

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Rail link connecting...

create an ideal environment for trade, business, all weather transportation and I strongly believe, it's a railway line to future," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that Jammu Kashmir is poised to become a developed and Aatm-Nirbhar Union Territory under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the Prime Minister's New Vision for New Jammu Kashmir ensured rapid social and economic change and a prosperous society which treats all its citizens as equals.

"Prime Minister's Infrastructure push is aimed at driving Jammu Kashmir Union Territory's transformation, improve connectivity with other parts of the country, increase industrial activities, enhance living standards and foster broader economic participation. Connectivity brings prosperity and this historic railway line will unlock the potential of Jammu Kashmir and drive unprecedented economic growth in remote areas," the Lieutenant Governor further added.

### Monsoon session of...

The recommendation will be sent to the president for convening the session, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said.

The announcement by Rijiju comes against the backdrop of a demand for special session by opposition leaders to discuss Operation Sindoor.

"Every session is a special session for us," he said, adding that under the rules, "all important matters" can be discussed during the Monsoon session.

He underlined that the business advisory committee of both the Houses will take a call on the issues to be discussed.

### Police arrests SPO...

person and seized heroin from his possession after frisking, the officials said.

The suspect turned out to be an SPO who was arrested subsequently, they said, adding that further investigation is underway.

### 2027 Census with...

as 00.00 hours of the first day of October 2010".

Census 2021 was also proposed to be conducted in two phases with phase I during April-September 2020 and the second phase in February 2021.

All preparations for the first phase of the Census to be conducted in 2021 were completed and the fieldwork was scheduled to begin in some States/UTs from April 1, 2020. However, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic across the country, the census work was postponed.

The government recently decided that it will carry our caste enumeration along with the census. It will also be the first digital census giving the citizens an opportunity to self-enumerate.

The entire Census exercise is likely to cost the government over Rs 13,000 crore.

A meeting of the Union cabinet on December 24, 2019, approved the proposal for conducting the Census of India 2021 at a cost of Rs 8,754.23 crore and updating the NPR at a cost of Rs 3,941.35 crore.

However, the Budget 2025-26 allocated just Rs 574.80 crore for census surveys and statistics/the Registrar General of India (RGI).

A government functionary said the budget was a minor issue and could be sorted out without any impediment.

On April 30, the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census.

The decision demonstrated that the Modi government is committed to the holistic interests and values of the nation and society, an official statement issued by the government on April 30 said.

According to Article 246 of the Constitution, the Census is a subject listed at 69 in the Union List in the Seventh Schedule.

While some states have conducted surveys to enumerate castes, these surveys have varied in transparency and intent, with some conducted purely from a "political angle, creating doubts in society", the government had said.

"Considering all these circumstances, and to ensure that our social fabric does not come under political pressure, it has been decided that caste enumeration should be included in the main census instead of being conducted as a separate survey," the statement said.

This will ensure that society becomes stronger economically and socially, and the country's progress continues without hindrance. It is noteworthy that when a provision of 10 per cent reservation was made for the economically weaker sections of society, it did not create tension in any section of society, it said.

Caste was excluded from all census operations conducted since independence.

### PMAY-G Awaas...

multiple requests from states and Union Territories for more time to complete the survey and identify all eligible households.

The extension is also aimed at improving the verification of self-reported cases, ensuring that no deserving beneficiary is excluded.

As of June 04, 2025, a total of 495,937 potential beneficiaries have been surveyed across Jammu and Kashmir, which included 72,826 through self-survey and 423,111 through assisted survey.

### Train to Kashmir...

According to special documents from the Jammu and Kashmir archives department, the idea of a rail link to Kashmir was first proposed on March 1, 1892 by the Maharaja. Subsequently, in June 1898, British engineering firm S R Scott Stratten and Co was engaged to conduct surveys and execute the project.

The first report, submitted by D A Adam, recommended an electric railway between Jammu and Kashmir regions, featuring steam locomotives on a narrow two-foot-six-inch gauge line. This proposal was rejected due to the challenging elevation levels.

Another proposal, submitted in 1902 by W J Weightman, suggested a railway line connecting Kashmir from Abbottabad (now in Pakistan) along the Jhelum river. This, too, was turned down.

The third proposal, by Wild Blood, recommended a railway alignment along the Chenab river through the Reasi area. This report was approved.

Later, plans for powering electric trains and establishing power stations near Udhampur, Ramsu, and Banihal were also examined but ultimately rejected.

Following this, British engineer Col D E Bournel was tasked with submitting a detailed report on local coal reserves. Additionally, a report was commissioned from T D La Touche, the then deputy superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, on the Sangarmarg and Mehowgala coal mines.

In December 1923, S R Scott Stratten and Co was re-engaged to implement the coal extraction project. However, the death of Maharaja Pratap Singh in 1925 and the growing Indian independence movement led to the project being shelved permanently, the documents said.

