

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Unity our strength...

by divisions could never construct a lasting future. Netaji's advocacy for Swaraj, his efforts for empowerment of youth and women, his economic policy and emphasis on industrialisation and promotion of small-scale industries played a crucial role in building the foundation of a self-reliant India today," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ensuring that Netaji's legacy received its rightful place in history.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that Jammu is a symbol of India's national unity and an unbroken cultural stream. He noted that the indomitable spirit of the people of Jammu had kept the flame of complete integration of Jammu Kashmir burning through several generations.

"Our unity is the strength and crucial for success. We must remain one and preserve our shared heritage and shared values," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the Jammu Municipal Corporation, Jammu Development Authority, Housing & Urban Development Department and District Administration for their collaborative endeavour to honour Netaji's legacy. He also called for holding regular commemorative events on December 30th every year.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor visited the photo gallery depicting life history of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. A documentary showcasing Netaji's leadership and his pivotal role in India's independence was screened.

Sham Lal Sharma and Arvind Gupta, Members of Legislative Assembly; Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu Zone; Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; Dr Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Shri Rupesh Kumar; Vice Chairman JDA and senior officials of civil and police administration were present.

Padma Shri Prof Vishwamurti Shastri; Padma Shri Dr SP Varma, prominent citizens and people from different walks of life also attended the National Flag Hoisting ceremony.

Army trains VDGs...

17 remote villages along the Doda-Chamba border, including women volunteers, are undergoing intensive training in handling automatic rifles, minor tactics, self-defence, bunker construction and repelling enemy attacks, they said.

The villages are located near the forested and mountainous areas where security forces are currently conducting extensive search operations in view of suspected terrorist movement.

The training is being conducted at Shingini panchayat of Bhalessa, around 90 km from the Doda district headquarters, to equip volunteers with the necessary skills to protect their vil-lages and act as a first line of defence, especially in vulnerable areas, an official said.

He said the move complements the ongoing operation by the Army, police and paramilitary forces in the higher reaches to track down and neutralise the terrorists who had managed to infiltrate into Chenab valley, especially Doda and Kishtwar districts, a couple of years back.

According to officials, the VDGs welcomed the training and the recent upgradation of their weaponry. They expressed gratitude to Union Home Minister Amit Shah for providing self-loading rifles (SLRs), replacing the older .303 rifles, which they said, has significantly boosted their confidence.

"This is a major programme bringing together members from 17 Village Defence Groups. We are being trained in weapon handling, bunker construction and self-defence. Receiving such training at our doorstep is highly appreciable," Surinder Singh, a VDG member from Shingani, said.

He requested the government to provide more automatic weapons to the members, recalling the frequent terror attacks in the region during the early 1990s.

EOW files chargesheet...

(TDPT), through its director Ranjeet Prasad, conducted a recruitment campaign and select-ed 1,300 trainees in Kashmir, a spokesperson of the Economic Offences Wing said.

The trainees alleged that they were promised a monthly salary ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 12,000, but were instead required to deposit a registration fee of Rs 2,400 per person, he said.

The TDPI collected the registration fee but paid no salary to the trainees.

"During investigation, it was prima facie established that the company allegedly defrauded several innocent students on the pretext of providing them tuition and employment opportuni-ties," the spokesperson said.

He said the acts and omissions on part of the accused disclose offences punishable under Sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property or valuable security) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

"The investigation, supported by both oral and documentary evidence, has been concluded as proved against the accused Ranjeet Prasad," the spokesperson added.

He said that as the accused failed to cooperate with the investigating agency and could not be traced at his given address at Gopalganj in Bihar, the chargesheet was submitted in absen-tia by initiating proceedings under Section 512 of Criminal Procedure Code, which allows a court to record witness testimonies in the absence of an absconding accused.

World sees India...

primary engine of this 'Reform Express' is India's demography, the young generation and the indomitable spirit of the country's people.

"2025 will be remembered as a year for India when it focused on reforms as a continuous national mission, building on the ground covered over the past 11 years. We modernised insti-tutions, simplified governance, and strengthened the foundations for long-term, inclusive growth," he said.

Modi said the government moved ahead decisively with higher ambition, faster execution and deeper transformation.

The reforms have been about enabling citizens to live with dignity, entrepreneurs to innovate with confidence and institutions to function with clarity and trust, he said.

