

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Operation Sindoor befitting...

When Nehru raised the issue of restoring the Somnath Temple in Gujarat, Patel clarified that the temple was a different matter because Rs 30 lakh required for its facelift had been donated by common people, he added.

"A trust had been established, and not a single penny of the government's money had been spent on this (Somnath temple) work. Similarly, the government didn't give a single rupee to construct the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The entire cost was borne by the people. This is called real secularism," he said.

Under the leadership of PM Modi, Patel's vision of 'One India, Best India' has been strengthened further," the defence minister said.

He said removing Article 370 was not a small feat, and it was PM Modi who connected Kashmir with India by doing so.

"By turning the weakness for which the world was taunting us at that time into a strength, Sardar Patel showed the country the way forward. And following that path, India, surrounded by doubts, now talks to the world on its own terms, not on the terms of other countries," Singh said.

India is rapidly moving towards becoming the world's largest economic and strategic power, he added.

He said the government is carrying forward the national security vision of Sardar Patel who had emphasised on defence modernisation and indigenous production of weapons and ammunition.

"Today, due to the 'Make-in-India' initiative, we are becoming self-reliant in defence production, while exporting military equipment to friendly countries. Our defence exports have increased nearly 34-fold in the last 11 years. We aim to achieve defence production worth Rs 3 lakh crore and defence exports worth Rs 50,000 crore by 2029", he said.

Singh stated that Patel's entire life was a symbol of purity and honesty and was inspired by these high ideals.

He said the government aims to get the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill 2025 passed in Parliament, which requires those in the highest positions to behave ethically against corruption.

"This means that if a person in office is arrested under any serious charge and is not granted bail within 30 days, they will be automatically relieved from their post," he added.

Singh said Patel could have become the Prime Minister, but he never hankered for any position.

Despite ideological differences with Nehru, he worked with him because he had given a promise to Mahatma Gandhi, the defence minister added.

He claimed that Nehru became the president of Congress in 1946 because Patel withdrew his nomination on Gandhi's advice, despite a majority of the Congress committee members proposing his name.

Singh said some political forces wanted to erase Patel's legacy. "It was PM Narendra Modi whose crucial role re-established Patel as a shining star in the annals of history".

"After Patel died, common people collected funds to build a memorial for him, but when this information reached Nehruji, he said Sardar Patel was a leader of farmers, so this money should be spent on building wells and roads in the village.

"What a farce! Building wells and roads is the government's responsibility. The suggestion of using memorial funds for that was absurd," said Singh.

This indicated that the government of that time wanted to hide and suppress Patel's great legacy at all costs, he added.

"Nehruji awarded himself the Bharat Ratna, but why was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel not honoured with the Bharat Ratna at that time? Modiji decided to honour Sardar Patel appropriately by building the Statue of Unity. This is truly commendable work by our PM," Singh said.

He also dismissed arguments that Patel was too old to become the Prime Minister.

"This is completely wrong. Morarji Desai was over 80 years old. If he could become prime minister of India, why couldn't Sardar Patel, who was under 80?" asked Singh.

Singh said if demands raised by Patel had been heeded at the time of Kashmir's merger, India wouldn't have had to grapple with the Kashmir problem for so long.

CM to hold...

and administrative matters. According to official sources, one of the key proposals likely to come up for discussion is the enhancement of the quota for Open Merit candidates in government jobs and educational institutions.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, along with senior Cabinet Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Dar, Javid Rana and Satish Sharma, are expected to be present at the meeting.

Govt to launch...

under the MSCS Act 2002 on June 06, 2025, Shah said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. "Yes, the government proposes to launch a cooperative-led digital app mobility platform which will support to free the country's commercial vehicle drivers from dependency on private companies," he said.

Salient features of the Bharat Taxi app include user-friendly mobile ride booking, transparent fare, vehicle tracking, support for multi-lingual interfaces and 24/7 customer services to enhance accessibility, secure and verified onboarding, inclusive mobility, tech-enabled support and safety measures to the citizens.

With the zero commission model, drivers will get full earnings from each ride. Profit of the cooperative society will be distributed directly to drivers. A transparent pricing model will be beneficial to both drivers and passengers, he added.

BJP delegation meets...

delegation stated that 42 out of the 50 seats have been allotted to non-Hindu candidates, a development that has triggered strong reactions among devotees of Mata Vaishno Devi and among those who have contributed financially to the shrine.

