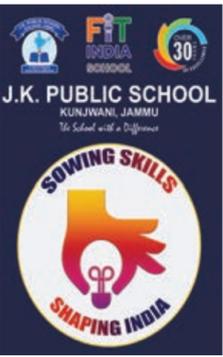


STATE TIMES

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03 Life's Essential 8-A New Blueprint for Heart Health: Dr Sushil

10 J&K on brink of historic Ranji Trophy semifinal berth

10 J&K Police lifts volleyball trophy

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SMVDSB approves initiatives to posit Mata Vaishno Devi as India's leading spiritual destination

Katra to be equipped with modern infrastructure: LG



LG Manoj Sinha chairing Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board meeting on Sunday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in its meeting on Sunday has taken a series of high-impact decisions to completely transform the Mata's Shrine and its surrounding region into India's leading and most vibrant spiritual destination-earning worldwide acclaim.

The meeting was chaired by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

The Shrine Board has approved three key initiatives: an international museum dedicated to Maa Shakti's spiritual heritage, a sound-and-light spectacle modeled on global pilgrimage sites, and a documentary on the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

In another important initiative, the

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has decided to fill vacant positions, with recruitment process set to begin shortly.

The SMVDSB has also greenlit the establishment of coaching centers offering free NEET preparation to youth from surrounding areas.

The SMVDSB approved formulation and phased implementation of a rehabilitation plan for the service providers on Mata Vaishno Devi track, like ponywallas etc, in line with the directives of the National Green Tribunal.

In a significant move, a committee has been constituted to assess strategies for expanding pilgrimage numbers, enhancing pilgrimage experience and present recommendations to the board.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has resolved to prioritize purchases from self-help groups, women and young local entrepreneurs to supercharge regional economy.

The Board has decided that the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board would source Mata's offerings locally, channeling funds directly into community growth.

Since Mata's abode puts Katra city on the global map, the board has decided to contribute directly for city's transformation.

"It's Board's resolve to make Katra clean, vibrant, and equipped with modern infrastructure for residents and the millions who arrive as pilgrims," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Board has decided to spearhead sports development across the Jammu region- cultivating future champions, safeguarding youth health, and transforming Jammu & Kashmir UT into a national sporting powerhouse alongside its spiritual eminence.

The Board also emphasised on specialised training for religious practitioners (Pujaris).

The Board reviewed and ratified actions taken since the previous meeting and took key decisions on 25 important agenda items aimed at strengthening the Board's functioning and improving pilgrim services.

Emphasizing pilgrim safety, the Board approved enhancement of insurance cover from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh per pilgrim. Besides, endorsed the preliminary concept for constructing an International Museum with the consultation of Asian Heritage Foundation dedicated to Mata Vaishno Devi Ji at Natali, Katra. The proposed Shakti Museum will be the first of its kind and would serve as a religious, educational and cultural center. Additionally, the state-of-the-art light & sound shows will bring mythology to life through a fusion of tradition and innovation. The Lieutenant Governor requested the Board to provide concrete suggestions, enabling the project to be initiated in the coming months and completed within a two-year timeframe.

Progress ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

India's message on terrorism clear; no double standards, no compromise: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KUALA LUMPUR: India and Malaysia on Sunday unveiled several initiatives to further shore up cooperation in areas of defence and security, semiconductor and trade after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim.

combating terrorism as he said: "Our message on terrorism is clear; no double stan-

at the airport. Ahead of the talks, Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Perdana Putra this morning.

"India and Malaysia share a special relationship. We are maritime neighbours. For centuries, our people have had deep and affectionate ties," Modi said.

"Today, Malaysia is the second largest country in the world with a population of Indian origin. Our civilisations, shared cultural heritage and democratic values bind us together," he said. Modi said both sides will strengthen cooperation in



dards, no compromise." Modi arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday to a grand red-carpet reception, with Ibrahim receiving him

Following the meeting, Modi said India and Malaysia share a "special relationship" and both sides are committed to expanding their ties in diverse sectors.

The prime minister also reiterated India's position on

Congress running campaign of lies due to fear of India's progress: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the Congress and Rahul Gandhi, accusing them of spreading lies and mistrust instead of showing confidence in India's growth trajectory.

deceit, and mistrust." He asserted that the rapid progress under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

"The problem for Rahul Gandhi and Congress is that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is moving forward decisively. They feel threatened by India's growing Aatmanirbhar economy, strong foreign policy, and expanding international trade agreements with Europe, Africa, and the United States," Chugh said.



Rahul Gandhi are running a campaign of lies, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Amit Shah calls for end to communist ideology

STATE TIMES NEWS

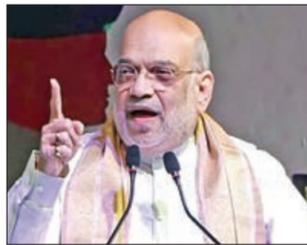
RAIPUR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the country needs to get rid of the "destructive" communist ideology at the earliest and appealed to Naxalites to lay down their arms, assuring them a red carpet from the government.

Addressing a conclave titled 'Chhattisgarh@25 Shifting The Lens of Organiser Weekly' in Nava Raipur, Shah said the Maoist problem cannot be linked to the lack of development or considered merely as a law-and-order issue.

"Left-Wing Extremism is an ideology-driven challenge," he added.

Shah said the people of India should understand the truth of this ideology.

"Wherever communists remained in



power, they could not bring development. Communist ideology is an ideology indicative of destruction, and the country is required to get rid of it immediately," he added.

Shah said the communist ideology is no longer present in democratic politics.

"It does not exist in Tripura and Bengal (both of which had several communist governments in the past). In Kerala (currently ruled by the CPM-led LDF), it is surviving to an extent; however, people have started the change from Thiruvananthapuram (referring to BJP winning civic polls in the Kerala capital)," he added.

Shah appealed to Maoists to lay down their arms, saying the government doesn't want to fire a single bullet and will welcome those who surrender "with a red carpet".

Mounting a strident attack on Left Wing Extremism, he said the failure to correctly assess the Maoist problem would amount to injustice to future generations.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Religious conversion, infiltration, low birth rate reasons behind population imbalance: Bhagwat

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major breakthrough against cybercrime, the swift and coordinated action of Police Station CICE (Crime Branch), Jammu, led to the recovery and saving of Rs 39.90 lakh in a "Digital Arrest" cyber fraud case involving a retired Indian Air Force officer.

According to police, PS CICE Jammu received an online complaint on February 6, 2026, from the victim who reported being placed under a so-called "digital arrest" for nine days and defrauded of Rs 52.90 lakh. Acting immediately,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

those wishing to return to their original faith.

Responding to a query on Bhagwat was responding to questions during an interactive session with attendees here at a programme to mark the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) centenary.

On population imbalance, Bhagwat said, "There were three major reasons; the first being religious conversion. While freedom of faith was guaranteed, using force, inducement or deception to convert people and increase the numbers of a sect was totally

infiltration, he said that RSS workers identified suspected infiltrators through language and reported them to authorities.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



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