

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Safety, well-being...

DGP; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home; IGP; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners (Ganderbal and Anantnag); Additional CEO SASB and senior officers of the UT Administration, Police, Shrine Board and BRO also attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

Modi lays down...

the tsunami of 2004, he highlighted how the country adapted and rebuilt with resilience, constructing cyclone shelters across vulnerable areas and contributing to the establishment of the tsunami-warning system benefitting 29 nations.

Modi said disaster resilience requires innovative financing and called for the creation of actionable programmes to ensure that developing countries have access to the necessary funds.

He highlighted the necessity of strengthening early-warning systems and coordination, noting their critical role in facilitating timely decision making and effective last-mile communication. The prime minister called for the construction of infrastructure that remains steadfast against time and tide, emphasising the need for resilience in development. He called for global efforts to build a strong and disaster-resilient future for the world.

Chugh demands ECI...

facing criminal charges should be prohibited from campaigning in the constituency. Chugh campaigned in different wards of the constituency, making a big call to the voters to help strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for Punjabis, more particularly for the farmers.

Chugh called upon the Ludhiana administration not to buckle under the pressure of people like Kejriwal, who are facing criminal charges in Delhi.

Eid-ul-Adha...

safe observance of the festival, especially at the Eidgah Chowgan Ground, where over 25,000 people congregated to perform Nimaz-e-Eid.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan and Senior Superintendent of Police, Naresh Singh were also present on the occasion and personally oversaw the implementation of the arrangements. They extended warm Eid greetings to the Muslim community and joined in prayers for enduring peace, unity, communal harmony and brotherhood throughout the district and the Union Territory. Among others ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, ASP Ops. N.A Khoja along with other senior officers from the civil administration and police were also present on the occasion.

Similarly, Eid-ul-Adha was celebrated with festive spirit across Ramban district, as communities gathered to mark the auspicious occasion with devotion and unity. The largest congregations were witnessed at Jamia Masjid Sharif Ramban, Eidgahs in Banihal, Gool and Batote, where hundreds of devotees offered Namaz-e-Eid and prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the Union Territory and the Nation.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, extended warm Eid greetings to the people, highlighting that such sacred occasions reinforce the spirit of unity, communal harmony and brotherhood in society. Senior officers from the civil and police administration also conveyed their best wishes to the Muslim community on this holy day.

Senior officers were present at major congregational sites to participate in the celebrations and oversee the peaceful conduct of the festival. The District and Police Administration had made elaborate arrangements, including adequate security and essential amenities to ensure smooth and safe observance of Eid-ul-Adha.

Besides Ramban town, Eid prayers were also offered at various mosques and Eidgahs in surrounding areas such as Jamia Masjid Maitra, Karol, Chandrog, Upper Ramban, Banihal, Sangaldan, Ramsoo, Ukhral, Batote, Gool and Rajgrah.

India following ‘zero...

against terrorism. "We practice a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and expect our partners to understand it. We will never countenance perpetrators of evil being put at par with their victims," he said.

Jaishankar also described the recently finalised India-UK free trade deal and the double contribution convention as "truly a milestone".

It is learnt that the Indian side raised the issue of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.

The UK was among the countries which were in touch with both India and Pakistan in an attempt to de-escalate their tensions during their military conflict last month.

Lammy paid a two-day visit to Islamabad from May 16, during which he welcomed the May 10 understanding between India and Pakistan to stop the military actions.

Preventive detention extraordinary...

the bench said, "The provision for preventive detention is an extraordinary power in the hands of the state that must be used sparingly. It curtails the liberty of an individual in anticipation of the commission of further offence(s), and therefore, must not be used in the ordinary course of nature."

The bench said the contention of the detaining authority that the detainee, Rajesh, who used to run a private financing company called 'Rithika Finance', was violating the conditions of bail imposed upon him in the cases that have been considered for passing the order of detention.

It said that pertinently, no application has been filed by the respondent in any of the four cases, alleging violation of such conditions, if any, and moreover, have not even been spelt out during the hearing of the case filed by his wife against the Kerala High Court order, which affirmed the preventive detention order of the Palakkad district magistrate.