The prime minister also cited a few examples of the reforms undertaken that include GST, permission of 100 per cent FDI in Indian insurance companies, labour laws and rural employ-ment guarantee.

The prime minister said clean the two-slab structure of 5 per cent and 18 per cent has been implemented in the GST and the burden has been eased on households, MSMEs, farmers and labour-intensive sectors.

"The purpose is to ensure dispute reduction and better compliance. This reform has boosted consumer sentiment and demand. Sales have grown in the festive season," he said.

He said unparalleled relief has been given to the middle class. In a first, individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh a year faced no income tax at all.

The Obsolete Income-tax Act of 1961 has been replaced with the modern and simple Income Tax Act, 2025.

Together, these reforms mark India's move towards a transparent, technology-driven tax administration, he said.

Modi said giving a boost to small and medium businesses, the definition of 'small companies' has been expanded to include firms with turnovers up to Rs 100 crore.

India surpasses Japan...

providing a snapshot of reforms in 2025.

The US is the world's largest economy, and China occupies the second spot.

The growth momentum further surprised on the upside, with GDP expanding to a six-quer-ter high in Q2 of 2025-26, reflecting India's resilience amid persistent global trade uncertain-ties, it said.

Domestic drivers, led by robust private consumption, played a central role in supporting this expansion.

The release further said international agencies have echoed this optimism and cited projec-tions made by various entities.

The World Bank has projected a 6.5 per cent growth in 2026; Moody's expects India to remain the fastest-growing G20 economy with a growth of 6.4 per cent in 2026 and 6.5 per cent in 2027.

The IMF has raised its projections to 6.6 per cent for 2025 and 6.2 per cent for 2026; the OECD forecasts 6.7 per cent growth in 2025 and 6.2 per cent in 2026.

Also, S&P anticipates a growth of 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal and 6.7 per cent in the next; the Asian Development Bank has lifted its 2025 forecast to 7.2 per cent; and Fitch has raised its FY26 projection to 7.4 per cent on stronger consumer demand.

"India is among the world's fastest-growing major economies and is well-positioned to sustain this momentum. With the ambition of attaining high middle-income status by 2047- the cen-tenary year of its independence, the country is building on strong foundations of economic growth, structural reforms, and social progress," the government said.

The release also highlighted that inflation remains below the lower tolerance threshold, unem-ployment is on a declining trajectory, and export performance continues to improve.

Furthermore, financial conditions have stayed benign, with strong credit flows to the com-mercial sector, while demand conditions remain firm, supported by a further strengthening of urban consumption.

Mann Govt's special...

over Rs 95,000 crore is contributed by the Centre-along with technology-based monitoring, transparent payments and linkage with PM Gati Shakti.

"This is the beginning of accountability, not abandonment. It is reform, not rollback," he asserted.

Accusing the Congress, AAP and their allies of blind opposition, Chugh said the Punjab govern-ment's special session against a law passed after over 23 hours of parliamentary debate, involving more than 130 MPs, was "unconstitutional grandstanding" and a direct attack on federal discipline. He alleged the move was aimed at diverting attention from failures in law

and order, corruption and governance.

Chugh alleged large-scale corruption under MNREGA in Punjab, claiming erores were loot-ed through thekedari networks. He pointed out that audits were conducted in only 5,915 of 13,304 panchayats, exposing 10,663 financial irregularities, with no major recoveries or pun-ishments. "This is why the old system scares them," he said, adding that VB-G Ram Ji would end corruption and ensure every rupee reaches workers directly, without middlemen.

SFs launch search...

equipment to monitor the area in a bid to track down the terrorists, they added.

According to reports, two groups of Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists, with two to three opera-tives each, are believed to be present in the area, which has witnessed encounters in the past.

The Romeo Force of the Army also conducted search operations at Khanetar Top along the Indo-Pak border in Poonch and adjoining areas following suspected terrorist movement, offi-cials said, adding that the troops were equipped with aerial surveillance support and sniffer dogs.

Additionally, security forces have intensified vehicle checking along the Pathankot-Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Kathua, Samba, Jammu and Udhampur districts as part of heightened alert ahead of the New Year.

The border security grid too has been further strengthened. The police have activated Village Defence Guards and border police along the Indo-Pak border in view of possible infiltration from across the border, officials said.

Unclaimed bag sparks...

that the bag was later taken to the local police station and efforts are on to identify its owner. Normal activities resumed after police left the scene.