The idea was revived nearly six decades later, when the then prime minister Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone for the Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar railway line in 1983. At the time, the project was estimated to cost Rs 50 crore and was expected to be completed in five years, officials said.

However, in 13 years, only 11 km of the line could be constructed, which comprised 19 tunnels and 11 bridges - at a cost of Rs 300 crore, they said.

It was followed by the broader Udhampur-Katra-Baramulla railway project, estimated at Rs 2,500 crore, which saw its foundation stones laid by prime ministers H D Deve Gowda and I K Gujral in 1996 and 1997 at Udhampur, Qazigund, and Baramulla.

Construction began in 1997 but faced repeated delays due to challenging geological, topographical, and weather conditions, significantly inflating the cost to over Rs 43,800 crore as of now.

Recognising the strategic importance of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL), it was declared a national project in 2002, the officials said.

Out of the 272 km stretch, 209 km has already been commissioned in phases including Qazigund-Baramulla in 2009, Banihal-Qazigund in 2013, Udhampur-Katra in 2014, and Banihal-Sangaldan in 2023. The final stretch connecting Katra to Sangaldan has completed the link in February 2024, they said.

The engineering marvel includes 38 tunnels and 927 bridges along the Kashmir rail project. The highlight is the Chenab bridge, standing 359 metres above the riverbed which is 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower making it the world's highest railway arch bridge, they said.

"The Kashmir train project, once just a royal vision, now stands as a symbol of national integration and engineering excellence", an official said.

To support construction in the rugged, militancy-affected terrain, more than 215 km of approach roads were built, many in areas previously accessible only by foot or boat.

This improved infrastructure has transformed the lives of approximately 1.5 lakh people in 70 remote villages such as Dugga, Surukot, Sawalkot, Khari, and Hingni. These areas have seen the emergence of marketplaces, eateries, and repair shops, significantly boosting local livelihoods, the officials said.

### ACB arrests Naib...

red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs 8,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses.

The accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following due process of law. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team. Moreover, search is being conducted in the residential house of the accused situated in presence of independent witness and Magistrate, official said adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on.

### Srinagar man dies...

The source said, "The man had sustained a head injury, which led to his death. Investigation revealed that he had inflicted the injury on himself, and died due to a deep wound and excessive bleeding."

The person claimed that the man was not mentally stable. However, an FIR will be filed if anything foul is found, he said.

Meanwhile, the J&K Students' Association in a press statement demanded a probe into the death.

"We demand a swift, transparent, and time-bound investigation into the mysterious and tragic death of 30-year-old Kashmiri youth, Zubair Ahmed Bhat, in New Delhi. He was a resident of Sehgar Ali Kadal in Srinagar, reportedly died under suspicious circumstances in a public park in the national capital on Monday," the outfit said in its statement.

Its national convenor, Nasir Khuehami, said, "The incident raises serious concerns and demands answers. We urge the Delhi Police to investigate all possible angles, including the possibility of foul play. The findings must be made public."

He also appealed to Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta to personally oversee the investigation and ensure accountability.

"The silence and delay from authorities only deepen the sense of fear and mistrust. The circumstances of Zubair's death are unclear, and the lack of clarity is deeply disturbing. A fair and honest investigation is the bare minimum owed to the deceased and his grieving family," Khuehami said.

Ummar Jamal, the outfit's president, said, according to his family, Zubair was assaulted by the locals where he was staying, and there are screenshots of chats proving there was an attack.

He claimed Zubair had come to Delhi to receive a guest and lost contact with them around 4 pm on Monday.

"He used to travel frequently to Delhi for work-related matters," Jamal said, quoting a member of Zubair's family.

### Teacher arrested for...

and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code.

Perusal of the material on record reveals that the accused is involved in a well-orchestrated criminal conspiracy whereby he impersonated himself as a person with high-level connections in the Civil Secretariat and Education Department.

He deceitfully induced the complainant and his family into paying huge amounts of money on the false assurance of providing government jobs. Forged appointment letters and other fabricated documents were supplied to bolster the deceit the material collected during investigation prima facie indicates that the accused is not only a repeated offender but has made crime a profession, having more than ten FIRs registered against him on similar allegations.

Furthermore, the investigation is at a crucial stage, where recovery of forged documents, identification of co-accused, and seizure of electronic gadgets used for fabrication of fake appointment letters is still underway.

Granting bail at this juncture may result in tampering with evidence and influencing the witnesses. In view of the serious nature of allegations, the habitual conduct of the accused, and in light of the bar under Section 437(1) CrPC, this Court is of the considered opinion that no case is made out by applicant/accused for grant of bail at this stage. This application therefore has no merit and is dismissed as such.

### COVID cases: Health...

cases in the past 24 hours.

The official sources said most cases are mild and managed under home care.

