

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Massive Infra development...

opportunities in underdeveloped regions of J&K UT.
"Unless industries are established, development will remain a dream. Due to the progressive Industrial Policy, regions like Jammu, Kathua, Samba are achieving new milestones in the industrial sector.

From policy initiative to implementation on the ground, incredible achievements have been made for Industrial growth of J&K. We have placed special emphasis on industries that will empower the local economy.

Transparent governance has improved management of resources. The rule of law has ensured that all stakeholder institutions, including government officials, are accountable," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the people to remain aware of the nefarious designs of the Adversaries who are making desperate attempts to disrupt Jammu Kashmir's flourishing economy, industries and tourism sectors and trying to divide the society on religious lines.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the significant contribution of Dhunseri Group to India's manufacturing sector.

Spread over an area of about 300 kanals in Dholia Jattan village, the project, targeted to be commissioned in 2026, will be constructed in two phases with a combined installed capacity of 1,28,400 TPA, and will generate 1000 employment opportunities.

Vijay Sharma, Member of Legislative Assembly from Hiranagar; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank, representatives of Dhunseri Group, members of trade and business fraternity were present.

In 2026, NDA...

and described the alliance with AIADMK as a "suitable alliance.

Nagendran said his resolve will be to take the maximum number of MLAs to the Assembly, like a "yatra".

He hailed Amit Shah as "India's Iron man, another Sardar Vallabhai Patel."

BJP leader K Annamalai said the only goal is unseating DMK from power in the state and urged cadres to go ahead with this "sankalpa," (resolution).

Shah arrived here on Saturday night, his second crucial visit to Tamil Nadu in two months, to rev up the party machinery ahead of the 2026 Assembly election in the state. His visit has materialised exactly a week after the ruling DMK conducted its crucial general council meeting here, targeting the BJP and passing resolutions condemning the Centre.

NDA Govt redefined...

2019-21 from 167 in 2011-13, and the households with tap water connections zoomed to 15.64 crore in May 2025 from 3.23 crore in August 2019.

Over 10 crore cooking gas connections were given under the Ujjwala scheme, it said, while highlighting several other welfare measures targeting women.

In the run up to the anniversary, Modi has been highlighting his government's work for different sections of society, including the poor, farmers and youths.

Cyber Police cautions...

It said legal action will be initiated against individuals and organisations found to be spreading false information.

"Legal action will be initiated against individuals and organisations found to be spreading false information/misinformation with malicious intent, under the relevant sections of the law," it said. "We urge citizens, media platforms, and social media users not to fall prey to false propaganda and advise all to verify facts before sharing sensitive content that may disturb public peace and harmony," it added.

Air travellers vying...

Chenab valley, the pilot's voice echoes through the cabin: 'Below you is the world's tallest railway-arch bridge, the Chenab Bridge', he added.

The moment the announcement is made, passengers rush to the windows and start recording videos and clicking pictures of this historic marvel on their mobile phones.

"A wave of pride sweeps through the cabin -- passengers clap, smile and share words of admiration for the brilliance of Indian engineering," the press note said.

Days after its formal inauguration, even down below, the enthusiasm is equally contagious, it added.

Railway officials stated that locals from nearby villages and mountainous regions are seen taking photographs and recording videos of the bridge from different vantage points.

"Some are live-streaming the moment, while others are sharing it instantly across Instagram and Facebook," an official said.

According to Kumar, while flights soaring through the skies have become viewing galleries of the Chenab Bridge, people on the ground are busy capturing the awe-inspiring creation, preserving a piece of history to share with future generations.

"It is a historic moment where India carved through the Himalayas to script an engineering triumph," Kumar said.

Part of the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, the Chenab Bridge is the highest railway-arch bridge in the world.

Soaring 359 metres above the riverbed, it spans the Chenab river near the Salal dam and stretches a total length of 1,315 metres.

Its main steel arch alone measures 467 metres and is built to withstand wind speeds up to 266 kilometres per hour.

