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AC approves solarization of Govt buildings



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council, which met here on Sunday under chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has approved solarizing of all government buildings in Jammu & Kashmir by installation of grid-tied rooftop solar power systems of an aggregate capacity of 70 MW in Capex mode at a project cost of Rs 400 crore and 200 MW in RESCO mode.

The project shall be implemented by Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JKEDA). The Government buildings shall be installed with Rooftop Solar Projects of different capacities aimed at leveraging the vast rooftop spaces of government establishments for solar energy generation. These solar power systems shall be having bi-directional smart meters and the Virtual Net

Affiliation of Govt Polytechnics, ITIs Leh, Kargil to continue with J&K Board of Technical Education

SRINAGAR: Administrative Council has also approved the proposal to continue with affiliation of government ITIs as well as Polytechnics of Leh and Kargil with the J&K Board of Technical Education. The decision, taken at a meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has been made at the request of Union Territory of Ladakh in the larger interest of students of Ladakh. The UT of Ladakh does not has its own Board of Technical Education and last year the Administrative Council in the month of June, 2023 had considered and approved continuation of affiliation of Government Polytechnic Leh/Kargil and ITI Leh/Kargil with J&K Board of Technical Education till the end of academic session 2024-25.

Now, with the current decision, this arrangement shall be extended till end of academic session 2025-26 or till the administration of Ladakh UT makes its own arrangement.

The decision shall facilitate smooth admission process and timely conduct of examinations in Polytechnics and ITIs of UT of Ladakh as per the scheduled calendar of J&K Board of Technical Examination.

Metering (VNM) benefit would be provided by the DISCOMs to adjust the additional energy generated by the solar panels at a particular site against the other

electrical connections of different buildings of the same department. The project is expected to be completed by end of December 2025 and shall subsequently be main-

tained free of cost for a period of five years by JAKEDA through the empanelled vendors.

The project sites which would be developed under RESCO mode through Solar Power Developers shall have to execute Power Purchase Agreements for a period of 25 years with the respective departments on the tariff to be determined through bidding process.

With implementation of the project, the reduction in carbon emission by installing 270 MW Solar Power Plants will be around 8.3 million tons over a period of 25 years. More than 10,800 jobs shall be created by implementing this project for highly skilled, skilled and unskilled personnel. A number of additional job roles will be created by solar PV grid-connected projects in secondary and tertiary segments vis-à-vis manufacturing

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Khadi, handloom sale rising, creating job opportunities: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Khadi Gramodyog's business has crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the first time and asserted that the rising sale of Khadi and handloom were creating new job opportunities in large numbers.

In his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Modi said many people who would not be using Khadi products earlier now wear them with great pride.

"The Khadi Gramodyog's business has crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the first time. Do you know how much sale of Khadi have gone up? Four hundred per cent. The rising sales of Khadi and handloom are creating new job opportunities in large numbers," he said. Mostly women are asso-

ciated with this industry, so they are benefitting the most, Modi added.



"You must be having different types of clothes and till now if you have not bought Khadi clothes then start buying them," the prime minister said.

With the start of the Paris Olympics, the prime minister said the games give athletes a chance to hoist the national flag at the international level. He urged people to

encourage them and "cheer for Bharat".

During the broadcast, Modi interacted with Indian students who performed very well in the recently held Mathematical Olympiad. "A few days ago, an Olympics took place in the world of mathematics also: the International Mathematics Olympiad. Indian students have performed very well in this Olympiad. Our team won four gold medals and one silver medal," Modi said.

Touching on a host of issues, the Prime Minister hailed the inclusion of the 'Moidams' in Assam in the UNESCO World Heritage list and said it is a matter of immense joy for every Indian.

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Kashmir records highest July temperatures in 25 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Kashmir has been reeling under intense heat wave with several places in the valley recording their highest July temperature in 25 years on Sunday.

According to the meteorological office here, Srinagar city recorded a high of 36.2 degrees Celsius on Sunday. This was hottest July day since July 9, 1999 when the mercury had settled at 37 degrees Celsius.