Since January 1, 44 deaths have been reported, primarily among individuals with pre-existing illnesses, they said.

"States have been instructed to ensure availability of oxygen, isolation beds, ventilators, and essential medicines," the source said.

A mock drill assessing oxygen supply systems (PSA plants, LMO tanks, MGPS lines) was conducted on June 2. Facility-level preparedness mock drills are planned for Wednesday and Thursday.

The official sources advised people to practise hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and avoid crowded places when unwell and that individuals with acute respiratory illness should self-monitor and seek medical care if symptoms worsen.

Trusted sources such as health ministry's website and PIB releases should be followed to avoid misinformation and rumours, they said.

"Union health ministry continues to closely monitor the situation and remains committed to ensuring public health safety through timely interventions and effective communication," the source asserted.

### PM Modi emphasises...

meeting after Operation Sindoor.

Sources said condolences were extended to the kin of the victims of the Bengaluru stampede, which left at least 11 dead.

The cabinet secretary made a presentation on the achievements of the Modi government in its 11 years.

Ministries of commerce and industry, and jal shakti were among the departments that made a presentation on Vision 2047.

The health ministry spoke about the problem of obesity and the need for a healthy lifestyle in the meeting that lasted for over three and a half hours.

Modi lay a stress on improving the quality of services and ramping up manufacturing. The PM, sources said, also asked ministers to communicate the government's achievements to the public. A source said Modi noted that earlier conflicts saw tanks rolling out through Punjab, but the changing warfare has changed things.

### MHA asks states...

been designated as the CNA for this scheme.

"As you are aware, the Ministry of Home Affairs had introduced the 'Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme' in May, 2023, with the objective of providing financial assistance to states and UTs for extending relief to poor prisoners who are unable to secure bail or release from prison due to non-payment of fine on account of financial constraints," the communication said.

However, the MHA said, despite repeated follow-up, funds have remained unutilised as many states and UTs have not identified the eligible prisoners and have not provided the benefit of the scheme to them.

While a few states and UTs have utilised the funds, the overall implementation of the scheme by them has not been very encouraging, it said.

The MHA has already issued guidelines and a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the implementation of the scheme.

As part of the guidelines, states and UTs were advised to constitute an 'empowered committee' in each district and an 'oversight committee' at the state headquarters level.

### India wins presidency...

their nominations for the IIAS presidency for the period 2025-2028 and participated in the hearings before the Council of Administration of IIAS, which were held on the sidelines of the Annual IIAS Conference 2025.

Following the hearings, the candidacy of India, South Africa and Austria was forwarded to the General Body of IIAS for the next round by the Council of Administration, according to the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

South Africa withdrew its candidacy in May 2025.

The election was held between India and Austria on June 3, in which 141 votes were polled, of which India registered 87 votes (61.7 per cent of the vote), and Austria registered 54 votes (38.3 per cent of the vote), it said, adding that "India's candidacy received widespread support from across the membership".

This is the first time in the 100 years history of IIAS that the election to the post of president was held by ballot process and it is the first time that India has secured the historic mandate for the presidency of the IIAS, the statement said.

In his acceptance speech delivered via video conferencing on Tuesday, Srinivas said the country's presidency will be an inclusive one which will seek to bridge the north-south divide. "India's administration works under the policy maxim 'maximum governance - minimum government' under which we pursue next-generation administrative reforms using technology to bring citizens and government closer. Contemporary administrative theory has documented this transformation with a focus on a digitally empowered citizen and a digitally transformed institution," he said.

## 11 dead, 33 injured in stampede near Bengaluru cricket stadium

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: Eleven people died and 33 injured following a stampede near the Chinnaswamy Cricket Stadium here, where a large number of people gathered to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Wednesday.

Expressing grief over the incident, calling it an "unexpected tragedy", he announced Rs 10 lakh as compensation to the kin of all those deceased, while also ordering a magisterial inquiry into the incident.

"The Karnataka state cricket association had organised a programme for the victory celebration (at the stadium), there was also a programme from the government (at Vidhana Soudha). At the Chinnaswamy Stadium, a big tragedy happened. Due to the stampede, 11 people have died and 33 have suffered injuries," Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital and Vydehi Super Speciality Hospital here, he said such a tragedy shouldn't have happened. The government expresses grief over the incident.

Stating that most of the deceased are youth, including men and women, with several of them being students, the CM said the government has announced Rs 10 lakh compensation to the kin of each deceased. Instructions have been given to provide free treatment for the injured, he said, adding that the total number of injured, including those who have been treated as outpatients and discharged, is 47.

## SDM Ghagwal leads vibrant villages programme-II camp at Manguchak

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: In a pivotal move under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II), a development camp was held today at Manguchak village in Ghagwal Sub-Division, Samba district. Led by SDM Ghagwal and Nodal Officer K. S. Bali, the initiative aims to draft a comprehensive Village Development Plan focused on sustainable growth and national integration in strategic border areas.