It rises 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower and stands nearly five times taller than the Qutub Minar.

A staggering 28,000 metric tonnes of steel went into crafting the monumental structure.

For the first time in its history, the Indian Railways deployed a cutting-edge cable-crane system, featuring two massive cable cars and pylons over 100 metres tall, to bridge the 915-metre-wide gap.

Need to reach...

and the entire human race, i.e. the world".

"We say that the world is a family. As the Sangh grew, it expanded its scope and expanded its work in various areas of social life through its workers," he said.

"Today we are in the centenary year of the Sangh. On the basis of Panch Parivartan, an effort is being made to move towards a big change in the entire society -- a society that is aware of its responsibility towards the nation, a society that builds its lifestyle in accordance with the environment.

"A society that is free from the inequality of casteism, where the entire society has equal rights on temples, water reservoirs, crematoriums," he said.

Swayamsevaks are being trained in Kanpur from May 21, and the camp will conclude on June 10, RSS office bearers in Kanpur said.

Dattatreya Hosabale, the general secretary of the RSS, has been in Kanpur for the past two days and is providing training to volunteers on building a "society that transcends caste barriers", they said.

Arun Gupta re...

bagged 1603 votes and defeated Deepak Aggarwal, who secured 1010 votes.

Rajeev Gupta (Kaka) was elected as Junior Vice President. He bagged 1812 votes and defeated Sunil Gupta (Kodha) who secured 916 votes.

Manish Gupta was declared elected as Secretary General. He secured 1487 votes and defeated his rival, Rahul Mahajan who bagged 1226 votes. Rajesh Gupta (Rinku) was elected as Secretary by securing 1496 votes. His rival, Ashu Gupta got 1144 votes.

Rajesh Gupta (Raju) was elected as Treasurer. He bagged 1295 votes and defeated Manik Gupta, who secured 739 votes while Rajeev Langer got 602 votes. Immediately after the election results were announced by the Election President, jubiliations commenced among the Arun Gupta led group.

The newly elected office bearers were profusely garlanded by their supporters. The sweets were distributed on the occasion and many were found dancing on drum beats at the Chamber House. It was like festive occasion throughout the day at Chamber House.

Developing, modernising every...

direct employment to around 150 individuals. Among these, most of the beneficiaries are our Nari Shakti and I am happy that this mission of urban rejuvenation has also ensured women empowerment, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor, while speaking on the occasion, also shared the earnest efforts made by the UT administration to build resilient infrastructure, while pre-

serving the values and unique identity of cities and villages of Jammu Kashmir.

"Every city and every village have soul. It has a unique cultural identity. It shapes and nurtures the personality of the citizens and gives them hope and new aspirations. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure balanced and inclusive development.

Today, when I look at the network of physical infrastructure in Jammu division, I feel happy that we have been successful to a large extent in fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

I wish that the work of developing and modernising every town and village in Jammu division continues unhindered and every citizen is able to achieve their goals and fulfil their dreams," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further asked the district administration to identify the rural areas in the district for the Rotary club's Surgical camp.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated the Integrated Command and Control Centre in Kathua and flagged off the Bicycle Rally to mark the occasion.

Designed to cater to all age groups, the multifunctional public space features dedicated walking, cycling, and skating tracks, along with yoga spots and a food street housing 15 restaurants and cafes. The waterfront project prioritizes urban aesthetics and community well-being. The improved sanitation infrastructure, including soakage pits and upgraded water supply systems, also ensures environmental sustainability.

Col. Mahan Singh (Retd.) Chairman, DDC Kathua; Members of Legislative Assembly- Dr Bharat Bhushan, Rajiv Jasrotia, Darshan Singh, Dr Rameshwar Singh; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, senior officials of police and civil administration, youth and people in large number were present.

India poised to...

challenged at the World Trade Organization.

According to Kumar, a trade veteran of 40 decades, a full-fledged quality control checking system is in place to ensure Indian consumers are getting the best products as imports of edibles is set to increase following the signing of more and more FTAs by the Indian government in an endeavour to reach out the global markets.

