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India won't bow...

striving to support his family through honest labor. Modi reaffirmed his government's commitment to protecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that terrorism will never succeed in halting the region's progress.

Lauding the resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister stated that their firm stand against Pakistan's conspiracy sends a powerful message.

He remarked that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are now determined to confront terrorism head-on.

Modi condemned the destructive impact of terrorism, recalling how it burned schools, devastated hospitals, and shattered generations in the valley.

He noted that terrorism even made free and fair elections a major challenge, depriving people of their right to choose their representatives. The Prime Minister affirmed that the strength and determination displayed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir marks a turning point, signaling their commitment to peace, progress, and a brighter future.

Modi stated that for years, Jammu and Kashmir endured terrorism, leading many to abandon their dreams and accept violence as their fate. However, he emphasized that their government has changed this reality, enabling the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to dream again-and fulfill those dreams.

The Prime Minister expressed that Kashmir's youth now take joy in seeing bustling markets, vibrant shopping malls, and flourishing cinema halls. He noted that locals aspire to revive Jammu and Kashmir as a premier destination for film shoots and develop it into a hub for sports.

Modi cited the Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela, where thousands of devotees gathered, reflecting the new, optimistic face of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also highlighted the excitement surrounding the upcoming Amarnath Yatra and the festive spirit of Eid, demonstrating the region's resilience and progress. Firmly asserting that the momentum of development in Jammu and Kashmir will not be shaken by the Pahalgam attack, the Prime Minister reassured the people that nothing will hinder the region's growth, declaring that any obstacle threatening the dreams of Jammu and Kashmir's youth will have to face himself.

Recalling that exactly one month ago, on this very night, India executed Operation Sindoor, delivering a decisive blow to Pakistan-based terrorists, the Prime Minister said, "whenever Pakistan hears the name of operation Sindoor, it will be reminded of its humiliating defeat".

He emphasized that Pakistan's military and terror networks never anticipated India's bold move, and within minutes, the terror infrastructure they had built over decades was reduced to ruins.

Modi stated that Pakistan was left in shock and frustration, reacting by targeting innocent civilians in Jammu, Poonch, and other districts. He condemned Pakistan's brutal attacks, pointing out that the world witnessed how it destroyed homes, bombed schools and hospitals, and shelled temples, mosques, and gurudwaras.

The Prime Minister praised the resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, stating that their courage in facing Pakistan's aggression has been seen by every Indian.

He reaffirmed the commitment declaring that every citizen stands with full strength beside the families affected, ensuring unwavering support and solidarity.

Prime Minister announced that families who lost loved ones due to cross-border firing have already received appointment letters for government assistance.

Recognizing the hardship faced by over 2,000 families affected by shelling, Modi affirmed that their pain is the nation's pain. He stated that financial aid was previously provided for home repairs, ensuring relief for those impacted.

The Prime Minister further declared that the Central Government has now decided to enhance this support, offering greater assistance to affected families.

Prime Minister announced additional financial aid for families whose homes were damaged due to cross-border shelling.

He stated that households suffering severe damage will now receive Rs 2 lakh, while partially damaged homes will be granted Rs 1 lakh in additional assistance, beyond the support already provided earlier.

Modi reaffirmed his government's commitment to standing by affected families, ensuring continued relief and helping them rebuild their homes and lives.

"The government recognizes border residents as the nation's frontline protectors", affirmed the Prime Minister. He said that over the past decade, unprecedented efforts have been made to strengthen development and security in border districts.

Highlighting key initiatives, Modi stated that approximately 10,000 new bunkers have been constructed, which played a critical role in safeguarding lives during the aftermath of Operation Sindoor.

The Prime Minister announced the formation of two new Border Battalions for the Jammu and Kashmir division, further enhancing security operations in the region.

Additionally, he shared that two dedicated Women Battalions have also been successfully established, reinforcing defense capabilities and empowering women in the armed forces.

