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**Modi at Knesset...**

No cause can justify the murder of civilians. Nothing can justify terrorism," he said. Marking the first-ever speech by an Indian prime minister to the Knesset, Modi showed India's strong resolve to combat terrorism with full force. "India has also endured the pain of terrorism for a long time. We remember the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and the innocent lives lost, including Israeli citizens. Like you, we have a consistent and uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism, with no double standards," he said. "Terrorism aims to destabilise societies, to block development, and to erode trust. Countering terrorism requires sustained and coordinated global action, because terror anywhere threatens peace everywhere." "That is why India supports all efforts that contribute to durable peace and regional stability," he noted. The prime also delved into the evolving situation in the Middle East and referred to Israel signing the Abraham Accords with a number of countries a few years back. "It was a moment of new hope for a long-troubled region. Since then, the situation has changed significantly. The path is even more challenging. Yet it is important to sustain that hope," he said. In the current context, Modi explicitly backed the Gaza Peace Initiative, describing the UN Security Council-endorsed plan as the definitive path toward a "just and durable peace" for the entire region. "The Gaza Peace Initiative that was endorsed by the UN Security Council offers a pathway. India has expressed its firm support for the initiative," Modi said. "We believe that it holds the promise of a just and durable peace for all the people of the region, including by addressing the Palestine issue," he said. "Let all our efforts be guided by wisdom, courage, and humanity. The road to peace is not always easy. But India joins you and the world for dialogue, peace and stability in this region," he added. The prime minister said that there is great admiration in India for Israel's "resolve, courage, and achievements". "Long before we related to each other as modern states, we were linked by ties that go back more than two thousand years," he said. Modi said India and Israel are "democracies shaped by history and focused on the future". "Our partnership is grounded in shared experience and shared aspirations. Our strong partnership not only serves national interests but also contributes to global stability and prosperity," he said.

**PM Modi conferred...**

was conferred the Grand Collar of the State of Palestine, which is the highest Palestinian honour for foreign leaders. It is PM Modi's second visit to Israel in nine years. The India-Israel relationship was elevated to the level of strategic partnership during his first visit to that country in July 2017.

**VP Radhakrishnan arrives...**

the university, the officials said. Authorities have issued a public advisory for diverting traffic on a number of roads connecting the Kashmir University -- the venue of the convocation. Roads around the University, including the Boulevard Road and Foreshore Road, have been sealed for the general public, the officials added. Chief Minister Abdullah on Wednesday welcomed the visit of the Vice President to Kashmir. "Students are eagerly waiting to receive their degrees and medals from him. This is his first visit after assuming office and we welcome him," Abdullah told reporters here. LG Sinha, who is also the Chancellor of the Kashmir University, will preside over the convocation, while Chief Minister Abdullah, who is also its Pro-Chancellor, will attend the convocation as the Guest of Honour. A total of 59,558 degrees, which include 44,910 undergraduates, 13,545 postgraduates, 461 MD/MS, four MCH, 18 M.Phil and 620 Ph.Ds, shall be conferred during the convocation.

**DGP calls for...**

General of Police (Kashmir Zone) V K Birdi, and other senior police officers, according to a spokesperson. During the meeting, Budgam senior superintendent of police gave a detailed briefing on counter-terror operations, law and order management, measures to prevent crime, action against drug trafficking, area domination plan and overall security scenario of the district. Prabhakar reviewed the ongoing kinetic and non-kinetic operations, anti-terror strategies, and measures to dismantle the overall separatist and terror ecosystem in the district. The DGP called for actionable intelligence generation by field officers and directed to maintain sustained operational momentum. Highlighting the current security challenges, he directed the officers to undertake non-traditional, non-conformist and modern tactics to neutralise Pakistani terrorists. He also called for a focused approach and renewed efforts against to eliminate terrorists and their support networks to wipe out terrorism and establishing peace in the district. To strengthen the overall security grid, the DGP emphasised on maintaining seamless coordination with sister agencies, effective area domination plan and surveillance on traditional terror sympathisers and separatists network of the district, the spokesperson said. While reviewing the law and order, the DGP stressed on taking preventive measures

against miscreants, engaging peace-loving citizens in day-to-day activities of policing and adopting measures to bridge the gap between police and the public. The DGP urged officers to continue counter-terror operations in the area and remain committed to establishing long-lasting peace and stability in the district.

