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Youths will create...**

MY Bharat platform, the program emphasizes fostering dialogue, participatory governance, and leadership development among India's youth, thereby preparing them to contribute effectively to the country's growth and development journey towards 2047.

The program is designed to inspire young minds to engage actively in civic and national issues. It creates structured opportunities for youth to share their ideas, participate in policy dialogues, and articulate their perspectives on matters of national importance," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor encouraged the youth of J&K to lead India's development journey and provide innovative solutions to the nation's pressing challenges.

"Youth will create a brighter future of J&K and ensure long-lasting peace and prosperity. In this 21st century, despite constant change and challenges, it is our youth- our most valuable asset-who possesses the power to drive the socio-economic revolution. Jammu and Kashmir, brimming with infinite possibilities, is empowering its aspiring youth with abundant resources and opportunities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Move ahead with the resolve of Nation-First. Adopt the Prime Minister's "Panch Pran" resolution. Qualities like Initiative, Leadership, Self-Confidence, Persistence, Imagination and Courage to learn from failure will guide you on the path of Viksit Bharat's journey, the Lieutenant Governor told the youth.

He congratulated the Vice Chancellor and faculty members of IUST for implementing progressive reforms in the last few years which contributed to transform J&K's higher education sector and also inspiring the higher educational institutions across the country. This is the right time IUST should work on establishing a semi-conductor lab, he said.

"We can achieve the resolution of Viksit Bharat only when J&K is Viksit, when our districts are Viksit, and most importantly our Universities are Viksit and play an important role in our economic growth. I am proud that the IUST is working with this resolve in true letter and spirit," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Paying tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Lieutenant Governor urged the youth to dedicate themselves fully to building a brighter future for India and an inclusive society, as envisioned by Sardar Patel.

The Lieutenant Governor also reiterated his resolve to combat the drug menace, taking a firm pledge to make every university in Jammu and Kashmir drug-free.

He emphasized that only drug-free campuses can contribute to nation-building, a goal achievable through a few key initiatives.

The anti-drug drive must begin at the admission level, encouraging every student to take an oath to stay away from drugs. Every university should establish a 'Say No To Drugs Student Committee', supervised by faculty members, which will serve as an Early Warning Mechanism.

Universities must create a confidential reporting system and provide needy students with assured access to support via helplines like Tele-Manas. In addition to counselling and support systems, drug de-addiction content should be incorporated into the academic curriculum, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the winners of pre-events including Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, Debate Competitions, and extended his best wishes for the upcoming main event on August 12th. This significant day will see the formal launch of the "Viksit Bharat - Yuva Connect Program" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will simultaneously engage with students and faculty across 1,339 universities.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered Viksit Bharat Shapath, a collective pledge affirming their commitment to the nation's progress. He also released the University's publication and IUST's institutional development plan for achieving academic excellence and making the university future ready.

Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST presented a special presentation about the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 is being integrated into the university's Institutional Development Plan (IDP), covering administrative, academic, research, and outreach activities down to the department and center levels.

Yuva Samvad, an open dialogue session among the students was also held, focusing on civic responsibilities, national development, and current issues, followed by the screening of the "Sardar @150" video, a visual tribute to the life and legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama; Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs; Prof. Abdul Wahid, Registrar, IUST; senior officials, HoDs, faculty members and students were present.

Omar takes serious...

constituencies. Another delegation of Private Schools' Association raised several issues concerning private schools before the Chief Minister such as establishment of the State School Standards Authority (SSSA), bringing ease and expediting issuance of NOCs by departments to private schools , requirement of having 10 years leave-deed for schools operating in rented accommodations, ensuring that students get minimum number of working days in an academic calendar, representation to private schools' bodies in various Government committees on education and other matters of concern.

On the issue of delay in granting of NOCs by various departments to private schools and delay in delivery of services, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah elaborated that in the PSGA meeting held yesterday, all Administrative Secretaries were directed to conduct monthly review meetings to assess the implementation of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) and stressed on strict enforcement of timelines for delivery of services to the general public.

It may be recalled that Chief Minister yesterday chaired a high-level review meeting on implementation of Public Services Guarantee Act in which CM emphasized that PSGA framework is meant to eliminate arbitrary and tardy decision-making and to deliver timely services to the public such as revenue records, certificates, licenses, utility connections etc. He instructed departments to strictly adhere to defined timelines and ensure that penalties are imposed on defaulting officers.

Residential property used...

Acting on the gathered evidence, and after obtaining necessary approval from the competent authority, the said property has been attached according to legal provisions under the UAPA, he added.