India has always imported consumer products from around the world but in recent years with the economic prosperity momentum picking up, the country has become "more and more attractive as a consumer-driven market", given the young population with rising income seeking the best quality, cost-effective, long-lasting and appealing products, Kumar pointed out.

FTAs are increasing India's bilateral trade globally, covering value-added high-end and heavy-duty industrial products to edibles such as soybeans, cheeses, vines and beverages.

RAI leads about 2,500 members, mostly retailers at national level, with an annual business volume of about USD 900 billion, that is set to grow at 10 per cent annually.

Speaking to PTI after participating in the National Retailers Federation's 2025 for Asia Pacific held in Singapore during June 3-6, Kumar pointed out that the Make in India programme is producing world-class high-standard products both for the domestic market as well as export, "thanks to the FTAs opening more export opportunities". Kumar also sees competition from world-class products for Make in India. "Imports and exports will create a competitive landscape and we will see further upgrades in manufacturing processes within India to make globally-rated products be it hardware, software and or edibles." India, he said, produces agri and non-agri products for consumers as well as industrial plants for the world.

He said that 85 per cent of the 7,00,000 stores in India are still operating in traditional formats, ranging from the corner shop Kiraana to single store supplying everything in the range of garments and edibles, competing with mega modern-day fast-pace trading department stores, online and offline supply chain operators.

Fast and quick-commerce have reduced delivery time to 10 minutes while e-commerce and online payments have made retailing business easier and prompt, he observed.

A latest example of India made products from design to garment production is Mumbai-headquartered "Fynd", an artificial intelligence-driven commerce platform that is serving the Indian market as well as the Middle East and Africa markets.

NRF 2025 had 9,500 trade visitors from over 72 countries, alongside participation from 240 exhibitors and sponsors, and 150 conference speakers.

Poonch police initiates action over hospital disturbance incident

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: District Police Poonch has taken swift action following a physical altercation that erupted earlier today inside the Emergency Wing of District Hospital Poonch. The incident, reportedly triggered by a domestic dispute, escalated into a public disturbance, disrupting medical services and inconveniencing patients and staff.

Acting on a formal written complaint from the hospital's Medical Superintendent, an FIR has been registered at Police Station Poonch. Authorities have launched an investigation to identify all individuals involved in the altercation.

In an official statement, Poonch Police reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining peace and public order, especially in sensitive and critical institutions like hospitals. Officials warned that strict legal action will be taken against those found guilty of instigating unrest, damaging public property, or misusing social media to spread misinformation or incite discord.

Jammu Police recover stolen cows, return livestock to owner

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant breakthrough, Jammu Police have successfully recovered four stolen cows in the Gharota area and returned them to their rightful owner. The recovery comes just days after a theft complaint was filed by Gopal Singh, a resident of Thathi Gharota.

According to police sources, Gopal Singh had lodged a written complaint at Police Station Gharota on June 5, 2025, reporting that four of his cows were stolen from Village Sobka during the night of June 4-5. Acting swiftly, police registered an FIR under case number 65/2025, U/S 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and initiated an investigation. The police team from PS Gharota launched a focused search operation, relying on sustained efforts and valuable human intelligence. As a result, the stolen livestock was successfully traced and recovered at around 5:00 AM today. After proper identification, the cows were formally handed over to Gopal Singh on supurdnama as per legal protocol.

Kathua police traces missing woman, reunites her with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In a prompt and effective operation, Kathua Police successfully traced a missing woman and reunited her with her family in the jurisdiction of Police Station Billawar.

The incident came to light on June 6, 2025, when Rano Devi, a resident of Dhar Dugnoo, District Kathua, lodged a written complaint at PS Billawar regarding the disappearance of her daughter-in-law, Shivali Devi (32), wife of Bishan Dass. Acting swiftly, police registered the case as a missing report vide GD No. 09 dated 06-06-2025.

