

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! LG, Dy Chief...

heroism and the spirit of sacrifice of valiant jawans and officers of Armed Forces during India's victory in 'Operation Vijay' in 1999, also known as Kargil War.  
"On Kargil Vijay Divas, I bow to our martyrs and salute their bravery, courage and sacrifice. Our heroes fought in the most inhospitable terrain in the world and conquered the enemy. The gallantry, valour and supreme sacrifice of our soldiers will inspire the generations to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

## Modi, Muizzu hold...

welcome with Muizzu and a number of top ministers of his government receiving the prime minister at the Velena international airport, reflecting the importance Male attached to the trip.

Hours later, Modi was accorded a colourful ceremonial welcome and a guard of honour at the iconic Republic Square.

"Deeply touched by the gesture of President Muizzu to come to the airport to welcome me. I am confident that India-Maldives friendship will scale new heights of progress in the times to come," Modi said in a social media post.

The two leaders held a one-on-one meeting before settling down for delegation-level talks.  
The turnaround in the bilateral ties assumes significance as Muizzu, known to be close to China, came to power in the island nation in November 2023 on the back of an "India Out" campaign.

His policies in the first few months of his presidency resulted in severe strain in the ties. Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. Subsequently, India replaced the personnel with civilians.

The Indian military personnel were deployed to the Maldives to maintain and operate two helicopters and an aircraft, which were used for humanitarian and rescue operations.

It is widely believed that New Delhi's sustained efforts, including its assistance to the island nation to deal with its economic woes, helped bring the relations back on track.

"We've continued to work at it, and I think the result is there for you to see," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Tuesday when asked about the turnaround in the ties.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties, including in areas of defence and security, witnessed an upward trajectory under the previous governments in Male.

## CM calls for...

Board's benefits. The Chief Minister also called for a broader and more inclusive definition of 'construction worker' to bring within the fold all vulnerable and unorganized sector labourers.

He urged the Board to explore policy mechanisms that would maximize coverage and enhance financial security for workers, in alignment with national best practices and labour welfare standards.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary PWD (R&B), Principal Secretary PDD, Commissioner Secretaries of Housing & Urban Development, Social Welfare, and Cooperatives, Secretary Labour & Employment, Secretary Law, Director General Budget, and representatives of Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh and Bhartiya Dastkar Union.

Senior officers from the Planning Department and other concerned departments also participated in the meeting.

Secretary Labour & Employment Kumar Rajiv Ranjan gave a detailed presentation highlighting the Board's key achievements, policy reforms and financial progress.

He informed the members that the Board continues to operate in accordance with the legislative mandate of the BOCW (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. Under this mandate, the Board has been providing a wide range of benefits including ex-gratia relief in cases of accidental deaths, financial support for both permanent and temporary disabilities, and educational assistance for the wards of registered workers. It also offers one-time meritorious scholarships of ₹50,000 to students securing 90 per cent and above in Class 10 and 12, in addition to marriage and maternity assistance, aid for chronic illnesses, and funeral expense coverage.

To ensure transparency and efficiency, the Board has implemented significant digital reforms. These include 100% Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for all financial assistance, Aadhaar integration to eliminate bogus registrations, an online portal for registration and renewals, and OTP-based authentication along with SMS alerts to keep workers informed about key deadlines and updates.

The Board generates income through cess collections and accrued interest. At present, ₹1082.58 crore is currently held as corpus in fixed deposits and savings accounts across various banks.

The Board discussed and approved a comprehensive set of agenda items during the meeting. These included the approval of scheme-wise budget proposals for the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26, and the transfer of ₹17.24 crore to the Union Territory of Ladakh, in accordance with SO 339 dated October 30, 2020. The audited accounts for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 were approved and will be forwarded to the Accountant General for certification.

The meeting also approved the integration of the Board's initiatives with broader social security and financial inclusion schemes to maximize the impact of benefits.

In a significant move towards digital governance, the issuance of smart cards to all registered workers was approved, with a proposed budget of ₹10 crore.

To improve workplace safety, the Board sanctioned ₹60 crore for the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and tools to construction workers, especially in rural areas. Recognizing the need for skill development, the Board approved short-term training programs for 10,000 workers under NSDC norms, with a budget of ₹10 crore.