Lord Shiva's holy...

temple, Hari Parbat here to pay obeisance to the goddess on Friday. The rituals would be performed for Chhari-Sthapana at Shri Amareshwar temple Dashnami Akhara here on Sunday after which Chhari-Pujan will be performed at the akhara on the occasion of 'Nag-Panchami' on Tuesday, he said.

The Mahant will carry the holy mace to the holy cave shrine to perform puja and have 'darshan' on the morning of 'Shravan-Purnima' on August 9 after night halts at Pahalgam, Chandanwari, Sheshnag, and Pancharani.

The puja at the cave shrine will be followed by 'visarjan' in Lidder river at Pahalgam the next day.

3,500 Amarnathji pilgrims...

of 95 vehicles, 832 pilgrims left in a convoy of 45 vehicles via the Baltal route. With this, 1,33,878 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for Kashmir since July 2, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch. The pilgrimage will conclude on August 9, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

Op Sindoor: India's...

to a "barbaric cross-border terror attack by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. It focused on dismantling terrorist infrastructure and neutralising terrorists likely to be sent across to India".

Pakistan, however, attempted targeting Indian civilian areas, in addition to some military facilities, he said.

"These provocations and escalatory actions by Pakistan were met with a strong and decisive response from the Indian armed forces, inflicting significant damage on the Pakistani military. Subsequently, on 10 May, 2025, the Director General of Military Operations of Pakistan approached his Indian counterpart to request for cessation of firing and military activities, which was agreed to later that day," the MoS said.

Under Operation Sindoor, India had decimated nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on May 7 in pre-dawn precision strikes. It was carried out to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam terror strike.

In a separate query, the MEA was also asked whether the ministry had taken efforts to "alienate" Pakistan on world forum.

As part of the UN Security Council's routine annual process, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of its subsidiary bodies and committees are selected from amongst its permanent and elected non-permanent members. In addition to Russia and France, Pakistan has been selected as one of the Vice-Chairs of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee for 2025, Singh said.

It may be noted that India was the Chair of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee in 2022. Similarly, India was also the Chair of the same committee during its 2011-

12 term, the MoS added.

"The Government of India has been sensitising all concerned interlocutors on the menace of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. Due to India's persistent efforts, the global community has a greater understanding of India's concerns on cross-border terrorism," he said.

India's efforts over the years have led to listing of several Pakistan-based terrorists and terrorist entities under the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee and the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) "grey listing of Pakistan", the minister said.

The UNSC press statement in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack also "strongly condemned" the terror attack and acknowledged the need to hold the perpetrators, organisers, sponsors and financiers of the attack accountable, he said.

Several world leaders have recognised and supported India's actions to combat terrorism following the Pahalgam attack. Most recently, the US has designated The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, he said.

Sooner statehood is...

Replying to another query, he said that Article 370 and statehood are two different things. "Our immediate demand is for the restoration of statehood. I have already spoken extensively in Parliament about Article 370. You and the entire media have heard it."

He reiterated his earlier statement that statehood can be reinstated only if Prime Minister Narendra Modi brings a bill in Parliament or the Supreme Court reviews the matter and gives a verdict.

On speculation of him being elevated to the post of Vice-President, Azad said that these are all just assumptions. "Look, there are several good things that are unique to Jammu and Kashmir, which is why it is called the Paradise on Earth. But there are also a lot of rumours being peddled here. I request people and the media -- please stop spreading them."

Azad pointed out that there are important works to be done in Jammu and Kashmir. "It needs to have its statehood back, development works should be carried out, unemployment needs to be eliminated. Finding solutions to these issues should be the priority," he said.

He suggested that the media and people focus on constructive things so that Jammu and Kashmir can progress. "Who even has the time to keep spreading rumours? Here, one day someone is made something, and the next day it is someone else. This goes on," he said.

Both Houses of...

wondered what kind of message such actions will send out. As the din continued, Birla adjourned the proceedings in less than seven minutes. One question was taken up before the proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm.

The opposition is demanding a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, an exercise initiated by the Election Commission ahead of the state assembly polls due later this year.

In the Rajya Sabha the opposition MPs raised slogans demanding the withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The Upper House was earlier adjourned till 2 pm, and when it reconvened, the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025 was taken up for discussion. AIADMK MP M Thambidurai, who could not complete his speech on the Bill on Wednesday amid protests, was asked to continue by Chair Bhubaneswar Kalita.

Opposition MPs continued their protest and raised slogans demanding that the SIR exercise be stopped. Several MPs trooped into the Well of the House, while many others were standing.

After Thambidurai, Ayodhya Rami Reddy of the YSRCP started speaking on the Bill. However, the protests continued and Opposition MPs came close to the member's seat, raising slogans "SIR wapas lo" (roll back SIR).

As Reddy concluded his speech in the din, BJP MP Laxmikant Bajpayee objected to the slogans being raised by the opposition MPs.