The camp witnessed active participation from local residents and officials, including the Tehsildar, BDO, BSF Assistant Commandant, Cooperative Department, banking institutions, BSNL, and Self Help Groups. Discussions revolved around key thematic areas-livelihoods, infrastructure, governance, and community participation.

SDM Bali highlighted the collaborative approach, stating, "Manguchak has the potential to become a model border village. Today's engagement is a crucial step towards building a self-reliant and secure community."

Local villagers shared their inputs, while BSF presence reinforced the strategic importance of community integration in national security.



## Samba police seizes 7 dumpers for illegal mining

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized seven dumpers in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Samba and Ghagwal which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by the Incharge Police Posts Supwal, Rakh Amb Talli & Mansar of PS Samba and Incharge PP Rajpura of PS Ghagwal while performing patrolling duty in the jurisdictional area, have seized seven dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK21G-7879, JK21G-9245, JK21G-7817, JK02BV-2458, JK21G-7537, JK21C-2988 and JK14C-6711 which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

The above mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to the Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

## Two held with 30 Kg poppy straw

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police team from Police Station Udhampur led by its SHO while performing vehicle checking at naka point Jakhani, stopped one vehicle bearing registration number PB10CQ-9797 for checking purposes.

During the checking of said vehicle, 30 kg 700 grams of poppy straw like substance was recovered from the possession of the driver of the vehicle namely Lakhwinder Singh S/O Amrik Singh R/O Kapurthala, Punjab and his associate Jaswinder Singh S/O Mann Singh R/O Begowal, Kapurthala Punjab have been arrested on spot. On this, a case vide FIR No. 200/2025 U/S 8/15 NDPS Act stands registered in P/S Udhampur and further investigation was set into probe.

## Three held with heroin

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: In a determined move against drug trafficking, Police Station Bishnah achieved one more success success by recovering 13.41 grams of heroin-like substance from 03 suspected drug peddlers identified as Behzat Kanji S/O Ghulam Rasool R/O Nishat Srinagar, Mohd Younis S/O Hasim Din R/O Phallian Mandal Satwari,Jammu & Mumtaz R/O Sakinderpur Bishnah.

The operation also led to the seizure of a black Fortuner vehicle bearing registration number JK01AW-5757, which was being used to transport the contraband.

On 3rd of June 2025, a police team from Bishnah, led by PSI Mohd Zahid, was conducting routine naka checking at Sakinderpur Kothy. During the checking, the team intercepted the said vehicle and found the narcotic substance concealed inside it. The contraband was seized & accused were taken into custody on the spot

Accordingly, FIR No. 51/2025 was registered under relevant sections 8, 21, 22, 25, and 29 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Bishnah. The investigation has been taken up to unearth the larger network behind the smuggling operation, including the source of the heroin-like substance and its intended destination.

The arrest and recoveries were made by the team of PS Bishnah led by SHO PS Bishnah,Inspector Sushil Choudhary under the close supervision of SDPO R.S. Pura & SP Headquarters Jammu.

## 4 miscreants involved in assault case on DGPC member arrested

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MIRAN SAHIB: In a breakthrough, Jammu Police have arrested 04 miscreants involved in an assault case on DGPC member Sardar Gurmeet Singh Tony at Phinder area of Miran Sahib,Jammu.The swift action comes as part of the police's continued efforts to crack down on miscreants/criminal elements in the area.

Regarding the same incident,a case FIR No. 70/2025 U/S 109/191(2)/191(3) BNS, 3/4/25 Arms Act was registered at P/S Miran Sahib and investigation was instantly started.

During investigation Police team led by PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal, PSI Yasar Arafat, ASI Fayaz Ahmed under the leadership of SHO P/S Miran Sahib Inspector Jai Paul Sharma conducting multiple raids finally succeeded in apprehending the accused persons namely Mohan Singh @ Goga S/o Kulbir Singh r/o Khour Deonian, Tehsil R. S Pura A/P Rakh Balahi Patli Morh Tehsil Bari Brahmana, Samba; Sandeep Singh @ Shotu S/o Surinder singh r/o Deonian, Miran Sahib Tehsil RS Pura, Jammu; Sohan Singh S/O Kulbir Singh R/O Khour Deon Tehsil R.S Pura distt. Jammu and Billa Singh S/O Kulbir Singh R/O Khour Deon Tehsil R.S Pura distt. Jammu. These accused attacked and injured grievously Sardar Gurmeet Singh Tony DGPC member at Khoura Deonian area of Miran Sahib in the evening on 25.05.2025.

The arrest was made by a team of PS Miran Sahib under the close supervision of SDPO R.S. Pura Gurmeet Singh & SP Headquarters Jammu Irshad Hussain Rather.

