

**03** 'Nuclear Mission', private investments to transform India's Energy landscape: Dr Jitendra

**03** JNEG discusses issues facing journalists in Jammu

**05** JKPS Kunjwani hosts insightful session on Goal Setting and Drug Awareness

Website : [www.statetimes.in](http://www.statetimes.in), Email: [statetimes1@gmail.com](mailto:statetimes1@gmail.com)

## Step up fight against terrorism in J&K, Amit Shah tells security agencies

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday directed all security agencies to step up the fight against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir with the goal of achieving 'zero infiltration'.

Chairing two high-level review meetings in as many days here on the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he also said the ecosystem of terror in the Union Territory has been weakened due to the sustained and coordinated efforts of the Narendra Modi government.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, DGP Nalin Prabhat, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and other top army, police and civil officials were present in the meetings.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairing security review meeting at New Delhi on Wednesday. LG Manoj Sinha, CS Atal Dulloo & DGP Nalin Prabhat also participated.

Amit Shah asked all security agencies to take more stringent action on infiltration and acts of terror with a ruthless approach, saying the goal should be to uproot the existence of terrorists.

The Home Minister directed them to step up the fight against terrorism with the goal of 'zero infiltration', according to an official statement.

Shah said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Leaders meet family of ex-serviceman martyred by terrorists in Kulgam

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Leaders of various political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday visited the residence of ex-serviceman Manzoor Ahmad Wagay, who was martyred by terrorists in Kulgam district on Monday.

Leader of Opposition in J-K Assembly and BJP leader Sunil Sharma, state president Sat Paul Sharma and former MLA Ravindra Raina were among those who visited the Wagay family.

National Conference spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar also visited the bereaved family to offer their condolences.

The BJP leaders said Pakistan had created a module which was targeting innocent and unarmed civilians after the neighbouring country was frustrated by the peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is condemnable and the perpetrators will be brought to the book," Raina said.

Sunil Sharma also blamed National Conference of the large number of deaths in Kashmir especially those which took place in 2010 during the first tenure of Omar Abdullah as Chief Minister.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 2 Kashmiris arrested with 10 Kg gold coins at Delhi airport

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Gold coins worth Rs 7.8 crore have been seized at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport from the possession of two men, the customs department said on Wednesday.

The accused who are from Jammu and Kashmir were intercepted after their arrival from Milan on Wednesday.

While baggage scans revealed nothing unusual,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Cache of arms, ammunition recovered in Baramulla

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Wednesday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from snow-covered area in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The arms and ammunition, which were wrapped in a blanket and concealed in the hollow trunk of a tree, were recovered by a joint team of security forces

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 20.8°C Min: 6.6°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 89 Min: 52

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 14.5°C Min: -1.9°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 85 Min: 44

Sunset : 18:06 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:23 Hours

## CM holds pre-budget consultations, assures people-friendly Budget

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday reiterated his government's commitment to presenting a people-friendly budget for Jammu & Kashmir, emphasising that involvement of public representatives in budget formulation ensures people's aspirations and needs are reflected.

Chairing a series of pre-budget consultation meetings at civil secretariat Jammu and joined from districts through video conferencing by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Anantnag, Budgam, Kathua and Samba districts and District Development Council Chairpersons, the Chief Minister highlighted the significance of such engagements in fostering participatory governance.

Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, Speaker of the J&K Legislative Assembly and representative of the Charar-



CM Omar Abdullah chairing pre-budget consultation meeting at civil secretariat Jammu.

i-Sharief Constituency, also participated in the meeting virtually from his office.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Director General Budget J&K, Deputy Commissioners of Kathua, Samba, Anantnag and Budgam districts, DDC chairpersons, MLAs along with other senior officials, both in person and through virtual mode.

In his address, Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah stated, "The primary aim of these consultations is to gather valuable suggestions from prime stakeholders before finalizing the budget. We want to make sure that this budget is not just by the government, but by the people, for the people. Your voices will be represented, as you represent people of Jammu & Kashmir."

He emphasized that the upcoming budget will not be confined to government offices alone. "You all have won your elections because

people have placed their trust in you. Their expectations are linked to your leadership, and through this meeting, we aim to align the budget priorities with the hopes of those who voted and participated in the democratic process," he told elected representatives including DDCs chairperson and MLAs.

The Chief Minister assured the MLAs and DDC Chairpersons that their inputs would play a crucial role in shaping the upcoming budget, reinforcing the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Delhi records over 60 pc voting; exit polls give BJP edge over AAP

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Delhi recorded 60 per cent voter turnout in the assembly polls on Wednesday amid charges of malpractices including money distribution and fake voting by both AAP and BJP who are engaged in an intense battle to decide who rules the national capital.

The turnout is lower than the 2020 assembly polls (62.59 per cent) when the Arvind Kejriwal-led party won 62 seat of the 70 seats, while the BJP got eight and the Congress zero.

Long queues of voters were witnessed outside polling sta-



President Droupadi Murmu cast her vote on Wednesday.

tions in different constituencies since early morning, and there were people still waiting after the scheduled time of close at 6 pm.

