

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Op Sindoor made...

even those at the lowest rungs of society have found renewed hope. "These initiatives are not only changing their lives but also allowing them to play a vital role in nation-building," the prime minister added.

He said the biggest beneficiaries of the new National Education Policy, which "modernises" and makes education more "inclusive", are the underprivileged and marginalised sections of society as it promotes learning in the mother tongue.

Narayana Guru's ideals are a great treasure for all of humanity, he said, lauding him for speaking against social ills at a time few did following centuries of enslavement of the country.

The interaction between him and Gandhi, the face of India's freedom movement, was a historic event that gave a new direction to the stir for independence, rendering it concrete objectives, he said.

The prime minister said it serves as a powerful source of energy for social harmony and for the collective goals of a developed India.

Modi recalled his long association with Sivagiri Math, which was founded by Narayana Guru, and its saints' affection for him.

He noted that when its members and followers were stranded in Kedarnath following a natural disaster in 2013, when he was the chief minister of Gujarat, the Math reached out to him, not the central government, for help as they considered him their own.

He said the guru espoused the mantra of "One caste, one religion, one God for mankind", affirming that it has inspired many of his government's global initiatives like "One World, One Health", "One Sun, One Earth, One Grid" and "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", which was this year's theme for the International Yoga Day on June 21.

A government statement said the historic conversation between Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi took place at Sivagiri Math on March 12, 1925, Gandhi's visit.

## India's Shubhanshu Shukla's...

Hungary, and Poland, was earlier scheduled for lift-off from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on June 25 onboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket at 12:01 pm IST on Wednesday.

"NASA, Axiom Space, and SpaceX are targeting 2:31 a.m. EDT (12:01 IST), Wednesday, June 25, for launch of the fourth private astronaut mission to the International Space Station, Axiom Mission 4," a NASA statement said.

The Axiom-4 commercial mission is led by Commander Peggy Whitson, with Shukla as mission pilot and Hungarian astronaut Tibor Kapu and Poland's Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski as mission specialists.

The mission was originally scheduled for lift-off on May 29 but was then put off to June 8, then June 10 and June 11, when engineers detected a liquid oxygen leak in the boosters of the Falcon-9 rocket and NASA also detected leaks in the ageing Russian module of the International Space Station.

The launch was then planned for June 19 and then on June 22 which was put off to allow NASA evaluate operations of the ISS after repairs in the Russian module.

The mission will lift off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

The crew will travel to the orbiting laboratory on a new SpaceX Dragon spacecraft after launching on the company's Falcon 9 rocket. The targeted docking time is approximately 7 am (4:30 pm IST) Thursday, June 26, NASA said.

## LG inaugurates pilgrim...

Ahuja, Lalit Bhasin and Suresh Kumar Sharma.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB also attended the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor extended a warm welcome to the new members of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, highlighting the trust and responsibility entrusted to them. He underscored the Board's crucial role in managing the Shrine and preserving its spiritual and cultural heritage.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the new members would make significant contributions to the Board's initiatives, furthering its objectives and enhancing the Shrine's stature.

He also acknowledged the dedicated services and significant contributions of former Board Members, and appreciated their valuable contribution in the decision-making processes during their tenure.

The Board conducted a comprehensive review of its past decisions; ratified actions taken since the last meeting and made several key decisions on 21 significant agenda items having far-reaching implications for the Board's functioning and enhancement of pilgrim services.

The Board took several important decisions regarding various ongoing and new projects including the construction of the Exit Track and remodelling of the Manokamna area at Bhawan, development of a helipad in Katra, New Vaishnavi Bhawan, cottages near the Sports Stadium in Katra, widening of the yatra track from Sanjichhat to Bhawan, operationalization of the Board's Medical College at Kakryal and other initiatives to enhance facilities and services for pilgrims.

The meeting reviewed the status of the new helipad project at Village Hutt, a collaborative effort with Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, being executed by the Border Roads Organization (BRO). Noting delays and revisions, the Board expressed serious concern and directed BRO to complete the project by ending October-2025. The helipad aims to enhance pilgrim facilities to Shiv Khori Shrine by providing a seamless and convenient experience for devotees.

The Board also reviewed the progress on renewable solar energy initiatives in the Shrine area and directed the CEO SMVDSB to present a comprehensive plan for key installations, in an effort to reduce the carbon footprint. The Board approved a comprehensive sewerage network covering 100% of establishments within the Shrine area to enhance sanitation infrastructure.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the Yatri Feedback System and directed its expansion to cover all services with monthly monitoring and active encouragement of pilgrim participation, to ensure continuous improvement in service delivery.

The Board also directed CEO SMVDSB to explore the possibility of engaging volunteer services to assist pilgrims by addressing their queries and providing guidance along the Yatra route, enhancing their overall experience and support during the pilgrimage.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed for identifying vulnerable spots along the pilgrimage route and implementing necessary measures to address and mitigate potential risks of landslides and shooting stones, ensuring a safer environment for devotees.

