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### Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla...

ensure speedy and inclusive development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the much-awaited inauguration of Chenab and Anji Rail Bridge and flag-off of the Vande Bharat Trains by Prime Minister will mark a historic moment for the nation and it will shape the future of J&K UT and future of its citizens.

### PM's political will...

46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section was also completed in June last year, leaving a 17-km stretch between Reasi and Katra which was finally completed in December last year.

The minister said the 1.3-km Chenab railway bridge, located 359 metres above the riverbed -- 35 metres higher than the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris -- forms a crucial link in the 111-km stretch from Katra to Banihal. It is a huge technical marvel completed after overcoming many challenges, he said.

"If technical parameters are taken into account, this bridge is designed in such a way to withstand 260 km per hour wind speed. Since the bridge area falls within seismic Zone V, its design was a complex process," he said.

The minister said the foundation of the bridge is half of the football field and 30,000 tonnes of steel was used in the making of this bridge which is the world's tallest arch railway bridge.

Similarly, he said, the Anji Khad bridge is equally important as it is the first cable-stayed railway bridge in the country.

"There are many such bridges on the highways as the load of a truck is about 35 to 40 tonnes while a train weighs around 4,000 tonnes. So, generally, cable-stayed bridges are not constructed on railway tracks," he said.

He said the specially designed cable-stayed bridge and the arch bridge were designed because there was no space for the construction of pyers over the Anji River.

Vaishnav said 97 km of 111-km track along the Katra-Banihal section is going through tunnels because of the special topography of the region, which is completely different from other parts of the country.

"We found a new way of tunnelling called Himalayan tunnelling method which is the result of technical innovation carried out by the Railways. It is also a great achievement for the country," he said.

Assuring a great experience for the travellers while enjoying a train trip to Kashmir, the minister said all necessary steps have been taken for the security and safety of the commuters.

"The tunnel construction was done in such a way as to ensure the comfort of the travellers. The service will prove a great facility for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The minister said the Jammu railway division of the Northern Railways recently conducted an experiment to transport cherry parcel vans from Katra to Mumbai and many more facilities would be included as time passes.

"We are setting up four terminals -- one each in the valley, Jammu, Katra and Udhampur -- within one and a half years which will facilitate transportation of goods to and from J-K. Overall, the Kashmir rail link will bring a positive change in the lives of the local population," he said.

### ACB books ex...

complex along with three shops at Chareel in Banihal, vehicles, financial documents and other evidence suggesting unaccounted wealth," he said.

During the investigation, the ACB obtained a search warrant from the court of special judge anti-corruption, Doda and the search was conducted at the residential complex situated at the old national highway road at Chareel in Banihal in the presence of a magistrate and independent witnesses, he said.

### Security beefed up...

Rs 43,780 crore includes 36 tunnels (spanning 119 km) and 943 bridges. The project establishes all-weather, seamless rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country aiming to transform regional mobility and driving socio-economic integration.

Prime Minister will also flag off two Vande Bharat Express trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar and back. They will offer a swift, comfortable, and reliable travel option for residents, tourists, pilgrims among others

Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the Chenab bridge and India's first cable-stayed Anji bridge, the symbol of India's engineering excellence before flagging off Vande Bharat trains to mark the completion of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway link (USBRL) that will provide direct train connectivity to the valley.

Modi will also lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 46,000 crore at Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district.

The 272 km long USBRL project, constructed at a cost of around Rs 43,780 crore includes 36 tunnels (spanning 119 km) and 943 bridges.

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In a major boost to last mile connectivity especially in border areas, Modi will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate various road projects.

He will lay the foundation stone of road widening project from Rafiabad to Kupwara on National Highway-701 and the construction of Shopian bypass road on NH-444 worth over Rs 1,952 crore.

He will also inaugurate two flyover projects at Sangrama Junction on National Highway-1 in Srinagar and at Benuina Junction on National Highway-44. These projects will ease traffic congestion and enhance traffic flow for the commuters.

Prime Minister Modi will also lay the foundation stone of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Katra worth over Rs 350 crore. It will be the first medical college in Reasi district contributing substantially to the healthcare infrastructure in the region.

Out of the total 272 km USBRL project, 209 km was commissioned in phases with the first phase of the 118 km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18 km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013, 25 km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014 and 48.1 km long Banihal-Sangaldan stretch in February, last year.

