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LG urges poets...

society much needed cultural and spiritual nourishment. "Poetry serves not just as a foundation of social consciousness, but also as a pinnacle of society's resolve. Poetry acts as a bridge between dreams and its actualization. Poetry is also a catalyst for individual growth and inspires social transformation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor spoke on the key initiatives taken by the UT administration, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to revive the ancient literary tradition and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The last five years have been decisive for the Union Territory of J&K. We have diligently strived to provide a safe and culturally-rich environment for the new generation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The enthralling poem recital by eminent poet Dr Kumar Vishwas remained the main highlights of the literary evening.

The program also featured captivating poetry from the renowned poets: Sudeep Bholra, Ramesh Muskan, Padmini Sharma, and Kushal Kushlendra.

Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director, Northern Region Transmission System-II, Power Grid; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; SK Chowan, Chief General Manager (Projects), Power Grid; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu, senior officials, prominent citizens, literary personalities and youth in large number were present.

Hideout linked to...

and ammunition to JeM terrorists operating in the Tral and Awantipora areas, he said. He further informed that, acting on a credible input regarding the presence of terrorists in the Naner Midooora area of the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there.

During the search, a terrorist associate identified as Nazir Ahmed Ganai, a resident of Ganai Mohalla Nanar, affiliated with JeM, was arrested, the spokesman said.

During sustained questioning, and on his disclosure, a terrorist hideout located in the orchards belonging to the accused was uncovered and subsequently busted, he said.

From the hideout, security forces recovered two hand grenades, a detonator, and explosive-like material, all of which were seized for further analysis. The hideout was destroyed on the spot, the spokesman added. A case has been registered, and further investigation has been initiated, he added.

Will continue to...

also passed a resolution condemning the Delhi terror attack in which at least 15 people died, and scores of others were injured on November 10.

"The Working Committee expressed serious concern and unequivocally condemned the terror attack in Delhi. It extended heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. In a civilised society, violence has no place, and such heinous acts must be dealt with firmly and decisively," the party said.

It also expressed concern over the accidental blast on November 14 inside Nowgam police station, which claimed at least nine lives.

"The Committee stated that the incident must be investigated at the highest level and responsibility fixed for any deviation from standard operating procedure," the NC added.

The party also called for the protection and safety of people of J&K across India and expressed serious concern over the reports of harassment faced by students, traders, and residents of Jammu and Kashmir in the aftermath of recent events.

"Not every Kashmiri is a terrorist or a supporter of terror," it added.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said terror attacks like Pahalgam and the Delhi blast will not occur again if statehood is restored, as the responsibility for security will rest with the elected government.

"Did attacks like those in Pahalgam or Delhi happen while we were responsible for security? I was the chief minister for six years. Did an attack like the one in Pahalgam take place? Or one like in Delhi? Hand over the responsibility to us, and then see what happens," Abdullah said and added that "if we fail, then revoke statehood."

The CM also emphasised that he hasn't lost hope on the restoration of statehood.

"I believe that the Central government is not so much of a liar that it will betray its promise made in Parliament. Or else, the Centre should accept that it's punishing the people of Jammu and Kashmir for not allowing the BJP to form the government here. If that is so, then let it be; we will bear that," he added.

India records six...

out to be at 8 per cent, up from 6.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

With an 8 per cent growth rate in the first half, India may exceed the annual growth target of 6.3-6.8 per cent for FY26 as projected in the Economic Survey in

January this year.

During the quarter, the manufacturing sector recorded a robust growth of 9.1 per cent compared to 2.2 per cent in the year-ago period.

Following the GST rate cut announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address, factories stepped up their output to meet the festive season demand. The GST rate cut came into effect on September 22.

The performance of the services sector, including banking and real estate, also witnessed an impressive growth of 10.2 per cent from 7.2 per cent in the same period a year ago.