Officials said security has been beefed up across Jammu region to ensure peaceful New Year celebrations, while a massive anti-terrorist operation is going on in the higher reaches of Kishtwar, Doda, Poonch and Rajouri districts.

NIA court issues...

forces within and outside the Valley, they said.

"Investigation has exposed that these elements were masquerading as news portals, journal-ists and freelancers, while in reality weaponizing social media platforms such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and WhatsApp to create, upload and circulate fake, motivated, exaggerat-ed, secessionist and out-of-context content," an official said.

The officials said the deliberate objective of this digital misinformation campaign was to "incite street violence, disrupt normal life, damage public property, disturb public order and fuel mass unrest", thereby promoting anti-national sentiments and advancing a secessionist agenda aimed at creating disaffection against the Union of India.

"The accused were found to be actively propagating content prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, spreading false and fabricated narratives with the clear intent of instigating disaffection against the Union of India," the official said.

The officials said warrants of arrest were issued against the accused persons, who went underground and are absconding to evade the process of law.

Taking serious note of their deliberate evasion, the court has now issued a proclamation under Section 82 CrPC, directing the accused to appear before it on or before January 31, 2026.

"Failure to comply will invite stringent proceedings under Section 83 CrPC, including attach-ment of property," the official said.

According to the officials, despite being declared absconders, the accused are notorious for their continued hostile activities and remain highly active on social media platforms, where they persist in peddling false, fabricated and provocative content with the intention of "inciting large-scale violence and destabilizing public order" in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Natrang creates history with record 152 Theatre shows in 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang, North India's pioneering and leading theatre group, created history in 2025 by staging an unprecedented 152 successful theatre shows and cultural events in a single year, setting a new benchmark in Indian theatre and breaking all records of the past 15 years. The remarkable achievement reaffirms Natrang's unwavering commitment to artistic excellence, cultural enrichment and meaningful social engagement.

A major highlight of the year was the continued success of Natrang's iconic Sunday Theatre series, which completed 21 years of uninterrupted weekly performances. Despite repeated dis-turbances in the region, the group successfully staged 52 presentations during the year, reflect-ing extraordinary resilience and dedication. Notably, Neeraj Kant, as director of the Sunday Theatre series, emerged as the only director in the country with the highest number of direc-torial ventures to his credit in 2025. Natrang also expanded its international footprint, with Founder and Director Padmashri Balwant Thakur representing Indian theatre on prestigious global platforms across England through eight presentations and interactive programmes. These were held at renowned venues including the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon; Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust; Globe Theatre and Tara Theatre in London; Hippodrome Birmingham; Bath; Cambridge; and Manchester; strengthening cultural dialogue and global artistic collaboration. The group's excellence was further reflected in major nation-al and international recognitions. Three young Natrang artists-Supria Gorka, Advik Sharma and Viyaan Sharma-made history by winning three out of six National Awards instituted by the World Forum for Art and Culture. Additionally, Kananpreet Kaur; Adesh Dhar and Supria Gorka received National Scholarships from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, a rare national-level achievement. Venturing into a new artistic domain, Natrang designed and fabricated its first-ever tableau titled "Cultural Diversity of Jammu & Kashmir" for the Department of Culture, which won First Prize at the Republic Day Parade 2025.

Children's theatre remained a key focus, with acclaimed productions like Hum Hain Pratibhavan and the highly successful Sainyan Bhaye Kotwal.

The legendary Bawa Jitto drew nearly 50,000 spectators at Jhiri Mela, while the youth fes-tival "Rang Tarang," organised with IIM Jammu, further nurtured emerging talent. Padmashri Balwant Thakur termed 2025 a landmark year and reaffirmed Natrang's commit-ment to achieving even greater milestones in 2026.

Woman's culpable homicide case closed after being stuck in courts for 46 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has closed the proceedings of a case which was registered 46 years ago and set free the woman, now 70 years of age, who was convicted on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Shameema Begum, a resident of Uri in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, was arrested on charges of causing grievous injuries to her husband's grandmother during a scuf-fle with her mother-in-law in 1979. The victim died four days after the incident and the state pressed murder charges against the accused. However, during the course of the trial -- which lasted 30 years, Begum was convicted under Section 304-II of IPC and sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment in 2009. She appealed against the sentence before the High Court the same year and sought reduction in the jail term. Justice Sanjay Parihar quoted several Supreme Court judgements while disposing off the case and set free the 70-year-old woman.

