

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Omar orders restoration...

year of his government in Jammu and Kashmir. He added, "We promised the people that we would restore the 'Darbar' move. The Cabinet has taken a decision regarding its restoration and sent it to the Lieutenant Governor. The LG has signed and returned the file."

Taking a dig at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Abdullah said, "Why was the Darbar Move stopped? It had been a long-standing tradition. Those who used to accuse us of not understanding the history of Jammu and Kashmir before 1947, and of not respecting the great personalities of the region - let it be known that no one has damaged their legacy more than the BJP"

Opposition parties and traders had been strongly advocating for the restoration of the Darbar Move for years.

The Chief Minister said solution to all issues facing Jammu and Kashmir lies in the restoration of statehood, as he urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil his promise for the same made to the people of the Union territory.

"We were hopeful that the Centre would fulfil its promise to restore statehood (to J-K) in the first year of our government, but it has not happened," Abdullah said, as he urged the Modi government to fulfil its promise made to the people of the Union territory from the floor of Parliament and the Supreme Court.

"Heading a government in a UT is a different experience. We were hoping that the Centre would fulfil its promise on statehood, but it has not happened yet. But we will not back down from our efforts.

"We still believe that the solution to all the problems facing Jammu and Kashmir lies in the restoration of statehood," Abdullah told reporters at the NC headquarters here.

Urging the prime minister to keep his promise on statehood, Abdullah said, "Once again, I would like to urge the government of India, the Prime Minister and his entire team to fulfil the promise made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

The Chief Minister said he took over the reins of the government one year ago, and it is making all out efforts to improve the lives of the people by speeding up developmental works.

"We have made a start. Be it the political promises we made to the people to bring a resolution in the Assembly on the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, or to get a resolution approved in the Cabinet for the restoration of statehood -- we did both things," he said.

Referring to the demand of the opposition parties to make public the NC government's one year report card, Abdullah said when his party sought votes from people, it emphasised that the government will last not just for six months or one year, but for a full five-year term.

"Like I said in the Assembly, if you have to judge us on the basis of our manifesto, do it after the government completes its full five-year term because no government fulfils all its promises in six months or one year," he said.

The NC government is 'absolutely committed' to the promises made to the people and it will submit a report card after completing five years in office, he added.

Darbar Move from...

on November 3. The offices moving 'in camp' shall carry only 33 per cent of the staff strength in that particular office, or 10 officials, whichever is minimum, or as otherwise specifically indicated.

While 39 offices, departments, and organisations, including the Chief Minister's Secretariat, will move in full strength, 47 others will move in camp, it said.

The Darbar Move traces its origins to 1872 under Maharaja Ranbir Singh, the Dogra ruler who began transferring the royal court between Srinagar and Jammu to escape the extreme weather in both regions. Under this system, government offices functioned from Srinagar during the summer months and shifted to Jammu in the winter.

The exercise involved the movement of nearly 10,000 employees, along with records, computers, and furniture, with dozens of trucks carrying files and equipment across the Jammu-Srinagar highway twice a year.

J&K youth now...

enrich the folk traditions, and strengthen social harmony. They must also shed light on pressing public issues and become the voice of the marginalized," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also called upon the writers and poets to effectively counter the false narratives in Jammu Kashmir and introduce the new generation to the brighter reality and offer them new perspectives.

Shri Mohd Afzal Parray, Chairman District Development Council Kulgam; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG SKR Anantnag; Shri Athar Aamir UI Shafi Khan, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam; Shri Anayat Ali Choudhary, SSP Kulgam; Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Abass Shah, Principal, GDC Kulgam; senior officials, prominent literary personalities and youth in large number attended the inaugural ceremony.

Cabinet approves sub...

become a major issue in J&K following the Central government's decision to add more communities to the reserved category and expand quotas in the UT over the past five years.

There have been growing objections to the Centre's move to push the reservation quota to 70 per cent in J&K, following last year's announcements introducing a separate 10 per cent reservation for Paharis and other tribes and enhancing the OBC quota to eight per cent.

The chief minister refrained from commenting on his relationship with the LG, saying, "We are working for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir."

Definitive mechanism needed...

foreign courts. India has 338 extradition requests pending with various countries.