However, the agriculture sector growth decelerated to 3.5 per cent from 4.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

Commenting on the growth numbers, Iera Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said India's GDP growth significantly surpassed expectations, printing at a six-quarter high of 8.2 per cent in Q2 FY2026, and displaying an acceleration over the 7.8 per cent growth seen in Q1 FY2026, in contrast to the widespread market expectation of some moderation.

While the government's final consumption expenditure expectedly contracted, led by weak revenue spending, the growth in gross capital formation moderated between these quarters, she said, adding that discrepancies played an important role in bumping up the GDP growth in Q2 FY2026 compared to the preceding quarter.

"An adverse base, the potential negative impact of US tariffs and limited headroom for capital spending by the Government of India (vis-a-vis the Budget Estimates) may dampen the pace of growth from the robust 8 per cent seen in H1 FY2026. Nevertheless, the FY2026 real GDP expansion now appears set to materially exceed 7 per cent," she noted.

With the Q2 FY2026 GDP growth exceeding 8 per cent, she said, the probability of a rate cut in the December 2025 MPC review has certainly eased, notwithstanding the series-low CPI inflation print for October 2025.

Earlier in October, the Reserve Bank of India had upped the GDP forecast to 6.8 per cent from the earlier projection of 6.5 per cent for the current financial year.

The statement further said the Real Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) has reported a 7.9 per cent growth rate during Q2 of FY2025-26 against the 6.4 per cent growth rate in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices in Q2 of FY 2025-26 is estimated at Rs 48.63 lakh crore against Rs 44.94 lakh crore in Q2 of FY 2024-25, registering a growth rate of 8.2 per cent," the NSO said in the statement.

Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q2 of FY 2025-26 is estimated at Rs 85.25 lakh crore compared to Rs 78.40 lakh crore in Q2 of FY 2024-25, showing a growth rate of 8.7 per cent.

As regards the first half of the current fiscal, the real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated at Rs 96.52 lakh crore against Rs 89.35 lakh crore in H1 of 2024-25, registering a growth rate of 8 per cent.

Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in H1 of 2025-26 is estimated at Rs 171.30 lakh crore compared to Rs 157.48 lakh crore in H1 of 2024-25, showing a growth rate of 8.8 per cent, the statement said.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) has recorded a 7.3 per cent growth rate at Constant Prices against the growth rate of 6.7 per cent in Q2 of FY25.

The discrepancies (differences in values calculated using different methods of GDP estimation) jumped to Rs 1.62 lakh crore during the second quarter of this fiscal.

India's Q2 FY 2025-26 GDP growth came in stronger than expected at 8.2 per cent year-on-year, Rumki Majumdar, Economist, Deloitte India, said.

"With festive season spending and the momentum from GST 2.0 likely to support activity in Q3, we anticipate a significant upward revision to full-year growth estimates," she said.

India's GDP deflator has fallen to its lowest level since 2019, pulling down nominal GDP growth, she said, adding that this poses challenges for key ratios tied to nominal GDP, such as fiscal deficit, debt, and current account.

She expressed apprehension that it will be harder for the government to meet its fiscal deficit targets, which are measured as a percentage of GDP.

Growth encouraging, reforms...

"The 8.2 per cent GDP growth in Q2 of 2025-26 is very encouraging. It reflects the impact of our pro-growth policies and reforms. It also reflects the hard work and enterprise of our people," Modi said in a post on X.

"Our government will continue to advance reforms and strengthen Ease of Living for every citizen," the prime minister said.

GDP growth shows...

and momentum. "Various high-frequency indicators also point to continued economic momentum and broad-based consumption growth," she said in a social media post. "The GDP estimates released today shows the robust economic growth and momentum of the Indian economy. With a Real GDP growth rate of 8.2 per cent for Q2 - FY 2025-26 (July-Sept), India is the world's fastest growing major economy,"

Sitharaman wrote on 'X'.

In the current financial year, real GDP has registered an 8 per cent growth rate in the first half of fiscal 2025-26.

