

Vol. 30 Issue 57 • Jammu • Thursday • February 27, 2025 • Pages 12+4=16 • ₹ 5.00 RNI No.: 66908/96

Dr Jitendra inspects 'Microbe Repository' at Chandigarh, virtually inaugurates Palampur 'Tulip' Garden

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates Maha Shivaratri with religious fervour

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Shikara March marks 2nd Day of Srinagar Heritage Festival 'Soun Meeraas'

Maha Kumbh concludes; over 66.21 Cr devotees take divine dip

Unprecedented in world history, truly unforgettable: Yogi

STATE TIMES NEWS

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Minister Adityanath on Wednesday hailed Maha Kumbh as a "grand confluence of faith, unity and equality"

The world's largest spiritual gathering neared its conclusion on Wednesday with auspicious 'Mahashivratri Snan' (holy dip) at Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj.

The Chief Minister also thanked the residents of Prayagraj for their patience and hospitality during the mega congregation.

In a post in Hindi on social platform Adityanath said the 45-day event that began on 13 January on Paush Purnima witnessed a record-breaking footfall of over 66.21 crore devotees from across India and the world.

"This is unprecedented in world history and truly the event into a "divine and



Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj on Wednesday.

unforgettable," he said. The chief minister attributed the grand success of the Maha Kumbh to the blessings of seers, sadhus, 'akharas' and religious leaders who, he said, transformed

trials of first-of-its-kind

Naval Anti-Ship missile

(ITR), Chandipur, the min-

Test Range

(NASM-SR)

Integrated

istry said.

magnificent spectacle, spreading a message of unity to the entire world".

Expressing his gratitude, Adityanath extended his "heartfelt appreciation" to all dignitaries, pilgrims and Kalpavasis (those observing spiritual retreat during the Kumbh).

He also commended the Kumbh Mela administration, local authorities, police, sanitation workers, Ganga volunteers, NGOs, religious organ-

ous departments of the central and state governments for ensuring the seamless execution of the grand event.

CM Adityanath thanked the residents of Prayagraj in particular for their patience and hospitality, stating that their "warmth and dedication had left an indelible mark on the visitors".

Concluding his message, Adityanath invoked divine blessings, saying, "May Mother Ganga and Lord Beni Madhav bless you all."

Addressing the Legislative Council during the state's Budget Session on Tuesday, the chief minister noted that while 1.4 crore pilgrims visit Mecca annually for Haj and 80 lakh visit Vatican City in a year, Ayodhya alone welcomed 16 crore devotees "in just 52 days"

The Maha Kumbh has witnessed six special bathing dates -- Paush Purnima

Terrorists fire at army vehicle in Rajouri; search ops underway

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

RAJOURI/JAMMU:An army vehicle came under fire from suspected terrorists in a forward village near the Line of Control in Rajouri district

on Wednesday, officials said. However, there were no casualties in the brief firing near Phal village in the Sunderbani sector, they added.

The terrorists, believed to be hiding in a forest, fired a few rounds at the army vehicle passing through the area, which is considered a traditional infiltration route for militants.

The troops returned fire and reinforcements were rushed to neutralise the terrorists, the officials said, adding that a search operation is underway in the area.

In another development the officials said army troops opened fire after observing suspicious movement near the LoC in the Keeri Battal area of Akhnoor sector in

ing night of Tuesday and

Wednesday. A massive combing operation was launched this morning, which was ongoing when the last reports

received, they said. The suspected terror attack on army vehicle in Rajouri comes hours after the Border Security Force confirmed that it had neutralised a Pakistani intruder after observing a suspicious movement along the international

Pathankot.

The army said the intruder was shot as he continued to move despite being warned several times.