Earlier, CBI Director Praveen Sood said in his welcome address that India issued a record 199 Interpol notices in 2025, which is more than double compared to 2024, when 96 Interpol notices were issued -- 52 red and 44 blue. As many 189 notices were issued in the first nine months of 2025, including 79 red notices and 110 blue notices, Sood said.

"So far, Interpol has published a total of 957 red notices against fugitives. Of these, 231 are related to CBI cases, 130 to NIA, 21 to ED, 12 to NCB cases, and the remaining to various state police forces," he said.

Sood, however, said one cannot take pride in these figures just yet for two reasons -- first, the number is still relatively low compared to other countries, and second, the real work begins only after the notices are published.

At the conference, which was also attended by Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, and Director of Intelligence Bureau, Tapan Kumar Deka, Shah said that while maintaining a zero-tolerance policy against corruption, crime and terrorism within the country, "we must also adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards those operating such activities from beyond India's borders".

"It is our responsibility to bring all such criminals under the purview of Indian laws and to create a robust mechanism

for this purpose," he said.

The home minister said India cannot be truly secure until those residing abroad who harm the country's economy, sovereignty and security begin to fear the Indian justice system.

Shah said it should be a collective resolve that no matter how cunning a criminal may be, the reach of justice must be even swifter.

The issue of fugitive criminals is linked to the country's sovereignty, economic stability, law and order, and national security, he said.

Asserting that after a long time, a structured approach is being developed on this subject, the home minister said that time has come to ensure a system that adopts a "ruthless approach" and brings every fugitive before Indian laws in a time-bound manner.

Shah said two crucial aspects -- assurance and ecosystem - are essential to apprehend any fugitive, as he stressed the need to eliminate the assurance in the minds of fugitive criminals that the law cannot reach them.

He said the ecosystem of legal, financial, and political support must be dismantled, and the institutional nexus created by fugitives abroad eradicated.

The home minister suggested that with the cooperation of the CBI, every state must establish a unit dedicated to creating a mechanism for bringing back fugitives who committed crimes and fled the state.

This effort must be accelerated through a "whole of government" approach.

Shah also asked the agencies to use "to the fullest extent" Sections 355 and 356 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which provide for 'trial in absentia' that has been included in the law for the first time since India's Independence, allowing trials of fugitives to proceed even in their absence. The actionable points emerging from this conference, along with the Bharatpol and 'trial in absentia' provisions, should be integrated to create a mechanism within both state police forces and all Central agencies, with the CBI officially overseeing it, he said.

Search operation underway...

reported some suspected persons entering a house in Kirchi village of Latti-Dudu area and fleeing with some cash. The forces are on high alert and have urged people to share any details about suspicious movements in their areas.

Terrorists have been active for past several months in Dudu-Basantgarh area.

Op Sindoor finest...

"We have started working towards becoming amanirbhar (self-reliant) in the defence sector. In the initial phase, it was difficult because we were trying to transform the entire system. Since Independence, we have been dependent on other countries for weapons. It had become a necessity for us to buy defence equipment from abroad, and indigenous production was almost non-existent," he said.

India has now "broken the barrier" that had existed since Independence, the minister said.

"We have given a strong push to manufacturing weapons within the country. This was not easy at all, as the nation had slipped into a comfort zone regarding defence procurement. We had become habitual of buying weapons from other countries," he said.

There was neither the "political will" to produce weapons domestically nor the legal framework to promote defence manufacturing, Singh noted.

The youth of the country also lacked the inspiration to help India become self-reliant in this sector; the defence minister pointed out.

"The situation was not conducive for us; in fact, it was adverse. But even in such circumstances, we did not stop. We took every possible step to promote defence manufacturing, and today, those efforts are yielding visible results," he said.

"You must have seen the bravery of our armed forces during Operation Sindoor. Operation Sindoor is the finest example of self-reliance in India's defence sector as the majority of the equipment used by the armed forces was indigenous," he added.

India launched Operation Sindoor in May this year to dismantle the terror infrastructure across the Line of Control and deeper inside Pakistan, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack which claimed the lives of 26 persons.

Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "charismatic leadership" was evident during Operation Sindoor.

"India has been promoting the concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - the world is one family - and it is the only country that spreads this message. We do not discriminate on the basis of caste or religion," he asserted.