The delegation informed the Minister that various social and religious organizations have begun holding protests, expressing dissatisfaction and demanding transparency and corrective measures in the admission process. They cautioned that if the issue is not addressed promptly, a large-scale agitation could emerge in the coming days, potentially disturbing the peaceful environment of the region.

These party leaders said that while the BJP respects the merit-based and constitutional framework of medical admissions, it is equally important to acknowledge the sentiments of millions of devotees associated with the shrine. They urged the Union Health Minister to understand the gravity of the situation and intervene appropriately so that a solution can be found that respects the emotional connect devotees have with SMVD institution.

The delegation appealed for a thorough review of the admission process, greater transparency, and consideration of mechanisms that ensure devotees feel represented and reassured.

According to a statement issued here, the Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda gave the delegation a patient hearing and assured them that the matter would be examined with due seriousness. He assured that the Ministry would look into all aspects of the issue and take appropriate steps to address the concerns raised, while ensuring compliance with national medical education norms.

The Jammu and Kashmir BJP leaders expressed confidence that the union government will take timely action to ensure a fair and acceptable resolution.

Govt throws open...

India in 2020. The other two projects -- flyovers at Benina and Nowgam intersections -- were made operational last year.

Police arrests 2...

registered at Police Station Domana," he said.

A police team swung into action and successfully apprehended the accused, Sunny Sharma of Marh. Following his disclosure, police recovered two country-made pistols along with live and fired cartridges.

He was also found to be involved in another case under the Police Station Kanachak limits. Further investigations are underway to trace additional linkages, identify associates and determine the source of the weapons, he added.

Sharma said the criminals used to display weapons in public places to create panic and were involved in group rivalries.

In another case, during routine checking, a police team intercepted a suspected person, Jaskirat Singh alias Sanama, at Bhagwati Nagar and recovered a pistol and a sharp-edged weapon from his possession.

Accordingly, a case was registered at Police Station Domana.

Further investigation revealed that the accused was already involved in two other cases - one registered at Police Station Domana and another at Police Station Nowardan, the SP said.

Census to be done...

learnings from previous exercises are taken into consideration for conducting the next census. In a separate question, the minister said caste enumeration will also be done in the census as decided by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs on April 30 this year. In another response, the minister said Census 2027 will be conducted through digital means in which data will be collected through mobile apps along with online provision for self-enumeration.

LS adjourned for...

anger of losing elections should not be shown in the House, the minister said and mentioned that even late BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee had also lost elections.

Illegal mining machinery & vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a decisive action against illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, Border Police Post (BPP) Ajote today carried out a targeted enforcement drive in its jurisdiction.

During the operation, police teams seized one tipper, one tractor trolley, one JCB and one dumper found involved in illegal mining activities. The swift action was taken to curb unauthorised transportation of minor minerals and prevent further environmental damage. The concerned Mining Department has been duly informed for further legal proceedings under relevant mining laws. Necessary documentation and follow-up action are being initiated as per procedure.

Three drug peddlers arrested with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/KATHUA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers & peddlers, Samba Police has arrested a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur and recovered approximately 4.15 grams heroin like substance from his possession.

Acting on information received from reliable sources, a Police team of Police Station Vijaypur during special Naka at Rakh Barotain near AIIMS residence complex Vijaypur, intercepted a person under suspicious circumstances who was coming from Rakh Barotain side and moving towards NHW in a motorcycle without registration number. During frisking, approximately 4.15 grams heroin like substance was recovered from the possession of said person.

The drug peddler identified as Deeraj Sharma S/O Mool Raj Sharma R/O Jib Tehsil and District Udhampur has been arrested and the contraband item has been seized. The motorcycle has also been seized in the instant case.

A case FIR No 136/2025 U/S 8/21/22/25 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Vijaypur and investigation started.

Meanwhile, a police team led by SHO PS Lakhampur Insp. Tariq Ahmed under the guidance of Addl. SP Kathua Sh. Rahul Charak JKPS & DySP DAR Kathua Sh. Ritesh Sambyal during patrolling in its jurisdictional area apprehended one person under suspicious circumstances. During further questioning, he disclosed his name as Daamu S/o Makhan Deen R/o Jethuwal Tehsil & District Amritsar. On thorough checking approx. 51.97 grams of Heroin-like substance recovered from his possession got seized and the said accused person got arrested. Accordingly, a Case FIR No. 144/2025 U/S 8/21/22/ NDPS Act registered at PS Lakhampur and further investigation in the case is going on.

