

**03** Dr Jitendra hosts J&K school children visiting Delhi

**09** Police crackdown on drugs spurs shift to medical opioids as ISI fuels menace

**10** J&K to face Uttarakhand in Sr Women's T20 practice match at Chandigarh

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## Modi flags off 3 Vande Bharat Express trains including Katra-Amritsar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**BENGALURU:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off three Vande Bharat Express trains here on Sunday.

While the much-awaited Bengaluru-Belagavi Vande Bharat Express was flagged off by Modi in person; the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Amritsar, and Ajni (Nagpur)-Pune Vande Bharat services, were launched virtually.

These trains will significantly enhance regional connectivity, reduce travel time and provide a "world-class" travel experience to the passengers, officials said.

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnav, among others were present.

A large number of people who had gathered on both sides of the road greeted the Prime Minister with "Modi, Modi" slogans as his convoy made its way towards the railway station.

Modi too responded by waving at them from inside his car.

The Bengaluru-Belagavi Vande Bharat Express will be the 11th Vande Bharat serv-



PM Narendra Modi flagging-off Vande Bharat Express trains at KSR Railway Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka on Sunday.

ice to operate in Karnataka.

Covering 611 km in just 8.5 hours, it is the fastest train between these two cities, saving approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes from KSR Bengaluru to Belagavi and 1 hour 40 minutes from Belagavi - KSR Bengaluru compared to existing services, Railway officials said.

This train connects Bengaluru, India's Silicon City, with Belagavi, a hub of premier medical and engi-

neering institutions, fostering economic and educational opportunities, they said.

The route traverses Karnataka's rich sugarcane belt, passing through key cities such as Dharwad, renowned for its prestigious educational institutions; Hubballi, a thriving commercial and industrial center; Haveri, an emerging agricultural hub; Davangere, popular for textiles and

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### India fastest growing economy in world: PM

**BENGALURU:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India is moving fast towards becoming the third major economy in the world and this momentum was achieved through the spirit of "reform, perform and transform".

The Prime Minister's comments come days after US President Donald Trump's "India a dead economy," jibe.

Modi said that during the past 11 years, India's economy has grown from the 10th position to the top 5 globally, and is rapidly progressing towards becoming one of the top three economies. Laying the foundation stone for Bangalore Metro Phase-3 project here and after flagging

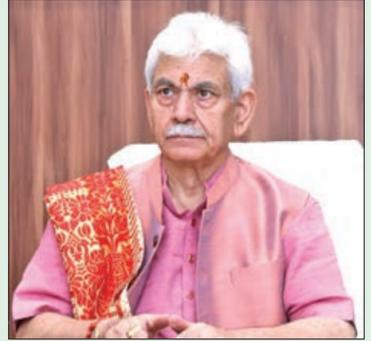
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### J&K's transport infra, particularly in railways, has witnessed unprecedented growth: LG

**NEW DELHI/KATRA:** As Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday flagged off Amritsar - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Train, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

► Expresses gratitude to Prime Minister for dedicating Vande Bharat Train between Amritsar to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Station

► Says, new Vande Bharat Train will ensure ease of travel for devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and spur the growth momentum of the local economy



expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for dedicating the facility.

"The new Vande Bharat Train will ensure ease of travel for devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and spur the growth momentum of the local economy," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the transport infrastructure of J&K, particularly in railways, has witnessed unprecedented growth under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister. He said the first freight train that reached Anantnag from Punjab on August 09 has marked a significant milestone in transport infrastructure and trade of Kashmir valley.

The Lieutenant Governor posted on X said, "Grateful to PM Narendra Modi for flagging off Vande Bharat Train between Amritsar to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Station. J&K's transport infrastructure, particularly in railways, has witnessed unprecedented growth under the leadership of Hon'ble PM.

New Vande Bharat Train will ensure ease of travel for devotees of Mata Vaishno Devi and spur the growth momentum of the local economy. Yesterday, first freight train had reached Anantnag from Punjab, marking a significant milestone in Kashmir Valley's transport infra and trade". The 26406 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Amritsar Vande Bharat Express Train will depart from Katra at 06:40 a.m. to reach Amritsar at 12:20 p.m. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## JMC: VIOLATION OF SETBACK LAWS

**JAMMU:** Apropos, 'Violation of Setback is neither offence in Tribunal nor in JMC. (STATE TIMES August 6, 2025), the Jammu Municipal Corporation responded and gave its own version on social media under caption 'Fact Check'.