Given the overwhelming response to the meritorious scholarship scheme, it was resolved to revise the framework with slabs for top-performing students across all districts based on merit, while maintaining a minimum 90% cutoff. The Board also discussed the long-pending issue of staff regularization and directed the concerned committee to finalize recruitment rules in consultation with relevant departments within six months.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his concluding remarks, reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that welfare benefits trickle down to every deserving worker.

He called for forward-looking reforms, robust monitoring and inclusive policymaking tailored to the needs of construction workers, particularly those in remote and underserved areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Magisterial Inquiry ordered...

District Magistrate for further necessary action.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu, Joginder Singh has suspended two cops of the District Special Branch in connection with the killing of a youth in the Sure Chak area of Jammu.

The suspended officials were Head Constable Baljinder Singh and Sgvt. Pawan Singh.

According to an order, the action has been taken pending investigation of FIR No. 153/2025, registered at Police Station Satwari under sections 109(1), 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 3/27 of the Arms Act.

Both officials have been placed under suspension with immediate effect and directed to report to District Police Lines (DPL) Jammu, where they are required to deposit their uniform articles. The order further states that they will be entitled to draw subsistence allowance as admissible under rules.

By SP Hqs. Jammu is directed to hold departmental enquiry against them. The Enquiry officer shall complete the proceedings on merit and submit finding to DPO Jammu for further necessary action, it stated.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had called for an investigation into the killing, saying that use of force by police has to be calibrated and not "indiscriminate".

## Op Sindhu: Of 3,597 Indians evacuated from Iran, over 1,500 hailed from J&K

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Of 3,597 Indian nationals who were evacuated from Iran under Operation Sindhu, 1,521 citizens hailed from Jammu and Kashmir and 1,198 from Uttar Pradesh, according to data shared by the government on Thursday.

The data was shared in a written response by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh to a query in the Rajya Sabha.

In a response to a separate query, he said, "Thirteen Indian nationals remain in the Russian armed forces, out of which 12 individuals have been reported missing by the Russian side."

"The Russian authorities concerned have been urged to provide an update on all the remaining/missing individuals, and also ensure their safety, well-being and early discharge," the MoS said.

Citing available information, he said there were 127 Indian nation-

als in the Russian armed forces, out of which the services of 98 individuals were discontinued as a result of sustained engagement between the Indian and Russian governments on this matter, including at the highest levels.

Singh was asked the number of Indians, including students, travellers and workers who are residing in Iran and Israel, as also if any Indian was killed during the recent Iran-Israel conflict.

"As per available information, no Indian casualties have been reported in Iran or Israel during the recent conflict," he said.

At present, approximately 40,100 Indians are residing in Israel, including students, caregivers, construction and agricultural workers, business persons/experts, etc., Singh said.

In Iran, prior to the recent conflict, approximately 10,000 Indians were residing, including students, workers, seafarers and fishermen,

pilgrims and travellers.

The government of India had evacuated 4,415 Indian nationals from Iran and Israel under Operation Sindhu conducted recently.

Under the operation, 3,597 Indian nationals were evacuated from Iran, and 818 from Israel.

In his response, the minister also shared state-wise figures of evacuated citizens, from both the countries amid the conflict.

Of the 3,597 Indian nationals who were evacuated from Iran under Operation Sindhu, the state-wise data showed that 1,521 citizens were from Jammu and Kashmir; 1,198 from Uttar Pradesh; 223 from Ladakh; 89 from Maharashtra; 135 from Karnataka; and 50 from Bihar, among other states.

Of the 818 Indian nationals who were evacuated from Israel under the operation, the state-wise data showed that 151 citizens hailed from West Bengal and 93 from Maharashtra, among other states.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir has paid a heavy price in the past due to such incidents.

In an X post, the Abdullah said, "The killing of Mohd Parvez of Niki Tawi in Jammu is highly unfortunate and deeply regrettable. Use of force by the police has to be calibrated and cannot be indiscriminate."

"This incident should be investigated in a transparent and time-bound manner. I send my condolences to the family of Mohd Parvez. May Allah grant him Jannat," he said.

## Annual Shree Machail...

impressive 53,618 pilgrims had already visited the shrine during the pre-yatra period that lasted until July 15, 2025. With today's footfall, the cumulative number of pilgrims who have paid obeisance at the sacred shrine now stands at 58,562.