"Keeping in view the above expositions of law, we have no doubt that the order of detention cannot be sustained. The circumstances pointed out in the order by the detaining authority may be ground enough for the state to approach the competent courts for cancellation of bail, but it cannot be said that the same warranted his preventive detention.

"We clarify that if such an application for cancellation of the detainee's bail is made by the respondent - state, the same must be decided uninfluenced by the observations made hereinabove," the bench noted.

It referred to the provisions of the Kerala Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 2007, and said that the object of the statute was to provide for effective prevention of certain anti-social activities in the state.

The bench said Section 2(j) of the state law defines 'goonda' as a person who indulges in activities that are harmful to the maintenance of public order, either directly or indirectly, and includes persons who are bootleggers, counterfeiters, drug offenders, and loan sharks, among others.

The bench also said that under Section 3 of the Act, the district magistrate so authorised or the government may pass an order directing detention of a "known goonda" to prevent commission of antisocial activities within the state of Kerala.

"Coming to the attending facts and circumstances, we are of the considered view that the exercise of power under Section 3 of the Act was not justified in law," the top court said, as it noted four cases lodged under the Kerala Money Lenders Act, 1958, cited by the police for recommending preventive detention to the district magistrate.

The police stated that the detainee was a "notorious goonda" in the district and a threat to the society at large.

Aggrieved by the order of his detention dated June 20, 2024, Rajesh's wife filed a writ petition before the Kerala High Court assailing the order and praying for a writ of habeas corpus to the state against the "illegal" detention of her husband.

The high court on September 4 last year affirmed the order of preventive detention. Aggrieved by the order, the detainee's wife moved the top court challenging the decision. On December 10, 2024, the top court ordered the detainee to be released as his maximum period of detention under the Act was over.

Pursuit of excellence...

Chancellors, non-teaching staff and country's top higher education experts who tirelessly worked in the past 5 years to transform J&K's Universities and Colleges into Centres of Excellence.

"We also made a history in Colleges Category when Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar secured an A++ Grade in January 2024. We have set an example by continued pursuit of excellence in education and innovation with a larger vision of building Viksit J&K," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Train to Kashmir...

"A tabletop helipad was constructed by levelling a 100-metre by 40-metre stretch of land near Surukote village between Dugga and Sawalkote using only hand tools," Khandelwal said.

He added that MI-26 helicopters were used for airlifting heavy construction machines, with sorties conducted and 226 MT of load lifted to Surukote in October 2010.

Recalling his first journey to unconnected Sangaldan -- which today boasts of a

major railway station and infrastructure -- another railway engineer said, "To meet the scale of geographical challenges faced during the construction of the Chenab Bridge, labourers had to be airlifted by helicopters to the worksite in the early days."

He added that workers constructed a helipad on the site, enabling engineers and technical teams to reach the remote location and begin operations on the ground.

"Initially, engineers had to trek long distances on foot or rely on mules to reach various construction points," he said.

In the early years of the project, hundreds of helicopter sorties were carried out to ferry men, material and heavy machinery to remote and inaccessible parts of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

This changed the entire outlook of the prestigious project from isolation to connectivity to Kashmir.

"Before the construction of access roads, villagers relied on treacherous footpaths or boats to reach nearby towns. The project has changed that drastically," the railway engineer said.

The officials said more than 215 kilometres of approach roads were laid through mountainous terrain, linking around 70 remote villages, including Guni, Paikhad, Gran, Bakkal, Dugga, Surukote, Sawalkote and Baralla, and improving the lives of nearly 1.5 lakh people.

These roads sparked a visible transformation in remote areas of Reasi and Ramban districts.

"Vehicles appeared outside homes for the first time and commercial activity began to flourish with the emergence of markets, roadside eateries and repair shops. Once cut off from development, these villages are now evolving into centres of learning and commerce," the railway engineer said.

Declared a national project in 2002, the USBRL initiative generated more than 525 lakh man-days of employment and provided direct jobs to 804 eligible land losers, besides creating 14,000 indirect jobs during construction, mostly for locals, the officials said.