Highlighting the significant infrastructure development taking place in India's international border regions, particularly in challenging terrains, the Prime Minister announced that hundreds of crores are being invested to improve connectivity and security.

Saluting the land of the brave Veer Zorawar Singh, he remarked that today's event is a grand celebration of India's unity and determination. Shri Modi said that with the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi, the Valley of Kashmir is now connected to India's vast railway network. "We have always invoked Maa Bharati with deep reverence, saying 'from Kashmir to Kanyakumari,' today, this has become a reality even in our railway network", exclaimed the Prime Minister, emphasising that the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Line Project is not just a name but a symbol of Jammu and Kashmir's new strength and a testament to India's growing capabilities.

In line with the commitment to boost rail infrastructure and connectivity in the region, he inaugurated the Chenab and Anji rail bridges and flagged off Vande Bharat Trains, enhancing connectivity within Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, Modi also laid the foundation stone for a new medical college in Jammu, reinforcing the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare facilities in the region, stating that Rs 46,000 crore worth of projects will accelerate development in Jammu and Kashmir, driving progress and prosperity. The Prime Minister extended his best wishes and congratulated the people on this new era of growth and transformation.

Underlining that generations in Jammu and Kashmir had long dreamt of railway connectivity, Modi said today, that dream has become a reality. Referring to a recent statement by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Prime Minister noted that even as a student in seventh or eighth grade, Abdullah had been anticipating the completion of this project.

LG, Rly Minister...

Governor was accompanied by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav.

PM connected hearts...

Rail Link (USBRL) project and flagged off Vande Bharat Trains, connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha called it a momentous occasion that will go down in history. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for dedicating the historic railway projects to the people of Jammu Kashmir and the nation.

"Kashmir to Kanyakumari is no longer a slogan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has turned this decade-long dream into reality. He has connected the hearts of millions of Indians, forging an unbreakable bond from North to South.

With Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) and the launch of Vande Bharat trains to Kashmir Valley, Prime Minister has fulfilled the resolve of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who had dreamt of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the world's tallest Chenab Railway Bridge and the country's first Cable-Stayed Anji Rail Bridge, inaugurated today, ensures that J&K gets connected with new aspirations of progress.

He said the skills of our engineers to build Chenab, Anji Bridge and hard work of our workers who carve through the mountains have eliminated the gaps that existed between crown Jewel of India and rest of the country, the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has changed J&K UT in the last 6 years.

"Its holistic development is top priority for Prime Minister and his various policies, speedy implementation and industrialisation has brought the Union Territory to the focal point of growth.

The Prime Minister had lit a new torch of socio-economic revolution in J&K post

August 2019. He built strong pillars of economic development in J&K & now laid new lines of destiny in the form of railway lines on it to transform J&K at a new pace.

Since April 2022, in the last three years, the PM has dedicated and laid the foundation stone of development projects worth over Rs 1.15 Lakh Crore to the people of Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for ensuring firm and decisive action against terrorism and its ecosystem.

"Operation Sindoor avenged the barbaric terrorist attack in Pahalgam, and has drawn a new red line. On one hand the unmatched power of our armed forces is ready to protect the integrity of the nation and the other creative power is dedicated for a developed India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In a major boost to last mile connectivity especially in border areas, the Hon'ble Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various road projects. He laid 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 also inaugurated two flyover projects at Sangrama Junction on National Highway-1 in Srinagar and at Bemina Junction on National Highway-44. These projects will ease traffic congestion and enhance traffic flow for the commuters.

The Prime Minister also laid 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.

Train connectivity will...

dignitaries. "The benefits to Jammu & Kashmir will be substantial. Tourism will receive a major boost, and the daily lives of our residents will improve," the Chief Minister said. He highlighted the difficulties faced by people during inclement weather when highway closures lead to exorbitant airfares.

"With this railway line operational, that hardship will be alleviated to a great extent, offering affordable and reliable transportation," he noted.

Speaking about the economic benefits, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of better market access for the region's horticultural produce.