Later, the dignitaries reviewed the arrangements made by the District and Police Administration Kishtwar to ensure smooth and secure conduct of the yatra. Stress was laid on maintaining cleanliness and sanitation enroute, proper road maintenance especially in land slide prone area, providing adequate facilities at Langar points, ensuring uninterrupted electricity and water supply and provision of foolproof security measures.

Speaking to the media persons, the Divisional Commissioner said that the district administration and the police have made holistic arrangements for providing a smooth and hassle free yatra experience to the pilgrims of Shree Machail Mata Yatra.

"Adequate facilities have been put in place en-route from Kishtwar to Chisoti and to the Holy Shrine. The facilities include langars, toilets, help desks, medical booths and security measures for smooth and secure conduct of the annual holy Yatra," he added.

The Div Com urged the pilgrims to strictly adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), guidelines and designated yatra timings, particularly cut-off timings for crossing specific locations. Later, the dignitaries inaugurated a counter of traditional Laddu (Prasad) made from pure barley (Jou), run by a team from Machail. The Divisional Commissioner also interacted with the devotees and enquired about the facilities and their experience.

The review was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, SSP Naresh Singh, ADC Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Dr. Rishi Sharma, SDM Paddar Dr. Amit Kumar, Tehsildar Headquarter Sunali Rani besides other concerned officers and officials who were directed to ensure all necessary arrangements are in place for the successful conduct of the yatra.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Naresh Singh assured the public that robust security arrangements and necessary facilities have been put in place by the district administration, Kishtwar Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and various allied departments. Dedicated help desks, medical assistance, and continuous monitoring have been arranged to ensure a safe, seamless, and spiritually enriching Yatra for all.

The district administration has also issued important instructions and advisories to ensure the safety and well-being of the pilgrims. Yatra movement is permitted strictly between 5:00 AM and 5:00 PM from Kishtwar to Gulabgarh and from 5:00 AM to 4:30 PM from Gulabgarh to Machail. Pilgrims have been advised to strictly adhere to these timings.

The advisory also includes crucial safety guidelines such as avoiding risky behavior in hilly areas, staying away from riverbanks, refraining from travel during rainfall or night hours, and avoiding actions like climbing rocks or taking selfies near dangerous spots. Pilgrims have been strongly advised against consuming alcohol or smoking during the Yatra and to remain vigilant for wild animals, especially in forested areas. The District Police Kishtwar remains committed to the service and safety of all devotees. Pilgrims in need of assistance can contact the Kishtwar Police Helpdesk or dial 9906154100 for support at any time during the Yatra.

## ACB arrests two...

the accused public servant, the spokesman said.

On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborated the bribe demand by Chuni Lal. Accordingly, a trap was laid and the accused public servant was caught red-handed while accepting Rs 20,000 bribe from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses, the spokesman said. The ACB arrested Chuni Lal following the due process of law after seizing the bribe amount from his possession. Searches were also conducted in the accused's office and his in-laws' house, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Haq Nawaz Zargar granted 12 days police remand of Chuni Lal, Patwari Patwar Halqa Dansal.

The accused was produced before the Court by Inspector Arun Kotwal for seeking police remand. Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Haq Nawaz Zargar after perusal of the case diary reveals that the accused person has been arrested by team of Anti Corruption Bureau (JSK), Jammu on July 24, 2025 in the case FIR No. 15/2025, offence under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act registered at Police Station Anti Corruption Bureau, (JSK), Jammu.

The investigation of the case is at the initial stage and the custodial interrogation of the said accused person is required for further investigation into the case.

Court after perusal of the case diary, it appears that there are adequate grounds for remanding the said accused person to police custody. The accused person has been medically examined by the doctors of Police Hospital and has been found physically and mentally fit at the time of his examination and ordered that the accused is remanded to police custody for a period of 12 days upto August 5, 2025 and be produced in the competent Court on the said date for further appropriate orders.

In another case, ACB trapped and arrested Ashok Kumar, Patwari of Patwar Halqa Batote for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 40,000.

"ACB received a complaint alleging therein that the complainant want to register his name on ancestral land after the death of his father. In this regard, complainant applied for registration of Virasati Intiqal on ancestral land and the concerned Patwari namely Ashok Kumar has demanded bribe of Rs 50,000 for registration of Virasati Intiqal and after negotiation, he agreed on Rs 40,000," ACB official said.

