart from a range of health-related benefits, reduced use of edible oil will also strengthen the nation's economy by cutting dependence on imports and saving valuable resources.

"In addition to dietary changes, I have also incorporated daily exercise to keep obesity and related issues in check," he said.

Nilekani nominated Goenka group chairman Harsh Goenka, Chef Ritu Dalmia, Myntara founder Mukesh Bansal, and Kotak Mahindra Bank Director Uday Kotak, among others, for the campaign.

Sudha Murthy nominated fellow parliamentarian and former Olympian P T Usha, ex-cricketers Anil Kumble and Venkatesh Prasad, former top cop and Governor Kiran Bedi and author Amish Tripathi, among others.

Weightlifter Mirabai Channu, who won the silver at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, also took to X to thank the Prime Minister for nominating her.

"Elated to be nominated by PM @narendramodi in ji to spread awareness in the fight against obesity. Making small changes to our daily lives can result in a huge transformation all over the country and help us move towards achieving our dream of making a fit India," she wrote.

Channu nominated reigning world chess champion D Gukesh, paralympian Avani Lekhara, former shooter Gagan Narang, and star shuttler P V Sindhu, among others, for the campaign.

Happy to join...

and depression. Today I'm nominating these 10 people to join the prime minister campaign against obesity and requesting them to nominate a further 10 people each to take this fight forward," he added.

Among those nominated by Abdullah for the campaign are Biocon Limited founder Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, businessman Sajjan Jindal, actor Deepika Padukone, former tennis player Sania Mirza, former cricketer Irfan Pathan, NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) MP Supriya Sule and former Wushu star Kuldeep Handoo.

Making a strong pitch for fighting obesity, Modi had in his "Mann ki Baat" broadcast on Sunday urged people to use less oil in food and also pass on the challenge of reducing oil intake by 10 per cent to 10 others.

Abdullah later told reporters that Modi started the campaign to raise awareness.

"The prime minister nominated me through a tweet (X post), and I also took an initiative and nominated 10 more people. It is hoped that this will spread awareness. The more we take care of our health, the more we can work efficiently, the more our children can study, it will decrease pressure on our hospitals and increase our life expectancy," he said.

The National Conference vice-president said people should make attempts to remain healthy. "It is understood that obesity is a sort of disease, a lifestyle illness, and is increasing. Obesity can be controlled if we take precautions, exercise and eat healthy," he added.

Asked about fulfilling his poll promises, Abdullah said the people had given him a mandate for five years and not five days.

"We have not even presented our first budget yet. You should wait, we know what promises we made and how to fulfil those. I have reiterated from day one that what we can achieve through a Union Territory, we will achieve those," he said.

"Why am I fighting for statehood, why am I stressing on the demand Because I know that there are many issues due to which people are suffering and such problems cannot be resolved in a Union Territory setup. It is important we need the status of a state for that," he added.

The chief minister said his government would keep doing both together. "What we can achieve in a Union Territory, we will do that. For issues for which we need statehood, we are getting statehood."

Firing case at...

son of Pritam Lal Sharma resident of Haramkund Flour, Tehsil Marh; Raghunandan Kesar alias Raghun, son of late Ganesh Lal Sharma, resident of Marh and Goura Jatt, who fired some shots at Swarn Palace, Miran Sahib, during a function. After the incident, the trio fled from the spot.

In this regard, FIR No. 27/2025 U/S 109/3(5) BNS, 3/25 Arms Act was registered and Investigation taken up.

Jammu Police team, led by SHO Miran Sahib Inspector Jaipaul Sharma, under the supervision of SDPO RS Pura and SP Headquarters Jammu, utilizing human and tech intelligence established a surprise naka (checkpoint) on Ring Road in Miran Sahib area to nab the criminals and finally two wanted criminals namely Rajat



Raina alias Rishu and Raghunandan Kesar alias Raghun, traveling in a Thar vehicle, bearing registration No. JK02DA-2525, were apprehended within hours of the Swarn place incident.

Upon their arrest, two pistols, three live rounds and one empty round were recovered. The Thar vehicle has also been seized in the case. However, the search for Goura Jatt is still ongoing.

The swift action by Jammu Police has dealt a significant blow to criminal elements operating in the region. The accused are being interrogated to uncover their involvement in past crimes and possible links to organized gangs. Further investigations are underway.

Search operations underway...

off Phamarnar, Kiker Morh, Jabdan Gali and Harni in Gursai and Brela and Kasbalari in Mendhar and Bafiaz forest in Surankote, the officials said.

The search operation was underway when last reports were received, they said.

Security forces have intensified anti-terrorist operations across Jammu region over the past few weeks to neutralise terrorists, who have managed to sneak into this side from across the border last year and are believed to be hiding in the dense forests in higher reaches.