The hottest July day in Srinagar was recorded on July 10, 1946 with mercury rising to 38.3 degrees Celsius. Qazigund and Kokernag towns in south Kashmir also

recorded their hottest July day on Sunday.

Qazigund noted a maximum temperature of 35.6 degrees Celsius, beating the previous high of 34.5 degrees Celsius recorded on July 11, 1988. In Kokernag, the mercury rose to 34.1 degrees Celsius, against the previous or 33.3 degrees Celsius recorded on July 3 this year.

The mercury in this south Kashmir town had touched 33 degrees only once earlier on July 8, 1993.

The Met has forecast spell of rain at isolated places of Kashmir valley over the years next 24 hours, which is expected to bring down the mercury.

Joint search op launched following suspicious movements in Poonch, Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Security forces have launched joint search operations in the border and mountainous areas of Poonch and Reasi districts after receiving information about suspicious movements, officials said on Sunday.

The forces are on high alert and have urged residents to report any suspicious activities in their localities.

The officials said a massive joint search operation was initiated early Sunday in several areas along the Line of Control (LoC) near the Salotri-Mangnar forward area of Poonch district.



They added that there was intelligence about the suspected movements along the LoC, following which thorough searches involving a substantial number of Army,

CRPF, and Special Operations Group (SoG) personnel were launched covering various areas.

The operation is still underway, they said in the after-

noon.

Similarly, in Reasi district, police and security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Dadoya area of Pooni after a woman reported seeing two suspicious individuals on the outskirts of the village, officials said.

Dozens of search operations have been conducted in the past fortnight following reports of suspicious movements across various districts of the Jammu region.

These operations have been deemed necessary in wake of 15 terror incidents

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36 killed, 162 injured in armed clashes between two tribes in northwest Pakistan

■ AGENCY
PESHAWAR: At least 36 people were killed and 162 others injured in armed clashes between two tribes fighting over a piece of land in Pakistan's restive tribal district in northwest, officials said on Sunday.

Officials said that heavy clashes started five days ago in Boshera village in Upper Kurram district, which has witnessed deadly conflicts among tribes and religious groups as well as sectarian clashes and militant attacks in the past.

The Deputy Commissioner Kurram, Javedullah Mehsud, said that the tribal clashes left 36 people dead and 162 others injured in the last five days in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district, bordering Afghanistan.

Officials with the help of tribal elders, military leadership, police and district administration have brokered a truce between Shia and Sunni tribes in Boshera, Malikhel and Dandar areas a short while ago, police

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Over 1,600 pilgrims leave Jammu for Shri Amarnathji Shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Amid heavy rains, a fresh batch of 1,677 pilgrims left a Jammu base camp for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas in the early hours of Sunday amid tight security arrangements, officials said.

The 31th batch of pilgrims, which also included over 1,300 men, 200 women. It also included two children and 104 sadhus and sadhvis who left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp at 3.35 am in a convoy of 67 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they



said. While 1,269 pilgrims will reach Pahalgam to undertake the annual pilgrimage

through the traditional 48-km route in Anantnag district, 408 have opted

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J&K Congress holds meeting to discuss strategy for assembly elections

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee met here on Sunday to discuss the forthcoming assembly elections in the union territory.

Chairman of committee Tariq Hamid Karra told reporters that the meeting also addressed whether to contest the assembly elections in an alliance.

"The Political Affairs Committee meeting, which is in progress, has been called to discuss and deliberate the issues pertaining to assembly elections in Jammu

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Modi holds deliberations with BJP CMs, DyCMs




PM Narendra Modi with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister and BJP National President J.P. Nadda and others during meeting with Chief Ministers of the NDA-ruled states, at BJP headquarters, in New Delhi on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The chief ministers of BJP-ruled states made presentations on

various development schemes going on in their states as the party's top brass, including Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, held deliberations with them over governance issues for a second consecutive

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 32.0°C Min: 25.3°C

Humidity
Max: 100 Min: 80

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 36.2°C Min: 24.6°C

Humidity
Max: 63 Min: 44

Sunset : 19:32 Hours
Sunrise : 05:41 Hours

Amid rising attacks, experts call for reassessment of counter-terror ops in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: With an uptick in terrorist activities in the otherwise peaceful Jammu region, security experts have suggested a comprehensive reassessment of the existing counterterrorism strategies employed by security forces.