The work on the 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section was also completed in June last year, leaving a total 17 km stretch between Reasi and Katra and this section was finally completed in December 2024.

Officials said a high security alert has been sounded across Jammu and Kashmir in view of the Prime Minister's visit with senior police, paramilitary officers, army and intelligence officers personally monitoring the situation.

Heavy security deployments have been made in and around the venues with latest gadgets, including drones deployed to keep a close vigil, the officials said, adding the security grid on the borders and the hinterland has been further beefed up to check infiltration and movement of anti-national and subversive elements.

The area domination and raids on the houses of suspected persons including Over Ground Workers and relatives of terrorists operating from across the border have also been intensified as part of the security arrangements, the officials said.

During a visit to border areas on Wednesday, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Kathua-Samba range, Shiv Kumar directed the officers on the ground to remain vigilant. The officials said several roads heading towards Katra Stadium, the venue of Modi's public rally, may be shut or there may be traffic diversions on Friday.

### NIA court frames...

police station on July 16 last year.

The investigation was conducted professionally and it was found that these people were involved in the commission of the crime, he said.

Accordingly, a challan of the case was produced in the NIA court for judicial determination. During the trial, the court found sufficient evidence to proceed further and accordingly, framed the charges against the accused, who are presently in judicial custody. Giving further details, officials said the accused had covertly or overtly supported terrorists in Doda by providing food and other logistical support to them.

**NIA raids 32...**

Shopian, Baramulla and Kupwara districts, they added.

The searches were part of continuing investigations against a terror conspiracy hatched by Pakistan-backed proscribed terrorist organisations and their offshoots to destabilise Jammu and Kashmir, according to a statement issued by the NIA.

"Thirty-two locations in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir were searched as part of today's crackdown," the statement said.

The cadres and workers whose premises were searched are under the NIA's scanner for their involvement in supporting terror activities, such as facilitating terror-

ists, collection and distribution of sticky bombs or magnetic bombs, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), funds, narcotic substances and arms and ammunition, the statement said.

According to the NIA investigations, these offshoots, supported by their leaders in Pakistan, have been conspiring to commit acts of terror and violence by radicalising local youngsters and mobilising overground workers to disturb peace and communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir.

The investigations have revealed that Pakistan-based operatives are using social media platforms and online apps to facilitate and promote terror, the NIA said.

"Drones were being used by them to deliver arms/ammunition, explosives, narcotics etc. to their operatives and cadres in the Kashmir valley," the probe agency said. Two live cartridges, a fired bullet head and a bayonet were seized during the searches, it added. Besides, several digital devices containing large volumes of incriminating data and documents have been found by the NIA.

These will be subjected to a thorough scrutiny by the agency to unravel the details of the terror conspiracy, the NIA said.

### PM's visit: Dr...

Jitendra Singh on Thursday landed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ensuring a speedy completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project after taking office in 2014 and said it marks the beginning of a historic journey in setting up the world's highest railway bridge in Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh, who along with Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the bridge over the Chenab river, the Anji Khad bridge, and the Katra railway station to review the arrangements for Friday, said in the coming days, the project will become a crucial part of the developmental journey of "Viksit Bharat" (developed India).

"When Narendra Modi became the prime minister in 2014, this work had almost come to a halt. The world's tallest railway bridge, which the prime minister is now going to inaugurate, was surrounded by many controversies. There were doubts -- would building it be feasible? would it be safe?" Singh told reporters here.

He said several railway ministers repeatedly visited the site. "A new alignment was made. It was realised that the bridge would be extremely high. Upon checking, we found that it is actually 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower. That marked the beginning of a historic journey under the Modi government," he said.

Singh said the train route will now serve as a path for business, travel and commerce. "You will be able to reach Srinagar in just three hours from here," he said.

The Union minister said in the times to come, if the government and policymakers think imaginatively, the project could become a major tourist circuit.

"Even the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi can be integrated into this circuit. I believe that travel agencies should be prepared for this. After visiting Vaishno Devi, tourists can come here and then reach the (Kashmir) valley in just three hours," he said.

Asserting that the journey on Vande Bharat trains through the hills will be beautiful, Singh said, "It is a scenic route with beautiful views along the way. Children, youngsters and even couples can take photos en route. This will also serve as an alternative route and reduce congestion on the highway."