"The growth has been driven by sustained fiscal consolidation, targeted public investment, and various reforms that have strengthened productivity and improved ease of doing business," the finance minister said.

She further noted that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government is committed to sustaining this growth momentum and advancing reforms that support long-term economic growth.

I Watched Baramulla...

the apple trees while the mosque loudspeakers called for prayers. He was a regular Namazi, a man who would often call the azan himself". Mr. Ahmed further talks about his own ideology that did not go well with the ones who would wear religion on their political sleeves.

And then he goes on to describe the movie that has imaginary happenings of children vanishing and ghosts whispering. The film Baramulla shows a Muslim Family being haunted by ghosts in a house that once belonged to a Kashmiri Pandit family. I am constrained to quote Mr. Ahmed again when he writes the naked truth: "I believe the dead don't rest when justice is denied. The Kashmiri Pandits who were killed, raped, looted and driven out in 1989 and 1990; their souls are still here. Not as vengeful spirits with bleeding eyes, but as questions." He goes on to add that those spirits of the genocide are still haunting the Valley and beyond, in the shapes of empty doorways of Kashmiri Pandits' houses, in broken bells of Valley temples and also, as mothers in migrant Camps of Jammu; who still cook roghan josh the way their grandmothers did, in vessels that have never seen Kashmir again!

I vividly recall when The Kashmir Files was released, there was a great hue and cry from certain quarters. Even some of my progressive friends had expressed their displeasure by saying that the BJP Government at the Centre wants to draw a wedge between Muslims of Kashmir and others in the country by propagating such movies! Well said. But there is no denying the fact that it was this movie, The Kashmir Files, that made people accept the hard fact that it was not migration, but genocide of the Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley with sole purpose to wipe out the entire community from the Valley. An ethnic cleansing had been undertaken by the militants to instil fear among Kashmiri Pandit Community to make them leave Kashmir for ever. The terrible truth of atrocities committed upon men, children, women and girls was brought on silver screen for the first time. I can never forget the horror of gang-rape of Girija Tikoo who was cut into two with a mechanical saw while she was still alive! And what was the perception of the majority community in those turbulent days? Definitely, everyone did not think the same; has now been bravely put down by Mr. I Ahmed.

Mr. Ahmed makes no excuses in admitting that the atrocities of militants upon Kashmiri Pandits were although committed by the gun-wielding goons, yet equally responsible was the silence of the majority who were the neighbours, friends, students of the Pandit Community. They did not have the courage to raise their voice, none could say no: don't kill him, don't rape her, don't banish them from their homes and our neighbourhood! It is this weight of silence that is still heavy on their chests even after more than three decades.

I am very selfish to quote him again. For, he has been so honest in admitting those facts that no one ever did! He writes:

"My father was silent when the Shrikant Pandit, Maharaj Krishan left. When Babli (Kamla Devi) packed one suitcase and walked into the night. When the Rainas' house in Anantnag was set on fire. He didn't cheer. He didn't participate. He just looked away. That silence had a voice. And it said: "Go. You don't belong."

And he chillingly admits that this silence has followed them for decades; always stopping short when they tell story of Kashmir to their children. Now, they do not want to pass on excuses to the coming generations.

From top to bottom, everyone talks of coming back of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. But he believes that it is not possible unless they admit that the great exodus was not just a tragedy, but a moral collapse on the part of the majority. Their return should not be as refugees or confined to some restricted colonies only, but it should be as owners of memory. "Let them walk through their homes without needing police protection... Let their children play cricket where their fathers once did."

The thoughts of Mr. I Ahmed have stirred me up. I wish my write up ignites minds of all those who are in a position to decide and to act in the betterment of the ethos and Culture of the Jannat, called Kashmir!

Search operation launched...

located along a traditional infiltration route often used by Pakistani terrorists who cross the International Border in Kathua and move through the higher reaches toward Doda and Kishtwar districts in the Jammu region before heading further into the Kashmir Valley. The area has witnessed multiple encounters and terror-related incidents in the past. According to officials, the army and police launched a joint operation by army, police and CRPF after receiving information about the movement of three suspected persons in the Balotha area, they said.