**ACB registers DA...**

the accused officer. Consequently, FIR No. 02/2026 was registered at Police Station ACB Central under Section 13(1)(b) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and investigation was formally taken up. "In the course of investigation, search warrants were obtained from the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu," the spokesperson said. "Subsequently, searches were conducted by ACB teams at multiple locations linked to the accused." The searched locations included his residential house at Santokh Vihar, Kaluchak, Jammu; ancestral residence at Nonial, Nowshera in Rajouri district; and business premises including a stone crusher unit and a tile factory situated at Tutte-di-Khuni, Bajalta, Jammu. Additionally, acting on further leads developed during investigation, ACB teams conducted searches at other locations in Jammu under Section 185 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). "During the searches, incriminating documents and material relevant to the investigation were recovered and seized," the ACB official said, adding that further investigation in the case is ongoing. The Bureau reiterated its commitment to act firmly against corruption and bring to book public servants found indulging in corrupt practices.

**Shah in Bihar...**

under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, which is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing border infrastructure. After Shah reached Purnea airport, he was welcomed by senior BJP leaders like Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and state party president Sanjay Saraogi. Photographs of the occasion were shared on the X handle of the "Office of Amit Shah" with the remark "Union Home Minister Amit Shah reached Purnea for a three-day Bihar tour. He is likely to dedicate to the nation border outposts, lay foundation stones for projects of the Sashastra Seema Bal and attend meetings to review demographic change". From Purnea, Shah left in a helicopter for Kishanganj, the lone Bihar district with a Muslim majority population, where, according to the X post, he chaired a meeting of the Land Ports Authority of India. Shah is also likely to hold a meeting with officials of the departments responsible for guarding the porous border with Nepal. "The Union Home Minister is likely to brief officials on measures needed for putting a check on smuggling of drugs and circulation of counterfeit currency along the Indo-Nepal border," DGP Vinay Kumar had said on Tuesday. This is the first Bihar visit of Shah, widely regarded as the BJP's principal strategist, who was last seen in the state capital in November, at the swearing-in ceremony of the new Nitish Kumar cabinet after the NDA's landslide victory in assembly polls. State minister and former Bihar BJP chief Dilip Jaiswal, who hails from Kishanganj, wrote on X: "It is a matter of pride for us that Amit Shah, the Chanakya of Indian politics, has visited our land". Shah is scheduled to visit the adjoining Araria district on Friday, where he will inspect the Indo-Nepal border, interact with officials of Sashastra Seema Bal, and also inaugurate a newly constructed "SSB Bhawan". He will wind up his Bihar tour on Friday with a visit to Purnea, from where he is scheduled to board his return flight. "Union Home Minister Amit Shah's tour of Seemanchal is a decisive step in the direction of strengthening national security. It is a strategically important region, by virtue of its proximity to Nepal and Bangladesh and presents challenges with regard to maintaining an intelligence network and demographic balance," state BJP spokesperson Prem Ranjan Patel said in a statement. Located in the north-eastern extreme of Bihar, Seemanchal is a densely populated, but flood-prone and impoverished area, situated close to the border with Nepal and West Bengal. The region, which has a high concentration of Muslim population, is also seen as a "gateway" to the strategically important Siliguri Corridor, colloquially referred to as the "Chicken's Neck".

**Army busts terror...**

of the local police at Salani Kasblari village in the Mendhar sector. The items, which included two grenades and 24 pistol rounds, were found hidden inside a cave. In a post on X, the Army's White Knight Corps said, "Based on synergised intelligence inputs from own sources and police, a joint operation was launched by the troops of White Knight Corps and SOG Poonch in the Gani Forest area." "The detailed search led to the recovery of one big IED (4.5 kg), one small IED (800 grams), two Chinese grenades, one 9-mm pistol, two 9 mm rounds and 22 7.62 mm rounds were recovered from the site," it said. According to officials, the IEDs and the grenades were later destroyed through a controlled explosion. The timely recovery of the consignment has thwarted a potential terror attack in the border district, they said.

**Delhi-Katra Expressway...**

Sindoor and later by heavy rains and flooding. But the work has gathered pace again. The deadline for its completion has been fixed for March next year." Kumar said the National Expressway 5 is the fifth major expressway being developed in the country and has been conceptualised as a religious corridor, supplementing existing air and rail connectivity. "It will connect two of the most prominent pilgrimage destinations -- Sri Harmandir Sahib, also known as the Golden Temple or Darbar Sahib in

Amritsar (Punjab) and Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra (Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir)," he said. A large number of devotees visit Mata Vaishno Devi annually, the official said, explaining that they currently rely on rail and air travel. The expressway would provide a third option, enabling Delhi-Katra travel in approximately six hours. "We had only five to six months of effective work last year. One of the biggest challenges was retaining manpower during tense security situations. Many workers left due to safety concerns and had to be persuaded to return. Additionally, heavy rains washed away two bridges, severely disrupting supply lines," Kumar said. Strategically, the NHAI official said, the expressway is significant for Jammu and Kashmir due to its proximity to the International Border. "Running parallel to sensitive border areas, the corridor is expected to facilitate faster deployment and improved mobility for defence forces," he said. Kumar said advanced segmental bridge construction technology -- a method adopted during the construction of Delhi Metro and Dwarka Expressway -- is being used in the current project. Packages 15 and 16 along the Jammu-Samba stretch included an elevated corridor of nearly 21.5 kilometres, which posed a challenge due to heavy traffic movement. However, the target was achieved using segmental bridge construction technology without disrupting traffic, the NHAI official said. Keeping the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra in mind, the official said, a target has been set to complete nearly 30 kilometres of the Jammu-Kathua stretch before the start of the pilgrimage later this year.