A dedicated search operation was launched under the leadership of SHO Billawar Zaheer Mushtaq and the supervision of SDPO Billawar Neeraj Kumar. The team utilized roadside CCTV footage, technical assistance, and human intelligence to trace the woman's whereabouts.

The missing woman was successfully located. After completing all necessary legal formalities, Shivali Devi was safely handed over to her legal guardians. The missing report has since been officially closed.

Notorious drug peddler arrested with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Continuing its crackdown on drug trafficking, Jammu & Kashmir Police today arrested a notorious drug peddler and recovered a quantity of heroin-like substance in the Tikri area of Udhampur district.

A police team from Police Post Tikri, led by PSI Manveer Singh, was conducting routine patrolling and checking duties at Tikri Naka Point when they intercepted a suspicious individual who was approaching from the Manthal side. The suspect, upon spotting the police team, attempted to evade them by turning back, but was promptly apprehended.

During the frisking, the accused-identified as Chetan Sharma alias Chotu, son of Madan Lal, resident of Nelli Nallah, Rehambal-was found in possession of 5.50 grams of heroin-like contraband substance.

Following the recovery, the accused was arrested on the spot. A case has been registered under FIR No. 80/2025 U/S 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Rehambal, and further investigation is underway to identify potential links and networks.

Command Hospital Chandimandir saves life of soldier airlifted from Kargil

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: In a remarkable display of medical expertise, the Chandimandir Command Hospital of the Army's Western Command saved the life of a serving soldier airlifted from Kargil with a life-threatening condition.

Experiencing severe respiratory distress, the soldier was diagnosed with bilateral pulmonary thromboembolism, a high-altitude related emergency condition, according to an official statement issued here on Sunday.

A team of medical specialists, led by Lt Col Purushotham, provided timely diagnosis and emergency treatment, including clot dissolution, it said.

The soldier's life was saved due to the prompt action, and he is currently stable and recovering on oxygen support, it said.

The successful airlift of the soldier from Kargil on Saturday to Command Hospital Chandimandir was made possible by the Indian Air Force's AN-32 aircraft, which executed the mission at the edge of its performance envelope, showcasing exceptional professionalism and dedication, the statement said.

Indian, Mongolian contingents exchange best practices in counter-terrorism ops in joint exercise

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Military contingents of India and Mongolia participating in an ongoing bilateral exercise in Ulaanbaatar are actively exchanging best practices in counter-terrorism operations and precision sniping, thereby improving interoperability, officials said on Sunday.

Through joint drills, both forces are working to strengthen their ability to respond effectively to contemporary security challenges, they said.

The 17th edition of the joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' is being held from May 31 to June 13, at the Special Forces Training Centre in that country. The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability between the two forces.

"Focused on the conduct of non-conventional operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a United Nations mandate, the exercise aims to enhance the operational capabilities of both the forces," a senior official of the Indian Army said.

The participating contingents are actively exchanging "best practices in counter-terrorism operations and precision sniping", thereby improving interoperability, he said.

The two-week exercise is an annual event conducted alternately in India and Mongolia. Its last edition was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya, in July 2024. The exercise reflects the growing defence cooperation between India and Mongolia.

"Extensive training activities are being conducted to bolster mutual coordination and preparedness. Troops from both countries are refining their operational tactics and developing the ability to operate in complex terrains and environments," an official said.

A key feature of the exercise includes simulated UN peacekeeping operations, designed to "mirror real-world scenarios" where multinational forces must collaborate efficiently in diverse and challenging conditions," he said.

As the exercise progresses, both sides are engaging in a variety of tactical drills, sharing combat experiences and exchanging valuable knowledge and expertise.

These engagements are instrumental in building interoperability and ensuring that Indian and Mongolian forces can operate seamlessly in future peacekeeping or humanitarian missions, they said.

In addition to tactical training, exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' places strong emphasis on fostering cultural understanding and camaraderie between participating troops, the official said.