"At the time of admission of the appeal, the appellant had expressed her intention not to chal-lenge the conviction and sought consideration of release on probation under Section 562 CrPC. However, the State indicated its intention to file an appeal, which was never pursued," the court observed in its five-page order.

It said the offence was committed in a heat of passion without premeditation. "The appellant has suffered incarceration and the ordeal of prolonged proceedings for over 46 years, and that she is now about seventy years old with age-related infirmities, this court is of the considered view that no useful purpose would be served by maintaining the substantive sentence," Justice Parihar said. "As no minimum sentence is prescribed under Section 304-II RPC, the ends of justice would be served by treating the sentence as already undergone and payment of a fine of Rs 5,000, in default thereof, to undergo simple imprisonment for three months," he added. Justice Parihar said this case bears testimony to the systemic delay in the disposal of criminal cases. He said the court must consider both aggravating and mitigating circumstances while sentencing. "Sentencing must strike a balance between deterrence, incapacitation, and rehabili-tation as the absence of one defeat the purpose of the others," the judge said. Applying the aforesaid principles to the present case, it is evident that the incident occurred on July 10,1979, the trial continued for more than thirty years culminating in conviction on July 16,2009, and thereafter another it took sixteen years for disposal of the appeal, he said. Justice Parihar said though such delays cannot ordinarily ensure benefit of a convict and the court cannot remain oblivious to the reality of prolonged pendency of criminal cases, wherein accused persons remain entangled in the criminal justice system for decades. "Sentencing, in the pres-ent context, must focus on reform and rehabilitation, enabling the offender to realize the wrong committed," he added.

Forest guard killed in stone slide incident

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: A Forest Department employee lost his life after being hit by a stone slide near Gaadi Nallah area of Doda district on Monday evening, officials said.

Officials told that Forest Guard Mohd Iqbal Zargar was walking along the route when a stone suddenly slid down and struck his head, causing him to fall unconscious. He was immediately rescued by people present at the spot and rushed to Doda Hospital for treatment. However, doctors at the hospital declared him dead due to the severity of his injuries. Further details into the circumstances surrounding the incident are awaited.

Notorious drug peddler detained under PITNDPS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Taking stringent action against a notorious drug ped-dler, Doda Police has detained him under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (PITNDPS) by the orders of Divisional Commissioner Jammu.

In an official statement, Doda Police informed that Radhik Katoch S/o Mubarak Chand, R/o Khellani, Doda, a habitual drug peddler, who is involved in multiple cases of NDPS Act, has been booked under (PITNDPS) for his active involve-ment in illicit drug trafficking. The detention order has been issued by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, and the accused has been lodged in District Jail, Bhadrawah.

The activities of the offender were found to be highly detri-mental to society and a serious threat to public safety, particu-larly the youth. He has been involved in multiple cases reg-istered at different police stations of the district. Notably, FIR No. 13/2020 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act, PS Assar, FIR No. 46/2025 under NDPS Act, PS Doda stand registered against him. Considering his repeated involvement in drug traffick-ing and continued criminal activities, his detention under PSA (PITNDPS) was deemed necessary to prevent him from further indulging in illegal narcotics trade. His detention is expected to act as a strong deterrent to drug smugglers and save the youth from falling prey to drug abuse.

Four narco smugglers nabbed with heroin, Charas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/JAMMU/BHADARWAH: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers/peddlers, Samba Police has arrested a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ramgarh and recovered approximately 9.65 grams of heroin (chitta) like substance from his possession.

A team of Police Station Ramgarh during vehicle checking naka at Tarapur, intercepted a Scooty bearing registration No.JK21A-0324 which was coming from Rakh Barotian and moving towards Gudwal. During checking, approximately 9.65 grams of heroin like substance was recovered from the possession of the rider.

The drug peddler identified as Neeraj Kumar S/o Ramesh Kumar R/o Chak Manga tehsil & district Samba has been arrested and contraband item has been seized. The scooty has also been seized in the instant case. A case FIR No. 94/2025 u/s 8/21/22/25 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Ramgarh and investigation started.