Exit poll results started

coming in soon afterwards, with several of them predicting a victory for the BJP over the ruling AAP, while the Congress was projected to suffer yet another rout.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Gataru murder case: Eleven gangsters of rival gang arrested

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Eleven persons, including two juveniles, were held for the daylight murder of Gataru gang kingpin Sumit Jandyal who was killed over a rivalry with another gang, police said on Wednesday.

The main conspirator who orchestrated the crime from outside India has also been identified and efforts are on to deport him, they added.

Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joginder Singh told reporters here several rounds were fired at Jandyal while he was in an SUV near Jewel



SSP Jammu Joginder Singh briefing media on Wednesday.

Chowk on January 21.

The assailants left the car they were in and fled in a scooter they snatched, the SSP said. A police team immediately shifted Jandyal

to GMC Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival, he said.

The main accused were among those who were arrested. The arrests include

shooters, conspirators, co-accused and those who harboured the criminals, the SSP said.

"Based on human and technical intelligence, as well as CCTV footage analysis, the assailants were identified," the SSP said.

Given the gravity of the crime, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted, he added.

The SIT rounded up around 30 suspects and conducted raids in Jammu, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh. Investigation revealed that Jandyal's

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Hindu society can 'flourish' if it is united: Bhagwat

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PATHANAMTHITTA : RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday said that the Hindu 'samaj' (society) can 'flourish' only if it is united and called for treating all Hindus as one, irrespective of their caste, region, or language.

Bhagwat, speaking at the Hindu Ekta Sammelan organised as part of the Cherukolpuzha Hindu religious meet here, said that a united society flourishes, while one that is divided withers away.

He further stated that

being a Hindu was a "Swabhav" (nature) where people use learning to



increase knowledge, money for charity, and power to help the weak.

The RSS chief said that in Hindu dharma, no one is superior or inferior; caste does not matter, and there is

"no untouchability".

He urged everyone to respect others and said that if 'all Hindus are united, it will benefit the world'.

Bhagwat also suggested ways to achieve this unity, including "knowing oneself," treating everyone equally, and protecting the environment.

He said that while policy changes for protecting the environment will take time, people can do three small things: save water, plant trees, and abolish plastics.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 'Blessed to be at Maha Kumbh': Modi takes holy dip at Sangam

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday took a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam and said he felt "blessed to be at the Maha Kumbh" where he was "filled with a spirit of devotion".

The prime minister held 'rudraksh' beads in his hand during the bathing ritual. Dressed in a deep orange jersey and blue lowers, he offered prayers to the sun and the Ganga amid the chanting of mantras.

"Blessed to be at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. The Snan at the Sangam is a moment of divine connection, and like the crores of others who have taken part in it, I was also filled with a spirit of devotion," Modi posted on X.

"May Maa Ganga bless all with peace, wisdom, good



PM Narendra Modi taking holy dip at Triveni Sangam during Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

health and harmony," he added.

In another post in Hindi, he said, "Today I got the great fortune of performing Puja archana after nothing in the holy Sangam at Prayagraj Maha Kumbh. I got immense peace and satisfaction from the blessings of Maa Ganga. I prayed to her for the happiness, prosperity, health and well-being of all the countrymen. Har-Har Gange."

He also shared some pictures of his visit, captioning the post: "The confluence of faith, devotion and spirituality in the divine and grand Maha Kumbh of Prayagraj is overwhelming everyone."

His trip lasted around 90 minutes during which there was minimal use of the road - "barely 3 km in the car. He travelled from Prayagraj airport to a helipad near

Sangam in a helicopter and later used motor boat to and fro the confluence of the sacred rivers from Arail Ghat.

This trip was much shorter than Modi's February 2019 visit to Kumbh when he, in a unique gesture, washed the feet of several sanitation workers as a mark of appreciation for their work and spent around five hours in the Mela.

After landing in Prayagraj around 10.30 am Wednesday, Modi took a boat ride from Arail ghat to the Triveni Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati. He was accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Adityanath also shared pictures of Modi's visit on

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Govt makes quality compliance must for 150 products including home appliances, steel items

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government has expanded quality compliance requirements by mandating Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for over 150 products, ranging from household appliances to industrial materials, in a move aimed at ensuring stricter safety and performance standards.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) said it has listed out 150-odd products in advance for better awareness purpose. The scope of these mandatory standards is extended to various sectors with varied enforcement dates for different sectors.

The BIS will oversee the implementation of these orders, and the list covers a diverse range of products including vacuum cleaners,

stainless steel utensils, and massage appliances.

For electrical appliances operating on 250V single-phase or 415V three-phase power, the compliance deadline is set for March 20.

In the furniture industry, manufacturers must comply with quality norms for products such as block boards, plywood, and wooden flush doors.

The steel sector faces regulations for items including hot-rolled and cold-rolled steel strips, while the household segment covers everything from electric water heaters to solar water heating systems.

"QCOs are designed to prevent the import of substandard goods and ensure consumer access to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9