CM attends live streaming of PM's address on PM-KISAN scheme at SKUAST-K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah attended the live streaming of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address from Bhalgalpur, Bihar, marking the release of the 19th installment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.

The event was held at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K), Shalimar Campus. As Chief Guest, the Chief Minister joined participants, including Minister for Agriculture Production Javaid Ahmad Dar; Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly representing Hazratbal, Sonawar and Chanapora constituencies, as well as progressive, marginal & small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs from various parts of the district.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production, Shalender Kumar; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat; and other senior officials were also present at the event. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister commended the innovative farmers recognized during the event, stating, "Their contributions in adopting progressive techniques, particularly in natural and organic farming would be instrumental in transforming the agricultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir."

He added that the government remains committed to creating a farmer-friendly ecosystem that promotes agricultural sustainability and long-term growth.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Agri-Tech Exhibition organized by SKUAST-K. The exhibition featured a wide array of stalls displayed by successful farmers, progressive cultivators, agripreneurs, agri-industrialists, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and various university-led initiatives.

While inspecting over 100 stalls, the Chief Minister observed exhibits highlighting farmers' welfare schemes, advanced agricultural inputs, farm machinery, and organic products. He also visited start-ups led by SKUAST-K students and faculty, commending their role in driving agricultural innovation.

CS assesses preparations for identification of houseless people to be covered under PMAY (U) 2.0

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday chaired a meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to assess the household survey to be carried out by the Department in collaboration with the Planning Development & Monitoring Department for identification of houseless people in J&K.

Those who attended the meeting included Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, Planning; DG, E&S; MD, Housing Board; SIO, NIC and other concerned officers. The survey would give a detailed idea about the eligible persons to be covered for providing housing units through different programmes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 2.0 PMAY (U) in the UT. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised upon the department to frame detailed guidelines for identification of eligible houseless people. He advised to share the same beforehand with all the Deputy Commissioners so that they are able to effectively monitor the process. He directed for working out requirement of manpower for carrying out this survey in urban areas of the UT. He asked to ensure that teachers are exempted from this duty as schools are going to open from March in the valley and board exams are also going on for secondary and higher secondary school students. He directed for vetting the questionnaire together with the Planning Department so as to pose only relevant questions to the surveyed households and fetch information that is relevant and intended to be significant for this survey. Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, gave out the details about the significance of this survey to be carried out digitally on the analogy of YUVA survey in all the ULBs of J&K. She made out that this survey is going to provide details of the houseless people which after proper verification process would be framed into a merit list based upon their income and other set criteria. Mission Director, PMAY Urban, Ashish Gupta, informed that families belonging to EWS/LIG/MIG segments, living in urban areas, should not own a pucca house (an all-weather dwelling unit) either in his/her name or in the name of any member of his/her family in any part of India to be eligible under this PMAY-U 2.0.

Army, IAF conduct integrated 2-day training exercise in Jammu sector

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards enhancing joint operational readiness, the Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted a two-day integrated training exercise here, a defence spokesman said on Monday.

The training, conducted under the aegis of Tiger Division, Jammu, was aimed at fostering seamless coordination between ground troops and aerial assets, a critical factor in modern day warfare, the spokesman said.

He said the exercise served as a platform to refine swift troop deployment behind enemy lines, aerial maneuvers and precision target engagement, ensuring preparedness for real-time operational challenges.

The specialized training witnessed the IAF helicopters executing the airlift of troops from a mounting base who were then successfully inserted into the designated area, the spokesman said. Following their insertion, he said that the troops demonstrated a well-coordinated assault in a simulated combat scenario.

"This high-tempo exercise showcased the synergy between the two forces and the strategic importance of air mobility in the modern day combat environment," he said. The spokesman said integrated training of this nature reinforces joint operational capabilities, fostering a deeper understanding of each service's operational dynamics. The exercise not only strengthened coordination between the Army and the IAF but also enhanced the tactical proficiency of troops in executing complex missions, he said.

Annual Sthapana Diwas of Shri Chandi Mata at Maha Lakshmi Mandir on March 1

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir, Jammu is celebrating the annual day function (Sthapana Divas) of Shri Chandi Mata (Machail Wali) at the Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir, located in the premises of Shri Maha Lakshmi Mandir, Pacea Danga, Jammu on March 1st. As per press release, it has been decided that Hawan and Kanjak Poojan will be on the 1st of March 2025 from 8 AM to 10 AM. However, Bhandara will be organized in Brahmin Sabha, Parade Ground from 12:00 Noon to 04:00 PM and Kirtan shall be performed at Shri Maha Lakshmi Ji Temple, Pacea Danga, Jammu from 01:00 P.M. to 08:00 P.M. This day not only marks a deep connection with the divine but also highlights the temple's ongoing commitment to fostering unity, peace, and spiritual growth among its followers. The temple invites all devotees and community members to partake in this spiritual celebration.