With its blend of strategic value, economic upliftment and social integration, the USBRL project is poised to be a defining chapter in the developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir.

Residents of these once-isolated regions have hailed the Indian Railways for transforming their lives, calling it an "angel" that brought connectivity, communication and development.

"For us, the railway is a messiah. This was a remote and cut-off area. With this train, we are now fully connected with the rest of the world. There has been huge development due to this railway project. It has changed our fate," Seerat Tariq of Dugga village told PTI.

He added that locals got jobs over the last 10 to 15 years due to the project. "It has improved our economic health. We can now travel to Kashmir for the best medical treatment in just an hour; which earlier took two days," he said.

Qanser Jabeen, a college student in Reasi, said, "It has become very easy for us to pursue our studies, which was not possible before this project. This was made possible by the roads and communication infrastructure built here."

Others emphasised the enormous tourism potential created by both natural beauty and man-made wonders.

"We now have the world's highest rail bridge, the country's biggest Anji Khad cable-stayed bridge and T-50, the longest transportation tunnel in India," Surinder Singh, a businessman from Gulabgarh, said.

He further said that with several other tunnels, bridges and scenic places, the area can attract thousands of tourists.

Modi dedicated the USBRL project to the nation on Friday by inaugurating the world's highest railway bridge and India's biggest cable-stayed Anji Khad bridge over the Chenab river, and flagged off a Vande Bharat train to Kashmir from Katra.

The 272-km-long USBRL project, built at a cost of around Rs 43,780 crore, includes 36 tunnels spanning 119 km and 943 bridges, the officials said.

The plan for a rail link to Kashmir was first proposed on March 1, 1892 by Maharaja Pratap Singh and subsequently, in June 1898, British engineering firm S R Scott Stratten and Company was engaged to conduct surveys and execute the Kashmir rail project.

Rail Link Project...

the Udhampur-Katra line from the Jammu side was made operational," the official said.

According to a railway source, "When the Modi government came to power, the rail services were operational from Baramulla to Banihal in Kashmir side and Katra to Jammu on the other side. The missing link - Banihal to Katra - needed to become operational for bringing Kashmir on the rail network of the country."

"The Modi government completed the Banihal to Katra connectivity in two phases. First, Banihal to Sangaldan in Feb 2024 and then Sangaldan to Katra on June 6, 2025, was made operational, completing the missing link," he added.

The Northern Railway said that the Banihal to Katra section has the iconic Chenab and Anji Bridge and some of the toughest and longest tunnels.

"For instance, the 12.75 km long country's longest operational rail tunnel is between Banihal and Sangaldan. Many other challenging infrastructure development works were materialised in the past 11 years," another official said.

Extreme poverty in...

Press Information Bureau (PIB) on the report.

"While the change led to a global increase in the count of extreme poverty by 125 million, India emerged as a statistical outlier in a positive direction. Using more refined data and updated survey methods, India not only withstood the raised threshold but also demonstrated a massive reduction in poverty," PIB said in its factsheet details issued on Saturday.

The new poverty line would have increased the count of global extreme poverty by 226 million people. But thanks to India's data revision, the net global increase was only 125 million, as India's revised data reduced the count by 125 million on its own, it said.

In India, the World Bank report said, 54,695,832 people lived on less than USD 3 per day in 2024. Thus, the poverty rate at USD 3 per day (2021 PPP -- percentage population) is 5.44 per cent in 2024.

The extreme poverty rate decreased from 16.2 to 2.3 per cent between 2011-12 and 2022-23, while the poverty rate at the lower middle income country (LMIC) line declined by 33.7 percentage points, it said.

Free and subsidised food transfers supported poverty reduction, and the rural-urban poverty gap narrowed. The five most populous states account for 54 per cent of the extremely poor, it said.

With regard to economy, the report said, real GDP of India was around 5 per cent below the pre-pandemic trend level as of FY25.