Soldiers from both nations have had the opportunity to showcase elements of their respective cultural heritage, strengthening the bond of friendship and mutual respect. This cultural exchange plays a vital role in developing enduring ties between the two forces, he said.

The exercise also lays emphasis on key lessons likely to emerge to improve future joint operations. This collaboration not only boosts the defence capabilities of India and Mongolia, but also reaffirms their shared commitment to promoting peace, security and stability in the region, he said.

The Indian contingent, comprising 45 personnel, will be represented mainly by troops from a battalion of the Arunachal Scouts, the Indian defence ministry had said in a statement ahead of the exercise.

The Mongolian Armed Forces contingent, also comprising similar strength, will be represented by 150 Special Forces unit, it had said.

India will protect farmers' interest in US trade talks: Shivraj Chouhan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India will prioritise protecting its farmers' interests while assessing potential gains and losses in the ongoing trade negotiations with the United States over agricultural market access, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said.

"Our priority is to protect the interest of our farmers. India will not work closing its eyes. We will assess our gains and losses. Keeping that in mind, an agreement will be finalised," Chouhan told PTI in an interview.

He was responding to a query on how India would safeguard farmers amid US pressure for greater market access for American agricultural and horticultural products. The negotiators are expected to agree on the framework for the broad contours of the first phase of the bilateral deal, expected to be signed by fall (September-October) 2025.

"The discussions are ongoing between India and the US. One thing is clear, we will protect the interest of our farmers. When we talk about two nations, we need to see the overall trade," the minister added.

According to a NITI Aayog report, "Promoting India-US Agricultural Trade under the new US Trade Regime", the value for US agriculture and allied product exports to India was about USD 2.22 billion in the triennium ending 2024.

In the same period, India exported USD 5.75 billion worth of agricultural products to the US.

India's main agricultural exports to the US include frozen shrimp, basmati rice, spices, processed cereals, and other value-added products.

The US wants to export more agricultural products such as corn, soybeans, and animal feed, but faces high Indian tariffs -- especially in agriculture, where average tariffs can reach up to 39-50 per cent.

The minister's comments come as India and the US continue negotiations on expanding agricultural trade, with Washington seeking reduced tariffs and improved market access for its farm products in the Indian market.

India is cautious about fully opening its agriculture and dairy markets due to concerns about potential backlash from rural communities and the need to protect domestic producers from global price volatility.

EAM embarks on week-long trip to Europe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday embarked on a week-long visit to Europe to hold talks with leaders of France, the European Union and Belgium to boost bilateral ties and reaffirm India's policy of zero-tolerance against terrorism.

Jaishankar's visit to Europe comes a month after India launched Operation Sindoor in response to the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack and it is expected that he will apprise the European leaders about New Delhi's firm approach in dealing with cross-border terrorism.

In the first leg of his tour, Jaishankar will visit France, a country that has emerged as an all-weather friend of New Delhi.

"The external affairs minister would travel to Paris and Marseille where he would be holding bilateral discussions with his counterpart minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean Noel Barrot," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Jaishankar would also participate in the inaugural edition of the Mediterranean Raisina Dialogue to be held in the city of Marseille.

In Brussels, Jaishankar will hold a strategic dialogue with the EU High Representative and Vice President Kaja Kallas.

"India-European Union strategic partnership has strengthened over the years across diverse sectors and got a big boost with the first-ever visit of the EU College of Commissioners to India in February this year," the MEA said.

Jaishankar will engage also with the senior leadership from the European Commission and the European Parliament, besides interacting with think tank and media.

In the third and final leg of his visit, the external affairs minister will hold wide-ranging talks with leaders of Belgium.

"India and Belgium share warm and friendly relations along with a very robust economic partnership. Today, the collaboration between the two countries spans various domains like trade and investment, green energy, technology, pharmaceutical, diamond sector and strong people-to-people ties," the MEA said.

It said Jaishankar would hold bilateral consultations with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Belgium Maxime Prevot and would also meet the senior leadership of the country.

He will also interact with the members of the Indian community.