The post read, " Hon'ble Tribunal Order dated 11.06 2025 in case pertaining to 44 D/C Gandhi Nagar (Smt Anita Sharma v/s Joint Commissioner (R&E), BOCA, The JMC clarified our news as under:

Since, earlier demolition and sealing orders were set aside by Hon'ble Tribunal Court vide Order dated 11.06.2025 being issued by competent Authority under COBO Act, 1988. As the said orders are bad in law, the order of Hon'ble Tribunal cannot be challenged before Higher Court/Forum. However, action under section 253(1) of J&K Municipal Corporation, Act 2000 has already been initiated against the owner of premises for demolition of violations by Competent Authority of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Since the clarification neither had any signature of JMC officer, nor any

seal or date so we, (STATE TIMES) wrote to JMC for confirmation of their letter to which JMC confirmed that the reply given is correct.

### JMC UNDERMINE POWER OF HIGH COURT

Since we don't want to enter into any controversy. We are closing the issue here itself but want to tell JMC that High Court is itself a supreme power where even Prime Minister of India has to appear.

So now it is upto High Court to take action of contempt against JMC or not.

**Pakistan given befitting reply through Operation Sindoor: Shinde**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday said Pakistan has been given a befitting reply through Operation Sindoor; while the perpetrators of the deadly Pahalgam attack were eliminated in Operation Mahadev.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a blood donation camp organised at the Army Hospital here, the Shiv Sena leader said a large number

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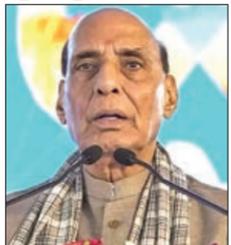
## India world's most 'dashing and dynamic' economy, some people not liking it: Rajnath

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**RAISEN:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday described India's economy as the world's most "dashing and dynamic" and said some people who have the attitude of "we are everyone's boss" are not liking it.

Singh's comments come amid high tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump on goods imported from India.

The speed with which India



is moving ahead, no power in the world can stop it from becoming a big power global-

ly, Singh said in his address after performing bhoomi pujan of a rail coach manufacturing unit of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district.

"Today, if any country has a dashing and dynamic economy, it is India's economy," he asserted.

The defence minister, without naming anyone, said some people are not

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## Kulgam anti-terror operation enters Day-10

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** The anti-terror operation in Kulgam district entered its 10th day on Sunday as security forces tried to squeeze the cordon around the terrorists.

"The operation is still in progress. The security forces are trying to close in on the positions of the hiding ultras," an official said.

He said the terrorists seem to be highly trained in jungle warfare and are taking advantage of dense foliage to evade detection by drones.

Two Army soldiers have been killed while nine others have been injured since the encounter began on August 1 in Akhal forest area of Kulgam This is the longest anti-terror operation in Kashmir valley in recent years.

Two terrorists have also been killed in the encounter. The identity and the group affiliation of the slain terrorists have not been ascertained so far.

Senior police and Army officers, including the Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat, and the

### Search ops launched in Kishtwar; 2 Hizbul terrorists believed to be trapped

**KISHTWAR:** Intermittent exchange of firing rocked a forested area in Kishtwar district throughout the day on Sunday after security forces launched a cordon and search operation following intelligence input about the presence of two most wanted Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, officials said.

The first contact with the terrorists was established around 6.30 am at Bhagna forest in Dool area when terrorists opened fire after noticing a search party of Rashtriya Rifles, the officials said. They said the security forces retaliated and the gunfight between the two sides continued for quite some time before the terrorists fled deep into the forest. Reinforcements from the Army, special operations group (SOG) of local police and CRPF rushed to the scene and the

Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, are closely monitoring the operation round-the-clock, officials said.

Security forces have pressed drones

and helicopters into service to track the terrorists down in the forest area. Para commandos were also assisting the security forces in neutralising the hiding ultras.

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