"But terrorists from a neighbouring country killed Indian citizens in Pahalgam after questioning their religion. Yet, see the restraint of the Indian armed forces - when we killed them, it was not on the basis of religion but based on their deeds," the minister said.

He said in the last 10 years, defence production has increased from Rs 46,000 crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore, with the private sector contributing Rs 33,000 crore.

Closely monitoring situation...

and sponsors terrorist activities, too, it is an old practice of Pakistan to blame its neighbours for its own internal failures," he said. "And, three, Pakistan is infuriated with Afghanistan exercising sovereignty over its own territories," he said.

Centre okays additional...

discussed the strategies to enhance the implementation of the scheme while ensuring the timely completion of houses.

The ministry said that PMAY-Urban 2.0 focuses on providing dignified living to eligible urban beneficiaries and promotes inclusivity and contributes to making an equitable society by helping the urban poor and vulnerable sections of society gain access to affordable pueca houses, which will improve their living standards. The scheme also promotes women's empowerment by sanctioning houses either in the name of the female head of the household or joint ownership.

Land, 2-storey...

course of the investigation, it was revealed that Allie was trying to sell the property and use its proceeds to finance terror activities, the spokesperson said.

The action was taken under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Allie is at present operating from Pakistan and continues to be actively involved in anti-national activities, the spokesperson said.

21st century belongs...

The PM further said Andhra Pradesh now has visionary leadership in Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his deputy Pawan Kalyan and that there was full cooperation from the Central government to the state.

He said with Google's AI Hub investment, a new international sub-sea gateway will be developed in which several countries' under-sea cable systems are linked. They will come up to Visakhapatnam on the eastern shore.

"Visakhapatnam will be established as an AI and connectivity hub. Not only India, but it will serve the whole world," Modi said.

"In the last 16 months, the vehicle of development is mov-

ing very fast in Andhra Pradesh and unprecedented progress is taking place in the double engine government," he said.

The PM said Andhra Pradesh is not only a land of self-respect and culture, but also the hub of science and innovation. Several projects which were either inaugurated or laid foundation stone for today, will improve connectivity, support industries and better improve people' lives in the state, he further said.

"The (defence) equipment that is manufactured here (in Andhra) will not only increase India's defence exports, but we have seen the power of India's equipment in Operation Sindoor," Modi said.

Earlier, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation for multiple projects worth Rs 13,430 crore here spreading across the state.

The projects span across key sectors such as industry, power transmission, roads, railways, defence manufacturing, and petroleum and natural gas.

He laid the foundation for the Transmission System Strengthening at Kurnool-III Pooling Station at an investment of over Rs 2,880 crore.

Likewise, he laid the foundation stones for the Orvakal Industrial Area in Kurnool and the Kopparthi Industrial Area in Kadapa, with a total investment of over Rs 4,920 crore. Jointly developed by the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) and Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (APIIC), these modern multi-sectoral industrial hubs feature plug-and-play infrastructure and a walk-to-work concept. These hubs are expected to attract Rs 21,000 crore in investments and generate approximately one lakh jobs, bolstering industrial development and global competitiveness in the Rayalaseema region of the southern state.

The PM laid the foundation stone for the six-lane green-field highway from Sabbavaram to Sheelanagar at a cost of over Rs 960 crore. Further, the PM inaugurated the four-laning of Pileru-Kalur section road, widening from Kadapa - Nellore border to CS Puram and the four-lane Rail over Bridge (ROB) between Gudivada and Nujella Railway Stations on NH-165.

Further, Modi laid the foundation for and inaugurated railway projects worth over Rs 1,200 crore.

In the energy sector, the PM inaugurated Srikakulam-Angul Natural Gas Pipeline of GAIL India Limited, which was built at a cost of around Rs 1,730 crore and stretched around 124 km in Andhra Pradesh and 298 km in Odisha.

Leopard captured in...

to Kishtwar. Meanwhile, authorities have urged people to remain vigilant due to the presence of wild animals in the area.

HC quashes three preventive detentions, raps authorities for 'Non-Application of Mind'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed three preventive detention orders passed under the Public Safety Act (PSA), observing that authorities failed to apply their mind while invoking preventive custody against the detenus. Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, while pronouncing separate judgments in all three cases, directed the immediate release of the detenus, unless required in other cases.