"The MP is speaking with your permission and they are obstructing him... I urge you to take action against them," he said.

Congress MP Pramod Tiwari said that Leader of Opposition (LoP) Mallikarjun Kharge should be allowed to speak. "The Leader of the House or Leader of the Opposition should be given priority to speak. The LoP is on his feet but you are not giving him a chance to speak, nor are you giving any assurance... I need a ruling on that," said Tiwari.

Amid the din, the Chair adjourned the House for the day.

Earlier, the Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm amid the Opposition uproar following rejection of their adjournment notices demanding discussion on various issues, including the SIR exercise in Bihar.

Soon after the House bid farewell to six retiring members, opposition MPs started protesting against Deputy Chairman Hariyansh's decision to decline 30 notices under Rule 267, demanding discussion on SIR, alleged discrimination against migrant workers from Bengal in other states, resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar as vice president and increasing instances of cyber fraud.

Amid uproar, the proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm.

Ujjwal Deorao Nikam (Nominated) also took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday morning.

During the Zero Hour, the Chair had announced its decision to decline the 30 notices, resulting in a mild protest. However, Hariyansh convinced the protesting opposition members to allow the House to bid farewell to the six retiring members.

Hariyansh, Leader of the House J P Nadda and senior members from various parties spoke highly about the contribution of the retiring members towards strengthening democratic traditions.

The terms of M Mohamed Abdulla (DMK), N Chandraseggaran (AIADMK), Anbumani Ramadoss (PMK), M Shanmugam (DMK), Vaiko (MDMK) and P Wilson (DMK) came to an end.

The farewell speeches continued even during the Question Hour, which starts at noon. However, when the speeches were over around 12.30 pm, the opposition again started the protest, forcing the Chair to adjourn the proceedings till 2 pm.

Those misusing democratic...

freedoms to undermine democracy itself must be held to account," Modi said in his media statement.

There have been increasing concerns in India about the activities of pro-Khalistani elements in the UK, especially after an attack on the Indian High Commission in London in March 2023.

India has been flagging its concerns to the UK over the activities of pro-Khalistan elements on British soil.

It is learnt that the issue figured in the delegation-level talks.

The prime minister also underlined the need to confront the challenge of terrorism with a firm approach.

"We thank Prime Minister Starmer and his government for their strong condemnation of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. We are united in our view that there can be no place for double standards in the fight against terrorism," Modi said.

It is understood that India's challenge of cross-border terrorism figured in the talks. The talks between Modi and Starmer largely focused on boosting bilateral ties in an array of areas, including trade, investment, defence and security, education and clean technology.

SBI Card, PhonePe launch Co-Branded Credit Card

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: SBI Card, India's largest standalone credit card issuer, has partnered with PhonePe to launch the PhonePe SBI Card, aimed at enhancing everyday spending rewards and increasing access to formal credit across India.

The new offering comes in two variants-PhonePe SBI Card PURPLE and PhonePe SBI Card SELECT BLACK-on RuPay and VISA networks, catering to diverse user needs.

The RuPay variant supports UPI linkage, enabling seamless payments across millions of UPI merchants, while the VISA version can be tokenised for secure online transactions. Both are contactless cards and can be managed directly through the PhonePe app.

The SELECT BLACK card offers up to 10% value back as reward points on PhonePe and Pinecode app spends, up to 5% on other online platforms, and 1% on all other eligible spends. Cardholders also get a Rs 1,500 welcome e-gift voucher and Rs 5,000 travel voucher on Rs 5 lakh annual spends, along with 4 complimentary domestic lounge visits and Priority Pass membership for international travel.

The PURPLE variant provides up to 3% value back on PhonePe/Pinecode spends, 2% on other online purchases, and 1% on all other spends, plus a Rs 500 welcome e-gift voucher and Rs 3,000 travel voucher on Rs 3 lakh annual spends.

Both cards offer 1% fuel surcharge waiver, travel perks, and milestone rewards. Customers can redeem reward points to pay card bills or for e-gift vouchers from the SBI Card rewards catalogue.

Applications are fully digital and will be rolled out in phases via the PhonePe app. The initiative strengthens PhonePe's expansion into credit products and aligns with SBI Card's mission to deliver personalized, convenient financial solutions in India's fast-evolving digital landscape.

Drug peddler nabbed with 10 grams heroin, Rs 1.04 lakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers/suppliers, Samba Police has arrested one drug peddler alongwith 10 grams heroin (chitta) like substance, cash of rupees 1.04 lacs and one weighing machine from his possession in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur.

A Police party of Police Station Vijaypur during naka checking at Sangwal Vijaypur, intercepted a pedestrian who was moving under suspicious circumstances. During frisking, 10 grams approximately heroin like substance alongwith cash of rupees 1,04,000.00 and one weighing machine were recovered from the possession of the said person.