The Board appreciated the enhancement of security measures in the Shrine area with the inauguration of an Integrated Command and Control Centre at SGC, Katra and 7 Sub-Control Centers by the Lieutenant Governor, besides, facilitating security agencies with advanced security equipments to ensure robust security and real-time crowd management for prioritizing devotees' safety and security.

The Board approved the dedication of 5 temples construct-

ed in Reasi District to the public in July-2025 and accorded the approval of construction of 5 new temples with a focus on maintaining uniform architectural design across all locations to reflect the Shrine Board's heritage and aesthetic standards.

The Board reviewed and approved financial assistance for institutions under the SMVD Charitable Society, including Gurukul, Hospital, Sports Complex, College of Nursing and Medical College to support their operations and activities through grants-in-aid.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated several pilgrim-centric facilities including Battery Car Parking stand, Outer Cave Shed, Self Service Kiosk / Digital Cash Register and Smart Lockers. The Board observed that significant infrastructure projects have been initiated by the Shrine Board to enhance pilgrim experience. A Battery Car Parking stand at Bhawan to provide convenience and accessibility to pilgrims, particularly the elderly and disabled. The basement of about 1000 sqft of parking stand serves as a storage area for materials from the Material Ropeway. Additionally, fabrication of a laminated glass shed outside the Cave area to facilitate smooth pilgrimage regulation in all weather conditions while preserving the area's scenic beauty.

300 Smart lockers near the Skywalk area at Bhawan offering a convenient and secure storage solution were also dedicated to the devotees. These smart lockers are linked with RFID Cards allowing devotees to store their belongings safely and securely.

In addition, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated an additional dormitory block at SMVD Gurukul, constructed at a cost of Rs.71.82 lakh which accommodates an additional 32 students, enhancing the institution's capacity and infrastructure to support the growing number of students.

Earlier, Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB gave a detailed presentation on varied activities of the Shrine Board and the action taken with regard to the implementation of various decisions of the previous meetings of the Board.

## CM vows to...

satisfaction should be our benchmark," he asserted, stressing the need to cater to every kind of visitor-from golfers and horse riders to winter sports lovers and those who simply wish to relax in hotels.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister inspected the newly constructed Gulmarg Convention Center, describing it as a "magnificent property" with an auditorium, meeting halls, guest rooms, and dining spaces. He floated the idea of introducing evening leisure options such as cinema screenings, coffee shops, and restaurants to make Gulmarg an "all-encompassing destination."

Highlighting policy reforms, the Chief Minister revealed that the government is actively considering the establishment of a Jammu and Kashmir Golf Development Authority to manage and maintain all major golf courses across the Union Territory-including Srinagar, Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and venues like Sidhra in Jammu. "We need dedicated synergy and professional upkeep of our greens and fairways. There should be a clear distinction between fairways and roughs," he added.

Commending his father and former CM Dr. Farooq Abdullah-a passionate golfer and someone who has built the golf infrastructure in J&K, he said that he would love to do something good for this sport.

The Chief Minister also commended MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah, the driving force behind the tournament, expressing hope that such initiatives will become a recurring feature in Gulmarg's tourism calendar.

Later, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a 726-meter ski drag lift at Kongdoori, to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 6.84 crore. He also laid the foundation for the development and beautification of the water body, popularly known as Seven Springs at Kongdoori, with the project costing Rs 50 lakh.

At Kongdoori, the Chief Minister interacted with tourists and enquired about their holiday experience in Kashmir. The visitors expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for his proactive role and leadership in reviving tourism in the region.

A group of ponywalas also called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various concerns, particularly the reopening of tourist spots in and around Gulmarg. The Chief Minister assured them that all the issues raised would be addressed in a phased manner.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister visited the Gulmarg Convention Centre to inspect the ongoing works. He urged officials to expedite the remaining tasks and ensure the centre is made operational at the earliest to boost tourism and facilitate major events.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister flagged off the Cyclothon, encouraging youth participation in sports and promoting eco-friendly tourism across the Valley.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani; MLAs Farooq Ahmad Shah, Javed Riyaz Bedar, Mubarak Gul, and Tanveer Sadiq; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation; Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority; and other concerned officials.

## Man accused of...

confronted him. The accused retaliated by attacking the man with a knife, causing injuries, and tried to escape, the SHO said, adding that the police personnel patrolling the area went after the accused and nabbed him.

Local youths also joined the chase, and once the accused was caught, they reportedly tied his hands with a rope and placed a garland of footwear around his neck.

He was then paraded through the streets and made to sit on the bonnet of the police vehicle for a short while, with a public address system announcing his arrest as he was taken to the police station.

