

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! New generation of...

Governor spoke on the need for a stronger innovation and modern technology ecosystem for sustainable agricultural practices to prioritize farmer incomes, risk mitigation and strengthening farmer-industry linkages.

"Farmer welfare is the top priority of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The positive impact of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in J&K (JKCIP) on farmers' income is now visible.

Total transformation at all stages of Beej se Bazar tak- from Seed to Market has been our Mantra in J&K. The resolution of Lab to Land has been realised to make the small and marginal farmers self-reliant," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the new generation of scientists and experts to focus on smart farming.

He said the revolution in seed production, pest management, food processing, farm mechanization has ensured opportunities for the young professional to contribute in product development and quality control.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a state-of-the-art Ex-Situ Gene Bank. SKUAST Jammu has become the 3rd institution in the country to have Ex-Situ Gene Bank. This facility will preserve genetic resources such as seeds, plant tissue, animal germplasm outside their natural habitat and will prove to be an invaluable resource for breeding and research programmes.

The Lieutenant Governor also laid the Foundation stone for 200-bedded Farmers' Hostel and a Faculty Building with common academic facilities.

During the convocation, 446 degrees were awarded including 157 Masters, 46 Doctorates, and 243 Undergraduate degrees. Eight Gold Medals were also conferred to meritorious students.

Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah; Minister for Agriculture Production, Javid Ahmad Dar; Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production, Shailendra Kumar; Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu; members of Board of Management and University Council, faculty members and students were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly and Vice Chancellors of various universities were also present at the convocation ceremony.

Highlights...

8 gold medalists in post-graduate and graduate students, 7 are our daughters. Out of 35 Certificates of Merit in PhD and Post-Graduate, 32 Merit Certificates were awarded to our daughters. It is symbol of rising influence of Nari Shakti in Agriculture and allied sector and I believe they will be driving innovation for sustainable agriculture and enhancing farmers' income.

Total transformation in all stages of Beej se Bazar tak- from Seed to Market has been our Mantra in J&K.

Modi to address...

Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor.

The prime minister is also likely to be felicitated by the parliamentary party over his government's military response to the terror strike.

The electoral college for the vice president poll includes MPs of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, and its current strength is 782. If the Opposition also names a candidate, a distinct possibility, then the poll is scheduled to be held on September 9.

Sources said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and a few BJP national general secretaries are likely to be coordinating with allies for the vice presidential poll.

Since the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when the BJP lost its majority but comfortably crossed the halfway mark with allies, the sessional meeting of the party's MPs was expanded to include its allies. PM Modi had addressed the first such meeting on July 2.

However, no meeting has been held in the last few sessions.

Before the last national elections, he used to address the weekly meetings of BJP parliamentary party, now expanded to include party's allies such as the TDP, JD(U), and LJP (Ram Vilas).

The meeting is attended by MPs of the ruling alliance, and PM Modi often covers a sweep of political and governance issues, and at times touches on the government's agenda in Parliament. He often offers to the MPs talking points to be raised in public, especially their constituencies.

Anti-terror ops...

were injured in the encounter which began on Friday after security forces launched a cordon and search operation in a forest area at Akhal in the south Kashmir district, following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists there. After an initial exchange of fire between the two sides on Friday evening, the operation was halted for the night, the officials said. The cordon was strengthened, and additional reinforcements were rushed to the area.

Firing resumed on Saturday morning, during which two terrorists were killed, the officials said.

Prof Nirmal Singh...

J&K Legislative Assembly, Singh's tenure was marked by his consistent advocacy for equitable treatment of the Jammu region - a long-standing sentiment among the people of the area who have often felt politically marginalised in Kashmir-centric political order. His political presence, therefore, carries symbolic as well as function-

al value for the BJP's "nation-first" agenda in J&K.

Prof Singh's potential elevation to the Rajya Sabha comes at a time when the BJP is reorienting its political apparatus in this part of the country.

After Kavinder Gupta's appointment as LG of Ladakh, there is a perceptible momentum within the party to reward and reposition trusted lieutenants who not only share ideological fidelity but also possess the administrative and political experience. Nirmal Singh would be an ideal choice to represent the political aspirations of Jammu at the national level; act as a bridge between the political class of Jammu and the central leadership in Delhi, and offer strategic input on Kashmir's political sensitivities, drawing on his experience of having engaged with Kashmir-centric parties and politicians.

Singh's inclusion in the national decision-making space would also send a powerful message to the BJP and RSS cadre across the Union Territory. It would demonstrate the leadership's commitment to reward ideological loyalty, grassroots commitment, and political maturity. This would also be in line with the RSS-BJP vision of a politically integrated and development-oriented Jammu and Kashmir. His experience in working with diverse political stakeholders from the Valley without compromising on the core nationalist agenda could help the Centre's outreach initiatives appear more credible and balanced.

According to sources, another reason Singh's name is being discussed with seriousness is his deep understanding of the geopolitical contours of Kashmir. This includes not only the internal dynamics between Jammu and the Valley but also the external dimensions involving cross-border hostilities, radicalization challenges and rehabilitation of displaced population in their homes and hearths.

Nirmal Singh's possible election to the Rajya Sabha could galvanize the BJP cadre and Swayamsevaks in Jammu and Kashmir. And experience to the national stage in deliberations concerning Jammu and Kashmir. It would mean addressing the aspirations of the people of Jammu in general and the RSS cadre in particular as Nirmal Singh could emerge as a steady voice that aligns with BJP's ideological goals.