The drug peddler identified as Mukesh Kumar S/o Nek Ram R/o village Ranjari Vijaypur has been arrested and contraband item has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 75/2025 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Vijaypur and investigation started.

Movable property worth lakh of notorious bovine smuggler attached

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: As a part of its relentless effort against bovine smuggling in the district, Udhampur Police has attached a vehicle bearing Regd. No. JK06B-2419 worth Rs. 11 lakhs owned by habitual Bovine smuggler namely Khadam Hussain S/O Mohd. Ismail R/O Nagras, Qazigund, Anantnag.

The case pertains to FIR No. 110/2025, registered under Section 223 BNS U/S 11 PCA Act of PS Rehambal. During the investigation of the case, the movable property was identified as proceeds of crime and was thus attached under section 107 BNSS after obtaining orders from competent court.

Langars enroute to Shri Amarnathji Shrine reflect faith, cultural heritage: Col Mahan Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman of the District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, visited the Shri Amarnathji Yatra



Langars at Khrote Morh and Hiranagar Morh, underscoring the deep-rooted spiritual significance and cultural unity symbolized by these community kitchens set up to serve pilgrims on their sacred journey.

Accompanied by Dr. Narinder Jasrotia, Ashok Jasrotia, Ashok Sharma, and other prominent local figures, Col Mahan interacted with devotees who had arrived from across India to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva, fondly known as Baba Barfani. During the interaction, yatis shared heartfelt accounts of their yatra experiences, including both the challenges faced and the overwhelming hospitality received along the route.

Expressing satisfaction with the smooth arrangements and robust security measures in place, the pilgrims praised the administration for ensuring a safe and spiritually enriching environment throughout the pilgrimage corridor. The langars, they said, provided not just nourishment but also a deep sense of communal harmony and devotion.

Col Mahan Singh highlighted that these Langars serve as more than just food distribution points.

"They are a living reflection of our unwavering faith, hospitality, and centuries-old cultural heritage," he remarked. He commended the selfless service of volunteers and organizers who tirelessly work to provide free meals and comfort to thousands of pilgrims, many of whom travel under physically demanding conditions.

At Khrote Morh, Col Singh was warmly welcomed by Sardar Rajinder Singh and other committee members managing the langar. He appreciated their efforts and reiterated the role such community-driven initiatives play in strengthening social bonds and showcasing the spirit of unity in diversity that defines India.

Col Mahan also encouraged continued cooperation between local authorities and religious committees to ensure that the spiritual journey remains smooth, safe, and memorable for all devotees. He concluded by extending his best wishes for the successful and safe completion of the ongoing yatra.

Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025: DC inspects arrangements at base camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In preparation for the upcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, Deputy Commissioner Poonch,



Vikas Kundal on Thursday conducted an extensive visit to the base camp (College Ground) to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Committee, Tehsildar Haveli, Yatra Officer and officers from various line departments. Members of the Yatra Management Committee also participated in the inspection.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive overview of the preparedness of the administration and allied departments, with a focus on ensuring that all necessary facilities and services are in place for the convenience and safety of the pilgrims.

He laid special emphasis on inter-departmental coordination and directed the concerned officers to ensure the availability of essential services such as drinking water, power supply, medical, sanitation and toilets, traffic regulation, security, parking spaces etc.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness, hygiene, and creating a pilgrim-friendly atmosphere. He instructed the officials to provide round-the-clock assistance to ensure a comfortable and spiritually fulfilling experience for all pilgrims.

Abdul Kundria presents Dogri Book 'Gottey Gae Gottey' to DC Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In a significant cultural gesture, eminent writer Abdul Quddir Kundria presented his latest Dogri poetry collection 'Gottey Gae Gottey' to the Deputy Commissioner of



Reasi, Nidhi Malik (IAS), at her office. The DC appreciated the book, highlighting its powerful thematic focus on social evils and other pressing societal concerns.

On the same occasion, Abdul Quddir Kundria also presented the book to Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Reasi Sukhdav Singh Samyal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Addl. DC) Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Reasi Nittin Verma, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Reasi Dr. Mohd Asraf Kohli, and Deputy CMO Reasi Dr. Mohd Yousaf Khan.

He has also presented his book to many degree colleges along with schools across the districts of Jammu, Udhampur, and Reasi.

Nidhi Malik commended the poet's efforts in using literature as a tool for social reform. She stated that 'Gottey Gae Gottey' is not only a contribution to Dogri literature but also an instrument that highlights the darker facets of society and inspires positive change. She also applauded Kundria's commitment to preserving the Dogri language while promoting meaningful dialogue around critical issues.