He said as an experiment, a passenger train was launched recently, along with another one for Army troops. "Earlier, due to Army movements, there used to be a lot of pressure on the highway and extensive security arrangements had to be made. With the Army now using the train route, the load on the highway has significantly reduced," he added.

The Union minister termed the train to Kashmir the beginning of a new chapter and said, "The Katra station has already played a major role in connecting Jammu and Kashmir with India's growth story. In the coming days, this project will become a crucial part of the developmental journey of Viksit Bharat."

Singh said the project is a historic one. "First of all, I believe that there is a long history behind this. The vision of laying railway tracks in Jammu and Kashmir and connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country and the world was conceived nearly 150 years ago by Maharaja Pratap Singh," he said.

He said engineers and architects were brought in, and at that time, there were plans to lay a narrow-gauge track like the ones seen in Darjeeling or Shimla.

"A similar kind of railway line was envisioned," Singh said, adding, "But the plan did not move forward then. Then came Independence and we had to wait until 1972 for the first train to arrive in Jammu. Earlier, we used to have a railway station in Sialkot, which was lost after Independence."

Singh said the train route will be unique. "It will go uphill and then pass through snowy regions. Coaches had to be designed keeping both the terrain and the climate in mind. In February, the snow in Jammu starts to melt due to warmer weathder. It is going to be a unique experience," he said.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister said the inauguration of rail service is better late than never as it will be a landmark occasion for the people of the valley.

He also said the start of the rail service will enable people to travel without spending much and put an end to the practice of some air service providers who "rob us" by selling tickets worth Rs 5,000 at Rs 20,000.

Abdullah invited pilgrims to come in large numbers for the annual 38-day Amarnath yatra, scheduled to commence in south Kashmir Himalayas on July 3.

"If I say that I have been waiting for this day for a long time, it won't be an exaggeration. This project started when I was in school, maybe in class 7 or 8. Today, my children have also completed their education and are now working," Abdullah told reporters at Katra Railway station.

"Visited the tallest railway bridge in the world, the Chenab Bridge, to review arrangements for the visit of the PM tomorrow. Tomorrow is a landmark day for J&K when, finally, the valley will be connected to the rest of the country by a railway link to be inaugurated at the hands of the PM," Abdullah wrote in a post on X.

"It is better late than never. Finally, we have reached that stage when the Prime Minister will come and inaugurate the Kashmir rail service which will benefit all of us," he said.

As soon as the Jammu-Srinagar national highway gets closed owing to landslides or snowfall, he said the goods and the movement of people come to a halt and the air service providers start "robbing us" with tickets worth Rs 5000 sold at Rs 20,000.

The start of the direct rail service to Kashmir will put an end to this and also facilitate transportation of horticulture produce including apples and cherries to reach the markets.

Asked whether the direct train service to Kashmir will also revive tourism which was badly hit in the valley following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, he said "unfortunately, the summer season is over...we should not expect much but we have hope for the next summer."

Abdullah said he would like pilgrims to visit Amarnath cave shrine in large numbers during the yatra starting on July 3.

"Let them come. benefit from our hospitality and enjoy 'darshan' (glimpse of naturally formed ice-shivling) before returning safely. Like yesteryears, we will try to ensure a successful yatra," he said.

On security, he said there is no need to worry as adequate security arrangements are in place for the safety of the railway infrastructure and the passengers.

"The train service has been running without any problem in the valley for many years. The Katra-Sangaldan section is being commissioned and we are ready for it," Abdullah said.

On Chenab and Anji bridge, he said the 272-km railway line between Udhampur to Baramulla has set a lot of records.

"The Chenab bridge is higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris, making it the highest bridge in the world. I have come from there and it is scary to look down from there. Similarly, the Anji bridge is India's first cable-stayed railway bridge," he said.

Abdullah said the project was very challenging and the railway track along Katra-Banihal section is mostly going through the tunnels, having very little open air track.

"The railway line will be beneficial to our economy, tourism, trade and (create employment) for locals. It will benefit everyone," he said.

He said the ticket price is not high and a traveller can reach Srinagar within four hours from Katra. "In next few months when the construction work at Jammu railway station gets completed, the train will run from there instead of Katra," he said.