Meanwhile, a patrolling party from Police Station Bhadrawah intercepted a person Naresh Kumar S/o Kasturi Lal R/O gullu top Tehsil kahara A/P Hawali Mohalla Bhadrawah, near Fiza Hotel Bhadrawah, during checking 140 gram Charass like substance was recovered from the pos-session of the said person. In this regard FIR No 163/2025 U/S 8/20 NDPS act has been registered in this police station Bhadrawah. This is for your kind information. In another case, A police party from Police Station Ghrota established a naka near Thathi Petrol Pump and during checking, two per-sons riding a motorcycle from the Aklmoor side were noticed behaving suspiciously. On spotting the police party, they attempted to flee from the spot. However, due to the alertness and swift action of the police personnel, both individuals were apprehended after a brief chase. Upon questioning, the appre-hended persons disclosed their identities as Asgar Ali @ Billu, son of Yusuf Ali, resident of Barn, Tehsil Bhalwal, District Jammu and Naseem Ali @ Kallu, son of Ghulam Nabi, resident of Dabar Mehra, Tehsil Bhalwal, District Jammu. During their personal search, 10 grams of a sub-stance suspected to be heroin (chitta) was recovered from their conscious possession. In this regard, a case has been reg-istered at Police Station Ghrota vide FIR No. 114/2025 under Sections 8/21/22/29 of the NDPS Act. Further investi-gation is underway to identify and apprehend other persons involved in the drug supply network in the area.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice	
The Dy Chief Engineer/Const./Doubling/Northern Railway, Jammu Tawi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet system for the following work:	
Name of work and location	P-way Linking of BG track and other allied works such as making connections with old existing track laying of turnouts, glued joints, putting of ballast, leading, loading, unloading of P-way material, Ballast supply, AT welding work etc in connection with Provision of Shunting neck at Pathankot Cantt (PTKC) Railway Station to facilitate shunting movement avoiding involvement of Main Line.
Completion period	06 (Six) Months
Approx. Cost of work	Rs.9087615.68/-
Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs.181800/-
Date & Time for submission of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on date 28.01.2026 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The E-Tender and opening of tender
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrail.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 14.01.2026 to 28.01.2026. All other terms and conditions in respect to above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
Tender Notice No. 4-WDYCECDJAT-2025-26 Dated: 30.12.2025 4028/2025	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

PUBLIC NOTICE

The plot No.189 A/D measur- ing 75'x120' at Housing Colony Gandhinagar Jammu was allotted to Sh. Asad Ullah Mir vide Govt. order No.33-13-56-2- of 1963 dated 14/03/1963. The Ownership Rights of the said plot is under the process of transfer to Sh. Baldev Raj Sharma and Smt. Neena Sharma W/o Sh. Baldev Raj Sharma on the basis of Sale Deed and Will. Any person hav- ing any objections to this transfer shall furnish the same in writng to the office of Managing Director J&K Housing Board Jammu within a peri- od of 15 days, however no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

Baldev Raj Sharma and Neena Sharma R/o 189 AD Gandhinagar, Jammu.



NOTICE

I, Musart Bano D/o Gias-ul- din R/o Asooh, P.O: Bani, District Kathua have lost my BDS Degree Certificate under Roll No.45IGDC-12, Year & Session 2018. Now I am applying for duplicate of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to University of Jammu within seven days.

BEFORE THE COURT OF TEHSILDAR (EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS) BHADARWAH	
Maya Devi D/o Hari Gopal R/o Lachran Dhar Tehsil Bhadarwah, District Doda.	(Applicant)
Versus	(Non- Applicant)
Block Development Officer Bhadarwah.	
In the Matter of: Application for issuance of directions to Block Development Officer Bhadarwah for recording the birth particulars of applicant namely Maya Devi (D.O.B: 20-04-1983) D/oHari Gopal R/o Lachran Dhar Tehsil Bhadarwah, District Doda.	
PROCLAMATION	
Whereas, the applicant has filed the application in this Office for the issuance of directions to Block Development Officer Bhadarwah for recording the birth particulars of applicant namely Maya Devi (D.O.B: 20-04-1983) D/o Hari Gopal R/o Lachran Dhar Tehsil Bhadarwah, District Doda.	
Now, by way of this proclamation the general public, interested persons are hereby informed that if any person has any objection with regard to subject matter, he/she can file his/her objection in this Office within 07 days from the date of publication failing which an appropriate order shall be passed.	
Given under my Hand and Seal of this Office today on 29-12-2025 at Bhadarwah.	
Sd/- Tehsildar	
No. 815/B&D/2024-25 (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)	
Dated: 29/12/2025 Bhadarwah	