Since the complainant didn't want to pay bribe and he approached ACB for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law. On receipt of complaint, official said, a discreet verification was conducted, which confirms the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, case FIR No.04/2025 under Section 7 of PC Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) against accused public servant was registered at PS ACB Doda and investigation taken-up.

During the course of investigation, official said, a trap team headed by Gazetted Rank Officer was constituted which laid a successful trap and accused Patwari was caught red handed while demanding and accepting of bribe Rs 40,000 from the complainant in presence of independent witnesses.

The accused Patwari was arrested on spot by the ACB team after following the due procedure of law and the bribe money was also recovered in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team, official said adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on.

## Agniveer martyred, 2 injured in mine blast in Poonch; LG pays tribute

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH/JAMMU: An army man was martyred and two others injured in a landmine blast along the Line of Control in Poonch district on Friday, officials said.

During area domination patrolling in the general area of Krishna Ghatai, a mine blast took place, in which an Agniveer jawan was martyred and two others suffered injuries, they said.

The injured, one of whom is an JCO, have been shifted to a military hospital and are stable, they added. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tribute to Agniveer Lalit Kumar of 7 JAT Regiment, who laid down his life in the line of duty.

"I pay my heartfelt tributes to Agniveer Lalit Kumar, who made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family. The nation stands firmly with them, in this hour of grief," the Lieutenant Governor said. "GOC White Knight Corps and all ranks pay solemn tribute to Agniveer Lalit Kumar of 7 JAT Regiment, who made the supreme sacrifice while on an area domination patrol in the general area of Krishna Ghatai brigade, following a mine blast," White Knight Corps said on X. "We stand with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," it said.

## Janipur police educates students on new criminal laws, drug abuse

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An awareness program on New Criminal Laws was conducted at Hr. Sec. School Paloura by Police Station Janipur, Jammu. The students were made aware of the recent



changes and key provisions under the new criminal justice framework. They listened attentively, participated actively, and clarified their concepts through interaction. Such programs aim to educate youth about their rights and responsibilities under the law.

A drug awareness program was also organized at Hr. Sec. School Paloura. Students were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug abuse and its impact on health, family, and society. They showed keen interest, listened patiently, and engaged in a fruitful discussion to clear their doubts.

## Two arrested with 10 rolls of banned Chinese Manja

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Janipur Police apprehended two persons and recovered banned synthetic thread (Gattu) from their possession.

A team from Police Station Janipur under the supervision of SIO Vikram Sharma apprehended two accused persons namely Koushal Kumar and PK Thapa, who were found in possession of 10 rolls of banned Gattu, a dangerous material known for causing serious injuries during kite flying. In this regard case FIR No. 109/2025 and 110/2025 has been registered under relevant provisions of law, and both the accused persons has been arrested.



Jammu to Srinagar	
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Air India Express	12:50 PM - 1:40 PM
Air India Express	1:35 PM - 2:45 PM
IndiGo	1:55 PM - 2:35 PM
IndiGo	6:40 PM - 7:20 PM
Srinagar to Jammu	
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE	
<b>11078 Jhelum Express</b>	
Departure	: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 11:15 at New Delhi
<b>12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express</b>	
Departure	: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 05:55 at New Delhi
<b>12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express</b>	
Departure	: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 06:55 at New Delhi
<b>Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)</b>	
Departure	: 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival	: 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop	: Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 715	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	
<b>Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)</b>	
Departure	: 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival	: 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 660	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	

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Emergency	2431740
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Company Bagh	2542582
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Health Officer	2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal	2547440

FIND CINEMA	
<b>SAIYAARA (HINDI)</b>	
Wave one movie Jammu	
10:00 AM / 10:30 AM / 1:05 PM / 4:40 PM / 7:45 PM / 9:45 PM / 11:00 PM	
<b>PVR KC JAMMU</b> 09:00 AM / 10:00 AM / 01:10 PM / 04:20 PM / 5:55 PM / 7:30 PM / 10:40 PM / 11:40 PM	
<b>THE FANTASTIC FOUR: FIRST STEP (ENGLISH)</b>	
Wave one movie Jammu 3:20 PM / 10:55 PM	
<b>SARBALA JI</b>	
Wave one movie Jammu 10:15 AM / 4:15 PM / 07:00 PM	
<b>SUPERMAN</b>	
Wave one movie Jammu 5:45 PM	