**Delhi bomb blast...**

statement issued by the agency said. They had supplied the weapons to the prime accused in the case, investigations by the NIA have revealed. Eleven people were killed, and several were injured in the blast that shook the national capital on November 10, last year. The prime accused, Umer Un Nabi, was also killed in the deadly explosion. The NIA, which has been investigating the case to unveil the complete conspiracy behind the dastardly terror act, found Zameer and Tufail to be active overground workers (OGWs) of the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGH) terror outfit. Investigations by the NIA, which has been working in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Haryana Police and other agencies, have further revealed that Zameer and Tufail were involved in the blast conspiracy, and were also a part of various other terror conspiracies, the statement said. The NIA found through extensive investigation and examination of evidence that they were engaged in the collection of arms and ammunition, intended for use against the country, it added. According to the findings of the national counter-terror agency, the Delhi blast conspiracy was masterminded by Umer, along with other accused identified as Muzammil Ganai, Shaheen Saeed, Mufti Irfan, Adeel Ahmed Rather, as well as five others who had provided shelter and logistical support to the main conspirators. These nine men were arrested earlier from various locations in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana.

**ILLEGAL MINING: ACB...**

Gandyal (Kathua), Kaller and Doongi (Rajouri), besides the District Mineral Office Rajouri. Mining blocks at Saranu (Rajouri), Anji (Reasi) and Arnas (Reasi) were also inspected. "Preliminary findings during the JSCs indicate that most of the stone crushers and certain block holders were found indulging in illegal mining activities and operating in blatant violation of laid down terms and conditions, thereby causing irreversible ecological degradation in the region," the ACB official stated. He further informed that mobile phones, computers and relevant documents/records were seized from the inspected sites. "The seized material is under detailed scrutiny to ascertain the extent of irregularities and identify the role of officials, if any," he added.

**CM lays foundation...**

percolating into the ground, it flows away, leading to both flooding and water scarcity. We must prepare infrastructure that can withstand changing weather patterns." Emphasizing water conservation and reuse, he said treated sewage must improve, not degrade, river water quality. "We must ensure that if treated water enters the river, it improves its quality instead of harming it. Our lakes and canals must regain their former glory." Recalling Srinagar's historical identity as the "Venice of the East," he added: "Once, people travelled through our canals by boat. I want to see our water bodies restored to that standard. Water quality must improve, scarcity must reduce." The Chief Minister also stressed the need to decongest the city through planned housing colonies in peripheral areas. "There is immense pressure on the inner city because we have not developed sufficient planned colonies. This year, we intend to take up at least one or two major housing projects with proper roads, drainage, water and electricity infrastructure, so that people willingly move towards the outskirts." Assuring speedy implementation, he said several projects are ready for inauguration or foundation laying. "In the next three to three-and-a-half years, when we go back to the people, we want to present a transformed Srinagar - a city with modern infrastructure and renewed character. That is our commitment." Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs Ali Mohammad Dar, Tanvir Sadiq, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed and Shamima Firdous, Commissioner Secretary Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Fazlul Haseeb, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

**Bovine smuggling bid foiled; 10 cattle rescued, one arrested**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SAMBA: In a major crackdown on bovine smuggling, Samba Police successfully foiled an attempt to illegally transport cattle within the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur, arrested one accused and rescued ten bovines from illegal transit. According to police officials, acting on specific and reliable inputs, a team from Police Station Vijaypur laid a naka at NHW near AIIMS during routine vehicle checking. During the operation, a dumper bearing registration number JK19A-3235 was intercepted for inspection. Upon checking the vehicle, police found ten bovines tied in a cruel and inhumane manner inside the dumper. The cattle were reportedly being transported without any valid permission or legal documentation. The accused has been identified as Mohd Sadiq, son of Mal Hussain, resident of Disa Chak, Tehsil Mahreen, District Kathua. He was immediately taken into custody at the spot. Police rescued all ten bovines safely and seized the vehicle used in the commission of the offence. In this regard, a case FIR No. 35/2026 has been registered under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section



11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act at Police Station Vijaypur. Further investigation into the matter has been initiated to ascertain the involvement of other persons, if any. Samba Police reiterated its commitment to curb bovine smuggling and appealed to the public to share any information related to such illegal activities to ensure strict action against offenders.