Several bystanders raised slogans in support of the police team, who seemingly approved of the public shaming.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Joginder Singh said the action of the police personnel was "unprofessional, unbecoming of the members of a disciplined organisation", and calls for a stern departmental action.

"In order to ascertain actual facts, a preliminary enquiry is hereby ordered and entrusted to SDPO (Sub-divisional police officer) City North, Jammu, who will enquire into the matter and submit his findings to this office within a week's time positively," the SSP said in an order.

This marks the second such incident in Jammu this month, following a similar event on June 11, where three criminals involved in a shooting were publicly beaten by police.

## Army opens fire...

of Surankote and Mendhar in Poonch district at around 6 am following information about suspicious movement.

The operation was conducted in Sari, Ustan, Pathankhor, Lohar Mohalla, Chandimarh, Phagal, Hari top and Kaagwali in Surankote, Limba, and Uechad and Kallar-Gursai in Mendhar, but no one was arrested, officials said.

They said police assisted by paramilitary forces also carried out searches at Bein Nullah, Charu Muthi and Chak Dhulma and Tarnah and Chakra villages near the International Border in Kathua district.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police, Udhampur, Amod Nagpure, on Tuesday, chaired a comprehensive briefing session for the police officers designated for the annual Amarnath Yatra scheduled to commence in Kashmir valley

from July 3. Key aspects discussed during the session included enhanced security measures along vulnerable points, including the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, effective traffic regulation and contingency plans for emergencies, a police spokesperson said. He said the officers were also instructed to provide timely assistance to pilgrims and maintain close coordination with disaster management teams.

The SSP emphasised community engagement, real-time monitoring, and prompt reporting of any suspicious activity to ensure a safe pilgrimage experience.

## Gangyal firing incident...



efforts on Monday, a police spokesman said. He said that police have issued hue and cry notices and also generated look out circulars against both the accused to prevent their escape from the country and ensure their immediate detention if located. Earlier on June 11, police arrested four other accused Surinder Singh and Harjot Singh alias "Anda", both residents of Dashmesh Nagar, Raman Kumar of Gangyal and Mohd Ashraf of Narwal in the case.

"Jammu Police worked rigorously to dismantle the broader network behind this criminal conspiracy," the spokesman said, reiterating its commitment to act firmly against those who attempt to disrupt public order and threaten civil peace.

## ACB arrests Geology...

and accepting Rs 10,000 from the complainant. He was immediately apprehended on the spot, official said adding that further investigation in the matter is ongoing.

## Committee on Public...

for appropriate reply to the audit para's.

He also instructed that the joint representation submitted by the employees of various PSUs be referred to the General Administration Department (GAD) for comments.

Highlighting the importance of efficient Public Sector Undertakings, the Chairman emphasised active cooperation from the members and the officials to strengthen the sector.

"It is the responsibility of this Committee to ensure people do not suffer due to delay in execution and completion of projects. Instead responsibility shall be fixed on company or officers for making any kind of delay in execution of the PDD projects in J&K," said the Chairman.

During the session, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, H. Rajesh Prasad, provided a detailed overview of the current power generation scenario in J&K. He informed the Committee that out of the identified 15,000 MW of hydropower potential, 3,500 MW has been harnessed, so far.

The Committee emphasized the need for corporation-wise review meetings and reiterated their collective commitment towards improving the sector.

The members also shared suggestions and raised issues concerning the power sector.

Also present were the Principal Accountant General J&K; Director General, Accounts and Treasuries; Director General, Expenditure Finance Department; Managing Director, JKSPDC; Director Finance, PDD; CEO, JAKEDA and other concerned officials.

## Trump says ceasefire...

said that Israeli strikes had killed at least 10 nuclear scientists since the Israel-Iran war broke out. The US State Department last month described Sedighi Saber as the head of Iran's Organisation of Defensive Innovation and Research's Shahid Karimi Group, which works on explosives-related projects, adding that he was "linked to projects including research and testing applicable to the development of nuclear explosive devices."

## Illegal mining crackdown: Rajouri Police seizes four vehicles

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: In a strong action against illegal mining activities, Rajouri Police has seized five vehicles involved in illegal minning and transportation of minerals from different areas under the jurisdiction of Police Station Rajouri. Acting on specific inputs and to curb illegal mining teams from Police Station Rajouri carried out surprise checks at different locations. The following vehicles were found involved in illegal mining and were subsequently seized Tipper No JK14F-1931 - Driven by Nardeb Singh S/O Des Raj R/O Udhampur; Tipper No JK11G- 6712 Driven by Bashart Ali S/O Abdul Rasheed R/O Fatapur Rajouri; Tipper No JK11D 3048- Driven by Intaiz Ahmed S/O Mohd Qayoom R/O Behrote Thanamandi and Dumper No JK11d- 2915 Driven by Mohd Arif S/O Mohd Musthaq R/O Badhoon Rajouri. All the vehicles have been taken into custody and necessary legal action under relevant provisions of law has been initiated.