Growth should gradually converge back to potential over 2027-28 assuming the current global uncertainties are resolved in an orderly fashion, it said.

"The outlook, however, is subject to significant downside risks, as policy shifts may continue to unfold globally. Elevated trade tensions would dampen demand for India's exports and further delay the recovery in investment," it said.

The current account deficit is expected to average around 1.2 per cent of GDP over FY26-28 and remain adequately financed by capital inflows, it said, adding that foreign exchange reserves are projected to remain stable around 16 per cent of GDP.

India has lifted 171 million people from extreme poverty in the decade between 2011-12 and 2022-23, the World Bank said.

"Over the past decade, India has significantly reduced poverty. Extreme poverty (living on less than USD 2.15 per day) fell from 16.2 per cent in 2011-12 to 2.3 per cent in 2022-23, lifting 171 million people above this line, the World Bank had said in its 'Poverty & Equity Brief' on India in April.

The rural extreme poverty dropped from 18.4 per cent to 2.8 per cent, and urban from 10.7 per cent to 1.1 per cent, narrowing the rural-urban gap from 7.7 to 1.7 percentage points, it had said.

Shah meets security officers involved in recent anti-Naxal operations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday met the security officers who played a key role in recent operations against Naxals in Chhattisgarh and said the Narendra Modi government is determined to free India from the menace of Naxalism. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and senior home ministry officials were present on the occasion here.

"I have met the officers who played an important role in the recent operations conducted against Naxalism and congratulated them on the historic success of these operations," Shah said in a post in Hindi on X.

The home minister said he is also eager to meet the soldiers who made these operations successful with their bravery and will soon visit Chhattisgarh and meet them.

"The Modi government is determined to free India from the scourge of Naxalism," he added.

The Chhattisgarh Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jointly carried out a three-week operation in the Kurragutta hills along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border recently. Under the "Operation Black Forest", 31 hardcore Maoists were killed and the integrated headquarters of several key Maoist outfits, including PLGA Battalion Number 1, DKSZC, TSC and CRC, destroyed.

Theft case solved; scrapdealer among two arrested, stolen property recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its relentless pursuit against theft incidents, Jammu Police, South Zone, has successfully solved a theft case registered at Police Station Bahu Fort with the arrest of the main accused and a scrap dealer who received the stolen property. Prompt action by the police also led to the recovery of the stolen items.

On 07.06.2025, a written complaint was lodged at Police Post Narwal by Tilak Singh S/o Bachitar Singh R/o Channi Rama, reporting that two batteries had been stolen from his truck parked at Channi Rama.

Acting swiftly on the complaint, a case FIR No. 176/2025 U/S 303(2) BNS was registered at Police Station Bahu Fort, and a dedicated team led by I/CPP Narwal PSI Susheel Kumar launched a thorough investigation.

During the investigation, one suspect was detained and, upon sustained questioning, confessed to his involvement in the theft. The accused has been identified as Rashpal Singh S/o Shamsher Singh R/o Village Mongri, District Udhampur.

Further interrogation revealed that the stolen batteries had been sold to a local scrap dealer. Acting on this lead, police arrested the receiver of the stolen property, identified as Kuldeep Saini S/o Pappu Ram R/o Yard No. 06, Narwal, and successfully recovered the stolen items.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of SHO PS Bahu Fort Insp. Rajesh Jasrotia, and SDPO City East, Sheezan Bhat-JKPS, with overall direction and guidance from SP City South, Ajay Sharma-JKPS, and SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh-JKPS.

Crackdown on illegal mining, 5 vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, Jammu Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources.

IC PP Jourian seized 5 vehicles which include Tractor Trolley bearing Regn No JK02DA-1988 loaded with sand W/O valid permission; Dumper bearing Regn No JK08F 6834; Dumper bearing Regn No JK02DK 7281; Dumper bearing Regn No JK02BU 9287 and Dumper bearing Regn No.Jk02DK 7181.These four Dumpers loaded with Clay and without any valid permission.

After detaining of these vehicles District Mining Officer was informed for necessary legal actions.