**Van Prahari Exercise-2026 inaugurated in Nowshera Forest Division**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS NOWSHERA: The three-day Van Prahari Exercise-2026 was inaugurated today by the Nowshera Forest Division on the directions of Pr. CCF J&K, Sarvesh Rai and CCF Jammu, Dr. VS Senthil Kumar. The event was attended by the Divisional Forest Officers of all divisions under the West Circle of Jammu Province, namely Reasi Forest Division, Mahore Forest Division, Rajouri Forest Division and Poonch Forest Division, along with their respective field officials. The inaugural programme was attended by Conservator of Forests, West Circle, Sat Paul and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thappa. The training was imparted to the staff by expert resource persons from

Dehradun- Bharat Singh (State Forest Service UK), Retired as DFO and V.K Dhawan Scientist-G (Retired), FRI Dehradun. They delivered detailed theoretical sessions through PowerPoint presentations covering forest fire behaviour, prevention strategies, safety protocols and modern firefighting techniques. The theoretical inputs were supplemented with practical demonstrations and field-based exercises to provide hands-on exposure to participants. Officers and officials from Wildlife Division Forest Rajouri and Forest Protection Force Rajouri also actively participated in the exercise. Representatives from the Revenue Department, Police Department, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the Fire & Emergency Services Department also

attended. Live mock drills were conducted wherein SDRF and Fire & Emergency Services teams displayed practical firefighting and rescue operations, reinforcing the importance of inter-departmental coordination and rapid mobilization during emergencies. The exercise emphasized preparedness, swift response and seamless coordination among various departments to effectively tackle forest fire incidents, particularly during the forthcoming fire season. The Van Prahari Exercise-2026 marks a significant step towards strengthening forest fire management systems and reaffirms the department's commitment to protecting forest resources, biodiversity and the interests of forest-dependent communities.

**Govt activates helplines for J&K residents returning from Iran**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: The Resident Commission, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, has activated helpline numbers to assist the residents of the Union Territory returning from Iran, following an advisory issued by the Embassy of India in Tehran on February 23, 2026. The 24x7 working helpline numbers included "Hello J&K" at 7303620090 and Control Rooms at 011-24611108 and 011-24611210. These helplines will provide necessary support and coordination to those in need.

**Nearly 700 ancient coins unearthed in Pulwama**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Nearly 700 antique coins, believed to be of significant historical and archaeological value, have been recovered in Pulwama district, police said on Wednesday. Police in Awantipora have recovered 694 antique coins from Pinglesh area of Tral during a routine operation, a spokesman said. He said the recovered antique coins were kept in safe custody under the supervision of the Station House Officer, Tral, Inspector Tajamul Islam. Subsequently, coordination was established with the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums to facilitate scientific handling and preservation in accordance with established archaeological norms, the spokesman said. He said the handover of the antique coins reaffirms the commitment of Jammu and Kashmir Police towards safeguarding peace and tranquillity, as well as preserving the archaeological and cultural heritage of the Union territory, while fostering public awareness about Kashmir's rich historical legacy.

**DC Reasi reviews progress of development works at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek, who is also the Vice Chairman of the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, on Wednesday chaired a meeting at Shiv Shakti Bhawan Ransoo to review the ongoing development works in and around the Shrine.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a detailed review of the progress of works being executed by the Shrine Board and assessed their current status. Later, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing development works in the area to assess the pace and

quality of execution. During the inspection, he took stock of the progress achieved, reviewed the status of civil works and interacted with the concerned officers to identify and address bottlenecks. He directed the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work, adhere strictly to technical specifications and

maintain quality standards to ensure timely completion, thereby enhancing facilities and convenience for pilgrims and the general public. The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the Tehsil and Niabat offices at Pouni to assess their functioning and emphasized the need for efficient and prompt public serv-

ice delivery. Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Development Vijay Kumar, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineer JPDCL, Tehsildar Pouni, BDO and other concerned officers were present during the meeting.

**DIPR conducts drug de-addiction awareness programme at GDC Samba**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SAMBA: A Drug De-Addiction Awareness Programme was organised by the District Information Office Samba at Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College with the aim of sensitising students about the serious consequences of substance abuse and motivating them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle. The programme was held under the banner of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, reinforcing the government's commitment to building a drug-free society. Through engaging nukkad natak, skits, cultural performances and motivational songs, students were encouraged to take a firm stand against drug abuse and become ambassadors of positive change in society. The cultural programme was presented by the artists of Saraswati Sangeet Art and Culture Group, Samba, conveying the message "Say No to Drugs" in an engaging and relatable manner.