"Our apples, cherries, and other fruit will now find faster and more easy access to markets across the country and even globally. This will provide a significant economic benefit to our growers and traders," he said.

Lauding Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the Chief Minister said that the successful completion of this critical infrastructure project stands as a testament to the Centre's commitment to the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Under PM Modi's stewardship, yet another critical infrastructure project in Jammu & Kashmir has been completed. We are also witnessing rapid progress on other vital initiatives - the Jammu Ring Road, the Srinagar Ring Road, the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, the four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar Highway, and the expansion of both the Jammu and Srinagar airports and the railway network," he said. The Chief Minister expressed hope that with the Prime Minister's continued support, Jammu and Kashmir will soon regain its status as a full-fledged state.

"Today marks yet another momentous occasion. With your leadership and support, we look forward to Jammu & Kashmir regaining its status as a full-fledged state," he said.

Reflecting on his personal tryst with key milestones in J&K's rail history, Omar Abdullah recalled his presence at the inauguration of the Anantnag Railway Station, the Banihal Railway Tunnel, and his government's final event at the same venue with PM Modi in 2014.

"You may call it fate, or perhaps destiny, but I have always had the good fortune of being present at key milestones in Jammu and Kashmir's railway journey," he said. He also recalled that the dream of connecting Kashmir via railway dates back to colonial times.

"Even during British rule, plans were envisioned - such as the proposed Uri and Jhelum railway lines - but they remained unfulfilled. What the British could not achieve, you have made a reality. You have connected Kashmir with the rest of India and, through it, to the wider world. This is a historic accomplishment," he said.

Paying tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he credited him for being the first to recognize the rail-network to Kashmir as a project of national importance.

"This progress owes much to the vision of Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, who declared this railway line a project of national importance. Since then, the project has seen consistent progress and budgetary prioritization," he said.

Reaffirming his government's commitment to development, the Chief Minister reiterated his resolve to fulfill the vision of a prosperous region.

"Our government remains committed to the vision of 'Viksit Jammu Kashmir, Viksit Bharat' - a developed Jammu & Kashmir, a developed India - and we are determined to realize this goal for the people of our region."

The Chief Minister extended his gratitude to the Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

"On this historic day, on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to you, Prime Minister. Thank you for your unwavering support and for helping turn decades-old dreams into reality", he said.

Omar mixes humour...

day. Humorously pointing out the differing career trajectories of the persons involved, Abdullah said, "You (Narendra Modi) became the Prime Minister for the first time then... You came here right after the election. And by the grace of God, you inaugurated the Katra railway station here.

"After that, you won the election twice in a row and remained the prime minister of this country. Your minister of state in the PMO, Jitendra Singh, was also present... Even our respected Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who was the minister of state for railways at that time, was present."

Referring to his own position, Abdullah said, "And I, as the chief minister of a full-fledged state then, stand slightly demoted. I was the chief minister of a state. Now I am the chief minister of a union territory."

"But I believe that it will not take long for this to be corrected. And with your help, Jammu and Kashmir will again attain the status of a state," Abdullah added.

The chief minister's direct plea for the restoration of statehood was met with applause by the large gathering.

ACB files charge...

information received by VOK (Now ACB J&K) about large scale bungling in Urban Local Bodies in Kashmir, wherein it was alleged that various fraud/illegal appointments have been made in various municipalities & that the officers/officials of the department are minting huge bribes for these illegal appointments by using different tactics, on basis of this information a verification was initiated by then VOK (Now ACB)," ACB official said.

"Probe conducted in verification revealed that during the period 2009-2010 officers/officials of MC Sumbal, President and I/C Executive Officer MC Sumbal in league with accused beneficiaries by abuse of their official position and authority in gross violation and utter disregard to the standing Government order/rules without any competence made 82 illegal appointments of various persons to different posts on regular pay scale and their salary was drawn by Abdul Rashid Shah, Incharge Executive Officer who also attested service particulars of these 82 illegal appointees," official said.

Verification conducted has revealed that these 82 accused beneficiaries were illegally & fraudulently appointed without following due process of law.