"Border Security Force (BSF) personnel noticed some suspicious movement in Border Outpost Tashpatan area along the IB. Despite being challenged by the BSF troops, the intruder did not stop after crossing over onto this side," officials told news agency PTI.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

India successfully test fires naval anti-ship missile

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India has successfully test fired a firstof-its-kind naval anti-ship missile from Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

The trials carried out on Tuesday demonstrated the missile's capability against ship targets, the defence ministry said. Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy for successfully conducting the flight tests of the

The DRDO and the Navy

Police in Awantipora registers first e-FIR

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police in

Awantipora area of Jammu and Kashmir has registered

its first electronic FIR (e-

FIR) following a complaint

lodged via e-mail, officials

The complaint was filed by

Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat, from

New Colony Khrew, against

Adil Ahmad Bhat and Bilal

Ahmad Bhat who are also

residents of the same colony,

The complainant alleged

that the accused assaulted

his whole family, causing

injury to them, the

He said the complaint was

supported with an OPD tick-

et from Primary Health

Centre Khrew and a copy of the complainant's Aadhaar

Upon examining the com-

plaint, cognizance was taken by registering an e-FIR, cov-

Number 17/2025, under the

relevant sections of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in

police station Khrew, he

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

a police spokesman said.

spokesman said.

said on Wednesday.

MP Jugal led Reasi delegation calls on LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of elected public representatives from Reasi led by Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday. The delegation comprised Saraf Singh

Nag, Chairman, District Development "The trials demonstrated the missile's capability Council Reasi; Baldev Raj Sharma and against ship targets while Kuldeep Raj Dubey- Members of launched from an Indian Legislative Assembly, submitted a memorandum of demands pertaining to Naval Seaking helicopter," the ministry said. development of Shiv Khori Shrine, pro-It said the "trials have motion of tourism potential areas and proven the missile's Man-inupgradation of Tourism, Water, Power Loop feature and scored a and Health infrastructure, and various direct hit on a small ship tarother public important issues of Reasi get in sea-skimming mode at District.

The Lieutenant Governor assured the its maximum range. members of the delegation that appro-The missile uses an indigenous imaging infra-red priate action will be taken for redressal ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 of the issues projected by them.



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and others calling on LG Manoj Sinha in Jammu.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Swarankar Sangh Jammu City called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Registered Nurses Federation, J&K headed by its President Vishav Mohan Sharma also called on the Lieutenant

Bank robbery attempt foiled in Kathua; 2 arrested patrolling party of PP Hatli

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday claimed to have foiled a bank robbery attempt in Kathua district with the arrest of two burglars. As per details, in the intervening night of 25th-26th February 2025, 2 burglars namely Ankush Sharma son of Parkash Chand, resident of Darsoo, Udhampur and Sunil Singh son of Dharam Singh resident of Hatli Kathua broke open the side wall of the J&k bank premises and entered with in the bank.

While burglars were trying to break the walls and lock-

led by prominent BJP lead-

ers, including National

National General Secretary

Santosh, Union Minister Dr.

President J.P.

(Organization)

intercepted suspicious movements within the bank and intervened. However, taking the advantage of darkness, the said burglars absconded from spot. In the further course of

action, Police team of put strenuous efforts and with the help of technical expertise and other interventions traced the absconded persons and arrested them from the kootah area of Hirangar on the same day. In this regard, FIR No. 97/2025 under sections 324(4), 331(4), 305, 62 BNS has been registered in PS Kathua while further investigation is in progress

Primary school gutted in fire

STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: A primary school building was gutted in a mysterious fire incident in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday.

The Government Primary School Ranibagh was gutted in a fire incident late on Tuesday night, officials of fire and emergency department said. They said the record and furniture of the school were completely destroyed in the blaze. The cause of the blaze is being investigated by the police.

Locals claimed that there was a blast inside the singlestorey school building before

Gang of robbers posing as police commandos arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police Wednesday arrested a gang of robbers who were posing as police commandos to loot trucks during night in the outskirts of the city here,

Chanchal Singh, hailing from Haryana, filed a complaint on February 22 at Shalteng police station alleging that some unidentified gunmen stopped his vehicle and robbed him of cash and valuables at Maloora on Srinagar-Bandipora road, a police spokesperson said.

Acting on the complaint,



formed and an extensive

"Within days, four accused

to Savarkar on death anniversary **STATE TIMES NEWS** NEW DELHI: Prime

Modi pays homage

Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Hindutva ideologue Veer Savarkar on his death anniversary on Wednesday.