## Drug peddler arrested with 360 intoxicating capsules

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Continuing its drive against of Zero tolerance against drug peddlers, drug trafficking and substance abuse, Kathua Police under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Shobhit Saksena achieved another breakthrough by recovering 360 Nos. Proxyvan capsules from the drug peddler near

RTO Office P/S Lakhampur area. A Police team led by SHO PS L a k h a n p u r Insp. Tribhawan Khajuria assisted by other police officials while on routine patrolling, established a naka near RTO Office Lakhampur and rounded up one person namely Madan Lal S/o Thoru Lal R/o Ward No. 09 Kathua who was enroute from Kathua towards Lakhampur area.During search, 360 Nos. of Proxyvan capsules recovered from the possession of accused persons. In this regard, case FIR No. 78/2025 U/S 8/21/22/ NDPS Act stands registered at PS Lakhampur and accused person got arrested.The operation, led by SHO Police Station Lakhampur Insp Tribhawan Khajuria, was executed under the supervision of Addl. SP Kathua Rahul Charak JKPS and DySP DAR Kathua Ritesh Samyal.



## Notorious criminal wanted in cheating case arrested from Punjab

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu police tightening noose against criminals arrested one notorious criminal from Punjab.

A police team of PS R.S Pura acted swiftly upon the directions of their superiors to ensure the arrest of accused namely Jogesh s/o Koshari lal R/o Azizpura PO Nurangpur Pathankot (Punjab) .

A formal case, FIR No. 122/2025 U/S 318(4) BNS had been registered against an individual involved in a cheating



case. The accused had been accordingly arrested from Punjab. Acting on a well-coordinated effort, a team comprising ASI Arun Sharma SgCt Rakesh Kumar, SgCt Rashpal Kumar and SPO Parveen Kumar constituted by SHO R.S Pura successfully arrested the accused from Ludhiana Panjab,with the help of human intelligence and technical support. The said individual is currently in Police custody, and further investigation of the case is ongoing.



## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Civil Secretariat

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### Advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2025 Dated 24.06.2025

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of Ombudsperson under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for engagement in various districts of Jammu and Kashmir Division, UT of J&K.

Total No. Posts: 13 Posts (District Doda, Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi, Udhampur, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Samba, Ganderbal and Srinagar).

#### Eligibility:

- The candidate must be a domicile of UT of J&K. In case of person retired from government service the last held post by the candidate applying for the post of Ombudsperson should not be below the rank of Additional Secretary or equivalent.
- The applicant must be of eminent standing and impeccable integrity with at least 10 years of experience in Public Administration, Law, Academics, Social Work or Management.
- Experience of working with people or community organisations is a mandatory qualification.
- No person who is a member of the recognized political party or a banned organization shall be considered for appointment as Ombudsperson.
- The applicant should be physically active and capable of conducting field tours, inspections and visit to remote rural locations in the district, and also travel between districts of her/his responsibility.
- Preference shall be given to a person resident of the same or neighbouring district.
- In case there is any vacancy due to resignation, removal, death etc. the person next in the approved panel shall be offered the appointment as ombudsman without calling for a fresh meeting of the Selection Committee.
- The ombudsman in the district will be appointed by the UT Government on the recommendation of the Selection Committee of the UT, no written test or examination shall be conducted while an interview and internal marking system will be evolved by the selection committee of UT to rank person in order of preference. Prior to appointment, the panel prepared by the UT selection committee will be published on the official website of the department. It is clarified that the work of the ombudsman is in the nature of pro bond public service and no posts are created in the UT for the purpose.
- The Ombudsperson shall be appointed for a tenure of two years extendable not more than twice by one year each based on a performance appraisal process or till the incumbent attains the age of 68 years, whichever is earlier. There shall be no re-appointment.

#### Remuneration:

Subject to any subsequent notification by the Union Territory of J&K, the Ombudsperson shall be allowed compensation, in form of fee of ₹ 2250/- (Rupees Two thousand, two hundred and fifty only) per sitting with maximum upper limit of ₹45000/- (Rupees Forty Five thousand only) per month.

#### Removal

On unsatisfactory performance, the Ombudsperson may be removed by the UT Government on the recommendations of the Selection Committee of the UT.

Prescribed online application form is available on the department's website: <https://jkpanchayat.jk.gov.in> w.e.f 26.06.2025. The eligible candidates will be allowed a period of 11 days from the commencement date to fill and submit the form.

No. RD/NREGA/19/2020 (E-5308)

Dated: 24-06-2025

DIP/J-2593/25

Dated: 24-06-2025

Sd/-

(Rajani Bala) JKAS

Technical Officer,

MGNREGA