"Finally on culmination of verification FIR No 13-2015 under Section 5(1)(d) read with 5(2) of J&K PC Act Svt 2006 & section 120-B was registered at PS VOK (Now ACB Baramulla), against officers of MC Sumbal Bandipora and 82 illegal appointee and investigations were set into motion, which revealed that major violations of rules were committed by accused President MC Sumbal Ghulam Ahmad Wani and In-charge Executive Officer Municipal Committee Sumbal Abdul Rashid Shah while making these illegal appointments, as they were neither competent nor authorized under any Act/rule in vogue to make such appointments," official said.

It was also found that the recruitment was made without any transparent recruitment process, without the issuance of any advertisements for wider circulation, majority of posts against which accused beneficiaries were appointed do not figure in the schedules given under the recruitment rules-2008.

Investigations conducted also revealed that majority of the appointments were illegally made on recommendations of the speaker Assembly, MLA Sonawari as well as Municipal council resolution, which again were not authorized forums as per rules to intervene in the recruitment process, beside this even the criteria & mode of recruitment were not at all adhered to by the accused public servants. Evidence of favoritism/nepotism in appointment process also surfaced during investigations.

It was also found that these illegal appointments were made against posts not figuring in the schedules of the rules in other cases the appointments were made against grades not mentioned/matched with grades cited in schedules and the appointments were made over and above sanctioned strength of the MC Sumbal which shows how brazenly the due process of law was violated by accused officers.

Investigations conducted further revealed that the Jammu & Kashmir Urban Local Body institution (Management) Service Recruitment Rules 2008 which defined procedure related to recruitment/service conditions in the ULB across Jammu & Kashmir were brazenly violated by accused persons , as per these rules none of the accused i.e President & Executive officer were competent or authorized to make appointments. It was also found that these appointments were made by following pick and choose policy to favour selected blue eyed candidates on recommendations of MLA, speaker and Municipal council resolution who were nowhere in scheme of things authorized to make such recommendations as per rules. "The investigations conducted has established that these 82 illegal appointments were made by the then president and in-charge Executive officer MC Sumbal in league with the each other & the beneficiaries concerned in violation of rules/laws governing the subject by violating the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act 2000, the Jammu & Kashmir Urban Local Body institution (Management) Service Recruitment Rules 2008 and other government orders issued from time to time governing such appointments in municipal councils/committees as neither the Executive officer nor the president of Municipal council/committee were empowered to make any such appointments," official said.

Accordingly, official added, the sanction for launching prosecution against in service Public Servant namely Abdul Rashid Shah, son of Noor-ud-Din Shah, resident of Papachan, Bandipora, the then I/C Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Sumbal, was accorded by the Government, for commission of offences punishable under Section 5(1)(d) read with 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, Samvat, 2006 and Sections 120-B, 201 RPC & accused Abdul Rashid Shah EO MC Sumbal was also prematurely retired from Govt service however was reinstated by High court order. On culmination of investigations on June 5, 2025, official said, the chargesheet against accused persons namely, Gh Ahmad Wani alias Gulzar; the then President Municipal Committee Sumbal, son of Ab. Khaliq Wani, resident of Sumbal Main Bazar; Ab. Rashid Shah, (then I/C Executive Officer Municipal Committee Sumbal and 82 accused beneficiaries for commission of offences as defined under Section 5(1),(d) read with 5(2) of Jammu & Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act, Samvat, 2006, and under Section 120-B, 201 RPC was presented before special Judge Anti-corruption court Baramulla for judicial determination.

Modi interacts with people involved in building Chenab Rail Bridge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on Friday interacted with some of the people involved in the building the Chenab Rail Bridge. Modi praised their unwavering commitment to building modern infrastructure for the nation.

The Prime Minister posted on X; "Interacted with some of the people involved in building the Chenab Rail Bridge. They belong to different parts of India and are unwavering in their resolve to build modern infrastructure for their fellow Indians. They shared their experiences, including working in some very challenging times. They also shared how their families are very proud of the work they have done!"