In another case, a team led by IC PP Marheen PSI Azhar Mehmood under the supervision of SP Ops. Kathua Mukund Tibrewal IPS and SDPO Border Dheeraj Singh Katoch, Insp. Ajay Chib SHO PS Rajbagh during naka checking in its jurisdictional area noticed one suspect who was directed to stop for checking. On physical checking approx. 8.21 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like narcotics recovered from the possession of Sadiq Ali @Kalu S/o Mohd Shafi R/o Khanpur Tehsil Marheen District Kathua. In this regard, FIR No. 229/2025 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Rajbagh and further investigation was set into motion.

Thereafter all the recovered narcotics approx. 8.21 grams Heroine like substance was seized and one drug peddler was arrested on spot.

Rs 1.50 cr property seized as Udhampur police tighten grip on bovine smugglers; 180 FIRs, 202 arrests recorded

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: District Police Udhampur continues its sustained and strong action against bovine smuggling, with significant achievements recorded from January to November 2025.

A total of 180 cases were registered during this period, leading to the rescue of 1152 bovines from illegal transportation attempts. Police arrested 210 persons, including 202 involved in bovine smuggling and 08 detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

In addition, 136 vehicles used for bovine smuggling were seized, and 20 registration certificates of vehicles involved in such offences were cancelled. A total of 101 convictions were secured, reflecting the effective legal action taken by Udhampur Police. Further, property attachment proceedings under relevant legal provisions were initiated in 11 cases, resulting in the attachment of 11 vehicles valued at approximately ₹1.50 Crore.

While taking a jibe at the Congress on recent electoral losses, Rijiju said they are losing the confidence of the people.

The government is ready to discuss issues, he asserted.

As the din continued, the proceedings were adjourned within 10 minutes till 2 pm. Earlier, the proceedings were adjourned till 12 noon due to the protests.

Proceedings on the first day of the Winter Session on Monday had also been disrupted due to the opposition protests, leading to repeated adjournments.

Meanwhile, standoff between the government and the opposition over the demand for a debate on special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls continued, with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju refusing to give a timeline for the debate, even though he said the government was ready to have a discussion.

Opposition parties demanded that the discussion should be held on SIR by giving it priority over other business, while the Parliamentary Affairs Minister stressed that the debate on 'Vande Mataram' would be taken up first.

As the government refused to give preference to the debate on SIR, opposition MPs raised slogans in the Upper House and later staged a walkout.

LS to take...

Later, addressing the media, Rijiju said, "I am happy that the all-party floor leaders' meeting called by the Speaker was very fruitful and we all agreed that there will be a special discussion on the 150th anniversary of National Song Vande Mataram on Monday. The discussion will start at 12 noon and go on for the full day. It was also agreed that on Tuesday, 9th December, there will be a discussion on election reforms."

"When we discuss reforms in elections, you can discuss and talk about many issues related to elections and their process in our country. For a parliamentary democracy, the election process is extremely important. So, finally, everybody has agreed to the discussion and my special appeal to all the members, especially the opposition parties, is to cooperate fully with the decision taken. We all will take part," he said.

Rijiju said after both the discussions are over, "we will propose to take it up in the Rajya Sabha".

"In any case, the discussion can be initiated in either of the Houses. But we have decided that it will be taken up in the Lok Sabha first. Otherwise, both Houses have the privilege to take up any matter. After all, they are complementary to each other; both Houses are extremely important," he said.

Just ahead of the BAC meeting, Birla met party leaders to break the deadlock in the House over the opposition's demand for a discussion on SIR.

"The BAC meeting discussed the debates to be held on Vande Mataram and electoral reforms, (with) the opposition's SIR discussion debate clubbed under electoral reforms. On Monday, the House will take up the debate on Vande Mataram and then on Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will debate electoral reforms," Congress' chief whip K Suresh told reporters after the BAC meeting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will initiate the debate on 150 years of Vande Mataram, Suresh said.

He said 10 hours each have been allotted to both the debates, adding that time could be extended if the House deems fit.

With the Lok Sabha set to take up a debate on electoral reforms next week, Congress MP Manickam Tagore claimed that the INDIA bloc won, with "arrogance" finally bowing to the "unity of 240 and 100 MPs".