GCOE educates students on POCSO

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: SPARSH Committee of Government College of Education (GCOE), Jammu successfully organized an Awareness Programme on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on 27th November 2025 under the able guidance of the Principal, Dr. Jyoti Parihar. The programme was organized with the objective of sensitizing students about child rights, safety, and legal provisions under the POCSO Act.



Education and Convener of the SPARSH Committee, who provided detailed information about the SPARSH Committee, its objectives and its role in ensuring a safe, secure and supportive environment for students. She also highlighted the

need for awareness about child protection laws in today's society. The main session was conducted by Prof. Deepali Devi Kundal, who created awareness among the students about the POCSO Act in detail. She explained

the objectives, significance, legal provisions, types of offences covered under the Act and the responsibilities of stakeholders.

The Principal of the College, Dr. Jyoti Parihar, appreciated the dedicated efforts of the SPARSH Committee members for organizing such an important and socially relevant programme.

Other committee members Prof. Kiran Thapa, Dr. Ambica, Dr. Shalini Sharma and Dr. Sonam Gandotra were also present during the programme and contributed to its successful conduct. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Prof. Kiran Thapa.

Three Natrang Jammu Artists win National Theatre Awards

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu's Natrang Theatre has created history as three of its young artists clinched

er, and Advik Sharma secured third positions in their respective categories. With four of the twelve finalists from Natrang, the



national honours at Jhankriti 2025, India's largest virtual performing arts competition organized by the World Forum for Art and Culture, Bengaluru. Out of six national awards in theatre acting, Natrang secured three-an extraordinary achievement that highlights the institute's artistic excellence.

institute reaffirmed its reputation as a powerhouse of talent. Congratulating the winners, Natrang Director Padmashri Balwant Thakur called the achievement "momentous," crediting the institute's rigorous training and the contribution of Sumeet Sharma, head of the Children and Youth Wing. This recognition further strengthens Natrang's legacy as a leading force in modern Indian theatre.

Bovine smuggling attempt foiled; bovine smuggler arrested, 4 bovines rescued

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police has successfully foiled a bovine smuggling attempt in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal, arrested a bovine smuggler and rescued four (04)

bovines from the clutches of bovine smuggler. The vehicles used in the illegal transportation of bovines was also seized. A Police team of Police Station Ghagwal while performing vehicle checking duty at Naka NHW Tappal, intercepted a Mahindra load carrier bearing registration No. JK02BM-1065 for its checking. During checking, four bovines were found inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the bovines have been rescued and the vehicle has also been seized. The bovine smuggler identified as Arshad Hussain S/o Nazir Ahmed R/o Chowadi district Jammu has been arrested. A case FIR No. 111/2025 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.



Jammu to Srinagar	
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Srinagar to Jammu	
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

11078 Jhelum Express	
Departure	: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 11:15 at New Delhi
12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express	
Departure	: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 05:55 at New Delhi
12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express	
Departure	: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 06:55 at New Delhi
Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)	
Departure	: 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival	: 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop	: Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 715	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	
Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)	
Departure	: 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival	: 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 660	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	

GUSTAAKH ISHQ	
PVR KC JAMMU	8:20 PM
TERE ISHK MEIN (HINDI)	
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	10:00 AM / 1:15 PM / 4:30PM / 7:45 PM / 11:00 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	9:00 AM / 12:25 PM / 3:55 PM / 7:25 PM / 10:55 PM
120 BAHADUR (HINDI)	
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU	10:15 AM / 1:10 PM / 4:05 PM / 7:00 PM / 10:00 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	1:25 PM / 7:30 PM / 10:30 PM
DE DE PYAAR DE 2 - (HINDI)	
PVR KC JAMMU	11:05 PM

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Canal	2554064
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Gangyal	2480026
Bari Brahmana	202002
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