Tricolour flies high over Chenab Rail Bridge: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on Friday celebrated the hoisting of the tricolour on the iconic Chenab Rail Bridge describing it as a moment of immense national pride and a testament to India's growing capability to build futuristic infrastructure in the most challenging terrains.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said; "The Tricolour flies high over the Chenab Rail Bridge! It's a feeling of immense pride that this bridge seamlessly blends ambition with execution, reflecting India's growing capability to build futuristic infrastructure in the most challenging terrains."

Amit Shah congratulates people of J&K, says USBRL project will make J&K's progress unstoppable

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday congratulated people of Jammu and Kashmir on inauguration of Udhampur-Baramulla-Srinagar Rail Link project, saying the move will serve new artery of growth and make progress of the region unstoppable.

He also said that two Vande Bharat trains flagged off will boost religious tourism to Vaishno Devi, while health and road projects worth rupees 24,000 crore will improve the living standards of people of the region to new heights.

"Taking to micro-blogging site X (formerly Twitter), Home Minister Amit Shah said: "Congratulations to our sisters and brothers in J&K on the inauguration of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project by PM Shri @narendramodi Ji today. It will serve as a new artery of growth, making the progress of the region unstoppable".

"The two Vande Bharat trains flagged off today will instill more power in the region's syncretic culture by boosting religious tourism to Vaishno Devi, while the new health and road projects worth Rs 2400 crore will further elevate living standards to a new height," Home Minister Amit Shah added.

RPF's Commandos for Railway Security to protect J&K Vande Bharat trains

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SALGANDAN (RAMBAN): Commando forces of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), popularly known as CORAS, have been deployed for the security of Vande Bharat trains on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line, ferrying passengers between the Kashmir Valley and Katra, the base camp of the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off the Vande Bharat train service between Katra and Srinagar in J-K - the first train connection between the Kashmir valley and the Jammu region.

"The RPF's Commandos for Railway Security (CORAS) have been deployed on Vande Bharat trains on USBRL (Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link) between Katra and Kashmir," an official told PTI.

The commandos made their presence felt on the inaugural trains flagged off by the prime minister.

Each of the two Vande Bharat trains will have 15 commandos and a supervisor each on board to ensure the security and safety of train travel, officials said.

The units have been recently brought from outside and will be based in the Budgam area of the Kashmir valley and the Katra belt of Reasi district.

After focusing on high-risk security operations, especially in areas with threats like Naxalite insurgency, this is the first time CORAS has been deployed in J-K.

With the official flag-off by the prime minister, the Indian Railways will commence regular operations of the two new Vande Bharat trains on June 7. The trains will run six days a week, with Tuesdays reserved for maintenance, Railway officials said.

Army's northern commander visits Strike One corps; reviews operational preparedness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma visited the headquarters of Strike One, also known as 1 Corps, in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura and was briefed on the operational preparedness of the formation, the Army said on Friday.

He also visited a transit camp of the Northern Command in Jammu, Udhampur Air Force Station and Basantgarh in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army's Northern Command said on X.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, visited Strike One; The Army Commander was briefed on the operational preparedness of the Formation. He lauded the dedication, infusion and innovative essence of the formation.

"The Army Commander also visited a Transit Camp of the Northern Command and appreciated their hard work and commitment to providing seamless transient facilities. He further visited the Udhampur Air Force Station, commending them for their high morale and dedication to duty," the post read.

The Strike One Corps, considered one of the most formidable strike corps, is a high-priority, highly mechanised offensive formation in the Army, primarily tasked with rapid deployment and offensive operations.

In another post, the army said Lt Gen Sharma visited Basantgarh -- a hilly area which witnessed terror activities over the past few years -- to review the security situation there.

The Army commander commended the troops for their operational readiness, tactical prudence and high vigilance towards fighting against terrorism.

"The Army commander emphasised continuing a proactive stance and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in counter terrorism operations," the post read.