### Ram Temple moves...

ensuring synchronicity of the ceremonies.

According to the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, among the deities consecrated were Shri Ram Darbar (central installation), Sheshavatar, Lord Shiva in the northeast (Ishan) corner, Lord Ganesha in the southeast (Agni) corner, Lord Hanuman at the southern wing, Surya (Sun God) in the southwest (Nairitya) corner, Goddess Bhagwati in the northwest (Vayavya) corner and Goddess Annapurna in the northern wing.

The temple, built in the traditional Nagara style, spans 360 feet in length, 235 feet in width, and rises 161 feet high. Spread across 2.77 acres, the three-storey structure features 392 carved pillars, 44 doors and richly sculpted depictions of Hindu deities.

Ram Temple trustee Anil Mishra told PTI that the ceremonies were performed in accordance with Vedic traditions.

"The day of Ganga Dussehra will symbolise a new beginning. It will be the moment when the fruits of centuries of penance, struggle, and faith will manifest in tangible

form," he said.

According to Hindu scriptures, Ganga Dussehra marks the day the holy river Ganga descended to Earth from Lord Shiva's locks, moved by King Bhagirath's penance. The day is considered highly auspicious and symbolises virtue, penance, and the collective well-being of humanity.

"This year, Ganga Dussehra will not only be sacred but also historic, as after a long struggle of 500 years, Lord Ram, known as Raja Ram, will be ceremonially installed on the first floor of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya," Mahant Raghuvhar Sharan, chief priest of Rasik Niwas Temple in Ayodhya, told PTI ahead of the event.

Adityanath offered prayers at the Ram Temple and visited the Hanumangarhi temple nearby.

Adding a political touch to the proceedings of the day, he said in a post on X, "This auspicious occasion is a new expression of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat'. Victory to Siyavar Shri Ramachandra!"

"Today, in the holy birthplace of Lord Shri Ram, Ayodhya Dham, we are getting the great fortune of becoming a witness to the programme organised for the Pran-Pratishtha of the holy idols of gods in the eight temples including Shri Ram Darbar on the first floor of Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Temple," he said.

The inauguration of the temple in January 2024 had marked the culmination of a decades-long campaign, mostly under the Hindutva banner, to reclaim a disputed religious site in Ayodhya.

It was months before the Lok Sabha elections and 34 years after BJP veteran L K Advani's 'Mandir Wahin Banayenge' speech during his Rath yatra that shaped Ram mandir politics.

The 16th century Babri mosque at the spot where many Hindu devotees believe is the place where Ram was born was the centre of a simmering dispute for decades. The mosque was demolished by 'kar sewaks' on December 6, 1992, triggering communal riots that left hundreds dead.

After a long legal battle, the Supreme Court in 2019 ruled in favour of the construction of the temple. It also ordered allotment of a five-acre plot for building a mosque.

The scrapping of Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, building a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya and the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code(UCC) have been BJP's poll plank for decades.

### Cyber crime case...

various Instagram accounts and persistently stalking her.

Based on the seriousness of the allegations, a case-FIR No. 04/2025, dated January 31, 2025-was registered under Section 78 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) read with Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, 2008 (Amended) against the accused individuals identified as Kunal Bharti (currently residing in Dubai) and Tirok Chand Yadav, resident of Ajmer, Rajasthan.

Inspector Jagdeep Singh, the Investigating Officer, employed a combination of traditional policing and advanced technological tools to crack the case.

With assistance from telecom service providers and major social media platforms, crucial evidence was obtained. Modern investigative techniques such as reverse International Long Distance (ILD) and Internet Protocol Detail Records (IPDRs) were used to trace the origin of the posts and link them to the accused.

Both suspects were questioned using digital forensics and electronic gadgets, which enabled the collection of admissible evidence to support the prosecution. After compiling sufficient material, the charge sheet was formally filed before the City Judge Court, Jammu, on Thursday.

The public has widely lauded the efforts of the Jammu Police, particularly Inspector Jagdeep Singh, for his diligence and professional conduct throughout the investigation.

The case was handled under the close supervision of SHO PS CICE Jammu and Dy. SP Sachit Mahajan, with overall guidance and direction provided by Mohd Yaseen Kichloo (IPS), SSP CICE J&K.