4 drug peddlers nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/UDHAMPUR: Continuing its crackdown on drug trafficking, Police Station Bishnah has recovered a total of 61.13 grams of heroin-like substance from two individuals-both known to be involved in narcotic smuggling and substance abuse.

On June 6, 2025, during the investigation of FIR No. 53/2025 under sections 8, 21, 22, 25, and 29 of the NDPS Act, a police team from Bishnah recovered 13.57 grams of heroin from the car bearing regd no Jk02CS-0285 in which two accused persons namely Sunny Khajuria,S/O Hans Raj, resident of Ismilepur, Bishnah and Ankush Salgotra @ Tony S/O Ramesh Kumar R/O Melmoodpur Bishnah were sitting . In a follow-up operation, on the disclosure /pointing out of accused Sunny Khajuria 47.56 grams of heroin-like substance was also recovered from his house.

The duo, both habitual offenders, were apprehended at Ismailpur as part of the ongoing efforts to curb the drug menace in the region.

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

It is pertinent to mention here that this is the third drug (heroin) recovery within one week and in this week only 07 drug peddlers have been arrested so far in Bishnah area alone,showing highest commitment and focus of Jammu Police under the leadership of District Police chief Sh.Joginder Singh-JKPS, in curbing the drug menace from the Jammu region.

Meanwhile, Police team from Police Station Rehambal led by its SHO while performing routine vehicle checking duty at Phalata Naka point apprehnded two persons who were trying to hide from the police team aroused suspicion.

Upon conducting a thorough frisking of both persons, police team recovered 5.1 grams(wt. with poly pouch) of heroin (chitta) like Contraband substance from their possession. Both were arrested on the spot.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Sonu S/O Charagu Ram R/O Dugli, Chopra Shop, Udhampur and Vishal Kumar S/O Mani Ram R/O Meghani, Udhampur. On this, a case vide FIR No. 78/2025 U/S 8/21/22/ NDPS Act stands registered in P/S Rehambal.

Multiple theft cases solved, accused arrested, stolen property recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a remarkable display of efficiency and professionalism, the Police Team of PS Bakshinagar has successfully solved multiple theft cases, showcasing the commitment of Jammu Police to maintaining law and order and securing hard earned property of public in the region.

Under Operation AVTAR, led by SHO Bakshinagar Insp. Azad Manhas, under the supervision of SDPO City West DySP Satish Bhardwaj, SP North Vivek Shekhar and overall provision of SSP Jammu Joginder Singh JKPS the police team recovered ECO Car, two Motorcycles, one Passenger Auto and 8 Power Supply Units.

The cases solved include - FIR No. 02/2025 u/s 303(2) BNS; FIR No. 44/2025 u/s 303(2) BNS; FIR No. 64/2025 u/s 303(2) BNS; FIR No. 67/2025 u/s 303(2) BNS and FIR No. 68/2025 u/s 303(2) BNS.

The recovery was made possible through a combination of local intelligence, technical inputs, and CCTV footage analysis. The Jammu Police's prompt action has ensured justice for the victims and reinforced public trust.

13 bovines rescued, 3 smugglers nabbed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A bovine smuggling was attempt foiled in which 13 bovines were rescued and 3 smugglers were arrested by District Police Udhampur

During routine naka checking at Tikri a truck bearing registration No. JK03E-7773 coming from Jammu towards Udhampur was intercepted by a team of Police Post Tikri.

Upon thorough checking, 13 bovine animals were found being transported without valid permission.

The driver identified as Gowhar Koker S/o Ghulam Mohammad Koker, co-passengers Bilal Ahmed Koker S/o Lal Din Koker R/o Batpora and Mohd Ismail S/o Saif Din R/o Khangane Kote, Kupwara were arrested on spot.

It is important to mention that the same truck and bovines were earlier released in FIR No. 74/2025 of PS Jhajiari Kotli, Jammu wherein the Hon'ble Court had clearly directed that these animals must not be transported outside Jammu without prior permission and a condition violated in this case.

In this case FIR No. 77/2025 under relevant sections of law stands registered at PS Rehambal.