His invaluable sacrifice courage and struggle in the independence movement can never be forgotten by the grateful nation, Modi said in a post post on

Savarkar was also a prolific writer and many of his ideas, especially on Hindutva, have grown in influence since his death in 1966, becoming tenets of

BJP's Prashikshan Shivir: Top leaders to strategize for upcoming J&K Assembly Session The training session will be

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced a two-day intentraining camp, Prashikshan Shivir, for its 28 MLAs ahead of the Jammu

J.P Nadda, B.L Santosh to mentor BJP MLAs in Prashikshan Shivir before Budget Session and Kashmir Legislative Assembly's Budget Session.

Scheduled for February 28 and March 1 in Katra, the workshop aims to equip the legislators-most of whom are first-timers-with essential skills and strategies for effective participation in the Jitendra Singh, General Secretary and J&K Incharge Tarun Chugh, Secretary (Organization) Shiv Prakash, and senior Sahasrabuddhe. Key state

leaders such as J&K BJP

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Maha Shivratri celebrated with devotion across J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Shivratri, one of the most auspicious Hindu festivals dedicated to Lord Shiva, was celebrated with immense devotion and enthusiasm across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

Thousands of devotees gathered at temples, offering their prayers and seeking divine blessings. The occasion, which marks the celestial union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, was observed with night-long vigils, sacred rituals, and community feasts, making it a spiritually enriching experience for all.

In Jammu, some of the most revered temples, including the Ranbireshwar Temple, Aap Shambhu Temple, and Peer Kho Temple, became the focal points of devotion. These temples were adorned with intricate floral decorations and illuminated

with vibrant lights, creating a mesmerizing spiritual ambiance. From the early hours of the

morning, devotees queued up outside these sacred places, eager to perform the traditional 'Jal Abhishek,' where water, milk, honey, and other offerings were poured over the Shivling while chanting powerful Vedic mantras. The atmosphere resonated with the fervent echoes of 'Har Har Mahadev' as worshippers expressed their unwavering faith in the divine.

Special Rudra Abhishek ceremonies were conducted at several temples, with priests reciting ancient hymns and conducting elaborate Aarti rituals. Many devotees observed strict daylong fasts, breaking them only after the midnight prayers. The fasting was seen as an act of devotion and purification, believed to cleanse one's soul and bring divine blessings.



Devotees offering prayers at Aap Shambhu Mandir, Roop Nagar Jammu on Wednesday. (Pic by Ashok Anand)

Apart from temple rituals, several community centers hosted cultural and religious programs. Shiva Bhajans and Kirtans were performed throughout the

night, enhancing the spiritual energy of the festival. Devotees engaged in storytelling sessions about the legends of Lord Shiva, emphasizing the significance of

Maha Shivratri and its teachings on devotion, self-discipline, and righteousness

In Kashmir, Maha Shivratri is celebrated as 'Herath' by the Kashmiri Pandit community, an occasion of immense traditional and religious significance. The Shankaracharya Temple and Kheer Bhawani Temple witnessed a large gathering of devotees who offered prayers in an atmosphere of deep reverence. Families observed the unique Watuk Pooja, a ritual where symbolic representations of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati are worshipped. This tradition, deeply rooted in Kashmiri culture, highlights the spiritual connection of the community with its heritage.

Given the large crowds and the heightened enthusiasm surrounding the celebrations, security measures were significantly strengthened across the region.

Local authorities and police officials were deployed at key locations to ensure a safe and peaceful observance of the festival. Their presence reassured devotees and facilitated a smooth execution of religious activities without any disrup-

Maha Shivratri in Jammu was not just a religious observance but a grand celebration of faith, unity, and community service. It brought together people from all walks of life, reinforcing the spiritual richness of the region. The collective prayers, cultural festivities, and acts of devotion reflected the deep-rooted reverence for Lord Shiva, creating an environment filled with divine grace and joy. The festival served as a reminder of the enduring spiritual legacy of the land, inspiring devotees to embrace the values of devotion, humility, and inner peace.

WEATHER Max: 85 Max: 6.6°C Max: 89 Min: 68

Sunset: 18:25 Hours

Sunrise: 07:02 Hours