In the case of Murad Ali, son of Haneef Ali of Kathua, detained under Order No. PSA/164 dated June 12, 2025, the Court held that the District Magistrate Kathua ignored the fact that the detenu was already on bail in all registered FIRs, including cases under IPC, NDPS Act, and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

The Court observed that preventive detention cannot substitute ordinary criminal proceedings and found the grounds "vague and ambiguous." Advocate Siddhant Gupta represented the petitioner; while Suneel Malhotra, GA appeared for the UT.

Similarly, in HCP No. 160/2024, the Court quashed the detention of Javid Iqbal Reshi of Poonch, detained under Order No. DMP/PSA/22 of 2024. The Court held that the District Magistrate Poonch had merely reproduced the police dossier verbatim, exhibiting "complete non-application of mind."

It further ruled that the detenu was not informed of his right to make representation to the detaining authority before government approval, which violated Article 22(5) of the Constitution. Advocate Muzaffar Iqbal Khan appeared for the petitioner; while Dewakar Sharma, GA represented the UT.

In HCP No. 90/2025, the Court quashed the detention of Abdul Gani, son of Noor Ahmed of Kathua, detained vide Order No. PSA/162 dated May 26, 2025.

The Court found that nine out of ten FIRs relied upon were stale, dating back to 2008-2020, with only one recent case in 2025. It noted that preventive detention based on outdated cases amounted to punishment without trial. The Court also held that the detenu was not properly informed of his right to representation before the detaining authority. The petitioner was represented by A.P. Singh and Nikhil Verma, Advocates, while Suneel Malhotra, GA defended the respondents.

In all three cases, the High Court stressed that preventive detention is an extraordinary measure meant to protect "public order;" not to punish individuals for past offences. It reiterated that vague allegations, stale FIRs, and mere branding of individuals as habitual offenders cannot justify curtailing their liberty under the PSA.

The Court ordered the immediate release of all three detenus unless they are required in connection with other cases and returned the detention records to the respective government counsels.

DB upholds termination of Anganwadi Helper, labels it illegal backdoor appointment

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has upheld the termination of Geeta Devi, a 54-year-old Anganwadi Helper from Kathua, declaring her appointment as an illegal backdoor entry secured beyond the notified recruitment process.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal dismissed Geeta Devi's appeal against her disengagement, ruling that her application was submitted in March 2006, nearly a year after the official advertisement of February 2005 that closed on March 11, 2005.

The Court further noted that the State Vigilance Commission had, in a 2014 inquiry, confirmed that she never participated in the selection process. "Once an appointment is found to be illegal from inception, no right flows from it," the judges observed, holding that even denial of a hearing could not cure a fraudulent engagement.

Citing Supreme Court rulings including Jainendra Singh vs State of UP and State of Bihar vs Kirti Narayan Prasad, the Bench ruled that illegally appointed candidates cannot claim continuation or regularisation on grounds of long service.

Geeta Devi, represented by Advocate Amit Gupta, argued that she was terminated arbitrarily and without being heard. The UT administration, represented by Advocate Palvi Sharma vice AAG Ravinder Gupta, countered that her engagement was fraudulent from the outset.

Dismissing the appeal as "misconceived," the Court upheld the writ court's earlier findings and refused to interfere.

Three drug peddlers nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/JAMMU: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers/peddlers, Samba Police has arrested one drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur and recovered 3.58 grams of heroin (chitta) like substance from his possession.

A Police party of Police Station Vijaypur during vehicle checking at AIIMS Naka Vijaypur, intercepted a Motorcycle bearing registration number JK02DN-9327 for its checking. During frisking of the motorcycle, 3.58 grams of heroin like substance was recovered from his possession.

The drug peddler identified as Jarnail Singh S/O Surinder Pal Singh R/O Babiliana Satwari district Jammu has been arrested and contraband item has been seized. The motorcycle has also been seized in the instant case.

A case FIR No. 112/2025 U/S 8/21/22/25 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Vijaypur and investigation started.

During routine naka duty at Battal a scooter bearing registration No. JK14J-5544 traveling from Manwal towards Battal driven by Mohd Sharif S/O Mirza Khan R/O Dhamma, Majalta, was stopped for checking.

During his personal search, 5.69 grams of heroin was recovered from his possession.

In this regard, Case FIR No. 84/2025 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Majalta and the accused has been arrested.