Retired Lieutenant General D S Hooda, former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Udhampur-based Northern Command, emphasised the urgent need for a proactive approach to counter the evolving terrorist tactics.

Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) Lt Gen Paramjit Singh Sangha expressed confidence the security forces will learn from their recent mistakes and improve counterinsurgency efforts. The Jammu region has wit-

nessed a series of violent incidents over the past few weeks. A recent ambush claimed the lives of nine army personnel, including a captain, in the remote forest areas of Machedi in Kathua. The perpetrators still at large.

On June 9, nine passengers, including seven pilgrims returning from the Shiv Khori temple in Reasi district, were killed in a terrorist attack. Police have arrested several suspects linked to the attack, however the main assailants remain unidentified.

"Over time, we have observed a shift in tactics, with terrorists increasingly adopting ambush and 'shoot and scoot' strategies," Lt Gen (Retd) Hooda told PTI over the phone, underlining the need for security forces to reevaluate their strategies to

understand and rectify potential shortcomings.

Distinguishing between the operational environments of Jammu and the Valley, Lt Gen (Retired) Hooda noted that while terrorists in Kashmir are often contained within localised areas, those in Jammu are strategically positioned in challenging terrains, complicating military responses.

"In some areas, troops may have to trek for eight to 10 hours to reach a specific location," he explained.

Lt Gen (Retired) Hooda suggested a prolonged period of relative peace in the Jammu region may have contributed to lapses in vigilance, and cautioned against complacency within the security establishment.

Echoing similar sentiments, former Deputy Chief

of Army Staff (Strategy) Lt Gen (Retd) Paramjit Singh Sangha expressed confidence in the security forces' capacity to learn from the recent setbacks and improve counter-insurgency efforts.

"We need to learn honest and correct lessons and ensure that mistakes are not repeated," he told PTI over the phone, emphasising the importance of patience and adherence to proven military tactics. "Unlike conventional warfare, there are no deadlines."

He pointed out that traditional intelligence-gathering methods may be less effective in this context, indicating a need for a re-evaluation of tactics and procedures.

"The Northern Command is undoubtedly taking these incidents seriously and implementing corrective

measures," he affirmed, expressing trust in their response to the ongoing threat.

After a decisive campaign against terrorism in 2005, which largely cleared Jammu of militant activities, the region has seen a resurgence of violence, particularly in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, where over 70 individuals, including 52 security personnel, have lost their lives in terror-related incidents since 2021.

Gen (Retd) Hooda advocated for the revival of Village Defence Committees and the recruitment of more Special Police Officers from local communities to enhance counter-terrorism efforts.

"The locals have traditionally been the eyes and ears of the Army in this region," he noted, underscoring their

pivotal role in intelligence gathering.

While acknowledging that some individuals within communities may harbour extremist sentiments, Gen (Retd) Hooda warned that fostering suspicion towards local populations near the Line of Control could be counterproductive.

Lt Gen (Retd) Sangha also highlighted the historical contributions of local communities, particularly the Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes, in maintaining peace in the region, cautioning against actions that could alienate these groups.

He dismissed suggestions that local support for terror groups exists, positing instead that the attackers likely rely on pre-established networks rather than random local assistance.

"These terrorists probably have a pre-selected support network, not random locals," he explained, suggesting that the attacks were deliberate and executed by a small number of individuals with robust communication links to handlers across the Line of Control.

Discussing longterm solutions, Gen (Retd) Hooda recalled discussions during his tenure about implementing smart fencing along the borders. He criticised the current fencing system, which deteriorates during the rainy season, compromising security.

"Instead of waiting for a perfect solution, we need to put up a fence that offers better protection than what we currently have," he said.

Concerns were also

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