In a post on X, Tagore said, "INDIA wins. Arrogance finally bows to the unity of 240 & 100MPs. Discussion on Electoral Reforms scheduled for December 9." "One full Monsoon Session was washed away because of this.

Two days of the Winter Session have already been wasted. Democracy is not a playground for diversion - it demands accountability," the Congress' whip in the Lok Sabha said. The Speaker's meetings came in the wake of repeated disruptions in the Lok Sabha over the issue.

However, the minister was ready for a discussion on a broader subject of electoral reforms as it fell within the government's purview.

The opposition has been insisting that the government give an assurance on the floor of the House on the discussion on the SIR exercise. The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the second consecutive day over opposition protests on the SIR exercise currently underway in 12 states and Union Territories.

Snowfall likely in...

Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir recorded zero degrees Celsius.

The meteorological department said the weather is likely to remain dry till Wednesday, but there is a possibility of a brief spell of light snow at isolated places in the higher reaches towards late night of Thursday and early morning of Friday.

A light spell of fresh snowfall was recorded near Zojila Pass along the Srinagar-Kargil road on Sunday night. The MeT Office said while the weather would remain generally dry on December 6-7, another brief spell of light snowfall at isolated places in the higher reaches is likely on December 8.

Shop selling schedule H1 drugs without valid prescription sealed; licence suspended

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: Drug Control Authorities, along with district police Poonch, sealed a medical shop in Madana area for illegally selling Schedule H1 drugs to local youth without valid prescriptions.

An information was received by District Police Poonch regarding one Zaffar Iqbal S/o Mohd Sharief R/o Poonch, proprietor of Sheikh Medical Hall, Madana, who was allegedly selling Pregabalin capsules-a Schedule H1 controlled drug-to youth without proper medical prescription. It was further found that the chemist was not maintaining mandatory computerised sale records, as required under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and related drug control regulations.

It is pertinent to mention that Pregabalin, a highly sedative drug, is frequently misused by vulnerable youth, posing serious risks to public health and safety. Considering the gravity of the violation and its potential impact on society, District Police Poonch immediately took up the matter with the concerned Drug Inspector.

Following due procedure and verification by the Drug Control Department, the premises of Sheikh Medical Hall, Madana were sealed, and the shop's drug licence was suspended vide Order No. ADC/HQ/R-P/2025-26/600-603 dated 01/12/2025.

Drug peddler arrested, contraband seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: In its persistent drive against drug trafficking, Police in Pulwama recovered a significant quantity of contraband during a naka checking operation at Koil Pulwama.

A police team from Police Station Pulwama intercepted a suspect and recovered 1.190 kilograms of charas powder-like substance from his possession. The accused has been identified as Tariq Ahmad Rather son of Mohd Sabir Rather resident of Lajoora Pulwama. A case has been registered at Police Station Pulwama under FIR No. 279/2025, and investigation has been initiated.

Action against illegal mining: 7 vehicles, 4 JCBs seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN/PULWAMA: In its sustained efforts to curb illegal mining activities, SHOPIAN has seized four JCBs and seven vehicles involved in the unauthorized extraction and transportation of minerals in Shopian and Pulwama.

During routine patrolling, a police party from Police Station Shopian intercepted two JCBs and one dumper found extracting minerals illegally without valid royalty documents. Accordingly, FIR No. 259/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Shopian and investigation has been initiated.

In Pulwama, Police teams from Police Station Litter conducted focused drive checks at Rambai Ara, village Nikloora, and successfully intercepted two JCB machines, five tractors, and one loader involved in illegal extraction of minerals. Following the seizure, FIR No. 104/2025 has been registered.

J&K Police reiterate their commitment to safeguarding the natural resources and ensuring strict action against those involved in illegal mining. The public is urged to extend cooperation by reporting such activities. Stringent legal action shall be taken against violators.

Police launches district-wide drive against tobacco sale near educational institutions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: Police in Pulwama in coordination with the concerned Magistrate authorities, carried out a focused drive across the district to curb the sale of tobacco products around educational institutions.

Teams inspected several shops located near schools and colleges, checking for violations of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and the mandatory 100-meter no-tobacco zone. Tobacco items found being sold in restricted areas were seized, and fines were imposed on the spot by the concerned Executive Magistrate.

Shopkeepers were warned against selling tobacco to minors or operating within prohibited limits around educational institutions. They were instructed to ensure strict compliance in the future.