This case highlights the increasing effectiveness of cyber policing in Jammu and Kashmir and sends a strong message that cyber harassment and exploitation will not be tolerated. The J&K Police has reiterated its commitment to protecting the dignity and safety of women and ensuring strict action against cybercriminals.

## Father-son duo wanted in attempt to murder abscond; police clueless

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a shocking incident late last evening, a man identified as Ashok Kumar was brutally attacked with a sharp-edged weapon by two assailants in the Pooni Chak area falling under the jurisdiction of Domana police station.

The victim sustained serious injuries and was rushed to the hospital, where his left arm was operated upon.

The accused have been identified as Nanak Chand alias Naanku, a resident of village Raipur Jagir, and his son Raju. According to police sources, both are habitual offenders and have been previously booked in several cases of assault and theft.

Following the attack, the duo fled the scene and are still absconding. In-charge Police Post (IC/PP) Pooni Chak, SI Anurik Singh, has launched a manhunt to track them. Raids are being conducted at various locations to track them. However, after 24 hours, police is still clueless about their whereabouts.

Police have appealed to the public to share any information that could lead to the arrest of the accused. An investigation into the motive behind the attack is underway. According to complaint, the victim Ashok Kumar saw Nanku while stealing agriculture tools from the farm. When Ashok Kumar, who works as Manager of the Agro Farm, rushed to catch him, the father-son duo attacked Ashok with a sharp edged weapon and fled away. He was rushed to GMC hospital where doctors at emergency stated that it's a medical legal case and a little deeper cut would have led to amputation of victim Ashok's arm. After surgery and around 10 stitches, Ashok was advised rest and follow up tomorrow.

## Jammu South Police tightens noose on illegal mining: dumper, tractor trolleys seized

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation of its strict enforcement drive against illegal mining under Operation Ploughing, Jammu Police, South Zone, under the overall supervision of SSP Jammu, Sh. Joginder Singh-JKPS, and direct supervision of SP City South, Sh. Ajay Sharma-JKPS, along with SDPO East Sh. Sheezan Bhat-JKPS and SDPO South, Sunil Singh Jasrotia, carried out multiple coordinated actions across the zone.

Police teams from Gangval, Gadigarh, and Sainik Colony executed actions resulting in seizure of vehicles involved in illegal transportation of mining material:

Police Station Gangval seized one dumper (JK02DB-7665) carrying sand illegally. Police Post Gadigarh seized one tractor trolley (JK02CV-1810) loaded with sand illegally.

Police Post Sainik Colony detained one tractor trolley (JK21J-1355) found transporting mining material without any valid permission. Intimation has been shared with DMO Jammu for further proceedings in all cases.

Jammu Police also intensified preventive policing and traffic enforcement across South Zone to maintain law and order in which 4 persons booked under Section 129 of BNSS; 14 history-sheeters and OGWs (Over Ground Workers) were booked under relevant sections of law and some were summoned, counselled, and briefed regarding their conduct and surveillance monitoring; 9 vehicles seized under Motor Vehicles Act for violations and 19 vehicles challaned for various MV Act violations.

## Massive Crackdown: Poonch police conduct searches at 60 locations, preventive arrests made

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a significant crackdown on Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and surrendered terrorists, Poonch Police today carried out simultaneous searches at 60 different locations across the border district. The operation, conducted under the supervision of ASP Poonch Mohan Sharma, was aimed at dismantling the support network of terrorists operating in the region.

Sources said several preventive detentions have been made during the searches, which were specifically targeted at individuals suspected of providing logistical and material support to terrorists. These OGWs are believed to have been facilitating the movement of terrorists, arranging food, shelter, and other essential supplies.

Police teams identified and raided the residences and hideouts of suspected individuals in a coordinated effort. During the operation, security personnel recovered incriminating material that may help in identifying and apprehending more OGWs.

"The searches are part of a sustained campaign to choke the support system that enables terrorists to survive in the upper reaches of Poonch, Rajouri, and other areas," a senior official stated. "Efforts are also on to trace new OGWs who may be assisting foreign terrorists, primarily from Pakistan, active in the region."

The twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri, along with parts of Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, and Udhampur, have seen a noticeable presence of foreign militants over the past few months. Security forces have repeatedly engaged with terrorists in these areas, indicating ongoing infiltration attempts and local support networks.