In another instance, during patrolling near Majalta Morh, one person coming from towards the Majalta on foot was stopped by the naka party. The person identified himself as Gafoor Ali S/O Mohd Sadiq R/O Damma, Tehsil Majalta, District Udhampur.

During his personal search 5 grams of heroin was recovered from his possession. Accordingly, A Case FIR No. 85/2025 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Majalta and the accused has been arrested.

Missing lady traced, reunites with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda Police has traced missing lady and reunited with her family whose missing reports was lodged at PS Gandoh

On 24.05.2025, a missing report of a lady resident of Manoo Tehsil Gandoh District Doda was lodged at PS Gandoh.

Soon after getting the information regarding missing of the lady, Police started the search of the lady and on the directions of SSP Doda, team was constituted from PS gandoh led by SHO PS gandoh under the supervision of SDPO Gandoh in search of the missing lady. The Police teams by using all possible means as well as technical help and after getting some clues, succeeded in tracing her out on 16.10.2025. Accordingly, after completing all codal formalities, the lady has been handed over to her family and missing report have been closed.

Absconder evading arrest since 2018 nabbed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JHAIJAAR KOTLI: Continuing its drive against absconders, Jhajjar Kotli Police today arrested another absconder who had been evading arrest for the past seven years.

The accused has been identified as Faizan Ahmed S/o Ghulam Hassan R/o Cherpora, District Anantnag. He was wanted in a criminal case registered under FIR No. 47/2018 U/S 279/337 RPC at Police Station Jhajjar Kotli.

A warrant under Section 512 CrPC had been issued against him. Acting on a specific tip-off, a police team from Police Station Jhajjar Kotli, led by Inspector Vikas Dogra, SHO Jhajjar Kotli, apprehended the accused. The arrested person will be produced before the Hon'ble Court today.

It is pertinent to mention here that this is the third absconder arrested/traced by Jhajjar Kotli Police within the last two days.

Udhampur Police strikes against illegal establishments; license of 4 Spa centers suspended

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: On the request of Udhampur Police for cancellation of registrations of certain spa and salon establishments found involved in illegal and immoral activities, the Office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Udhampur, has initiated strict action.

Based on the report from Police Station Udhampur and subsequent verification, action has been taken vide communication No. ALC/UDH/692 dated 16.10.2025 against the establishments including M/S Golden Hotel & Spa, NH-44, Gole Mela - Registration suspended and property seized; M/S The Blue Lotus Spa & Salon, Near Le Mars Hotel, Dhar Road - Registration suspended and property seized; M/S Planet Salon, DPS Chowk - Registration suspended; operations ordered to close and M/S Queen Spa, Gole Mela - Registration suspended; operations ordered to close.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner has confirmed suspension of the registrations and initiated further proceedings for permanent cancellation.

DB raps FCI for unauthorized land occupation, orders return or acquisition of Channi Himmat Plot

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major setback to the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed FCI's appeal and upheld the writ court's order directing the Corporation to either return a piece of land at Channi Himmat, Jammu, or initiate acquisition proceedings in accordance with law.

The Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal held that FCI was in unauthorized occupation of land measuring 3 kanals, 9 marlas and 73 sq. ft. belonging to the petitioners, and ruled that delay and technical objections cannot defeat citizens' constitutional right to property.

The case, originally filed by Baldev Raj Mahajan (since deceased, represented by legal heirs), revolved around allegations that FCI had forcibly occupied his land in 1993-2000 for construction of godowns without following proper acquisition procedure. While FCI argued that the land was handed over in 1976 through government acquisition and boundary construction, the Court rejected this claim after survey reports confirmed unauthorized occupation.

Senior Advocate M.K. Bhardwaj with Ahtsham Hussain Bhat appeared for FCI, while Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi with Paras Gupta represented the landowners.

Citing the Supreme Court's rulings in Vidya Devi vs State of H.P. and Madras Port Trust vs Hymanshu International, the Bench stressed that State instrumentalities cannot take shelter under technicalities like "delay and laches" or adverse possession to defeat citizens' rights. The Court observed that the right to property, though no longer a fundamental right, is a constitutional right under Article 300-A and recognized as a human right.

Concluding that FCI's occupation was unauthorized, the Court directed compliance with the earlier order - either return the land to the petitioners or acquire it under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.