While Kavinder Gupta's appointment as LG Ladakh may be the opening move in a more nuanced political chess game being played out by the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir, Nirmal Singh's likely candidature for the Rajya Sabha would reinforce the party's loyalty-based reward mechanism. It would underscore the message that the highest leadership of BJP - guided by the principles of "Nation First" - is keen to blend ideology with matured political competence in its continued engagement with the sensitive and significant region of Jammu and Kashmir.

CUJ student arrested...

Swarn Singh, resident of Ranjri, Vijaypur, Samba and one pistol along with live cartridges were recovered.

Acting on further leads and thorough investigation ,Miran Sahib police successfully arrested an interstate weapon smuggler who is the main supplier of illegal arms to gangsters operating in the Jammu and Samba region. The accused Kaif Ahmed, son of Shami Ahmed, resident of Barharian near Masjid, Siwan, Bihar currently pursuing B.Tech from Central University of Jammu, was also arrested.

The investigation is ongoing, and further arrests and recoveries are expected.



Court denies bail...

Public Prosecutor Ajay Singh Manhas opposed the bail, citing the accused's role in a larger conspiracy involving diversion of controlled substances without valid prescriptions. Dismissing arguments over permissible codeine content and earlier discharges of co-accused, Judge Y.P. Sharma ruled that the stringent conditions under Section 37 of the NDPS Act were not met.

"Drug menace is eating the young generation like a termite, spoiling the future of the nation," the court observed, underscoring the societal threat posed by narcotics.

The court held that the gravity of the offence and ongoing investigation warranted continued custody. The matter will proceed with further probe and expected charge-sheet.

ASI caught red...

case was registered and investigation taken up," he added.

The team laid a trap, and the accused was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe amount of Rs 20,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses, he said. The accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following the due process of law. The bribe money was also recovered allegedly from his possession, he added.

Authorities ban sale...

under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, I do hereby order that the sale, purchase, storage, distribution, and display for sale of all motor vehicle accessories which are intended or likely to be used for unauthorised modifications are hereby prohibited within the territorial jurisdiction of District Jammu, with immediate effect," Vaishya said in the order.

This step has been taken by the authorities in the wake of the seizure of a number of modified vehicles during a drive by the Traffic Police over the last fortnight in

sons and recovering stolen iron material worth Rs 3.30 lakhs.

While sharing the details, SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh-JKPS stated that on 03/08/2025, a written complaint was lodged by the DGM of Patel Engineering at Police Post Dool, reporting the theft of valuable construction material from the Dool Stock Yard. The theft had occurred on 02/08/2025, around 01:15 AM, and the stolen items included 34 -20 mm thick MS Sheets (0.635 x 0.4 mtr);

30- 20 mm thick MS Sheets (0.4 x 0.42 mtr); 48- 12 mm thick MS Sheets (0.56 x 0.1 mtr); 31- Gantry Joint Pins and 2 Nos - Turnbuckles.

Accordingly, FIR No. 178/2025 under sections 331(4), 305 BNS was registered at Police Station Kishtwar. Additionally, a separate case under FIR No. 180/2025 U/S 303(2) BNS was also taken up for investigation.

Acting on the directions of SSP Kishtwar, special police teams led by SHO PS Kishtwar Insp. Firdous Ahmed, assisted by IC PP Dool PSI Shubam Sharma and IC PP Padyarana PSI Manjeet Singh, carried out intensive investigations under the close command of Dy. SP Hqrs Dr. Ishan Gupta-JKPS. & Addl. SP Kishtwar Sh. Pardeep Singh Gorla-JKPS.

In the Dool burglary case, the following four accused persons were apprehended. Muzamil Hussain S/o Ghulam Rasool R/o Dool; Arif Hussain S/o Ghulam Rasool R/o Dool; Jaleel Ahmed S/o Zubair Ahmed R/o Nagole Dool; Shahid Hussain S/o Ghulam Qadir R/o Pallood Dool.

All four accused confessed to their involvement during interrogation, leading to the recovery of 69 iron plates weighing approximately 2085 kg, valued at ₹3 lakhs.

In the Padyarana case, the following three accused persons were arrested. Shabir Ahmed S/o Ghulam Mohd Ahanger R/o Ahangpura, Dool; Aqib Hussain S/o Mohd Abass R/o Ahangpura, Dool; Akther Hussain S/o Abdul Rashid R/o Ahangpura, Dool. Their disclosures led to the recovery of 06 shattering iron plates, valued at approximately ₹30,000.

Shopkeeper arrested with 15 rolls of Chinese thread

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: As per reliable information about sale of banned Chinese thread (gattu), a team from Police Station Udhampur led by its SHO conducted raids in a shops of kite sellers in Udhampur town.

During raid, police team arrested one person and also seized 15 rolls of Chinese thread (gattu) from one person namely Abhishek Gupta S/O Vikas Gupta R/O H.No 167 near Pandav Mandir Udhampur who was trying to sell the



Jammu. "It has been brought to the notice... that a large number of commercial establishments and vendors in the Jammu district are engaged in the sale and purchase of various motor vehicle accessories which are being used for unauthorised modifications of vehicles," he said.

He added that such accessories include, but are not limited to, oversized tyres, pressure horns, musical horns, metallic bumpers, high-intensity halogen lights, tinted or reflective window films, roof rail spoilers, modified exhausts, and similar fittings, which alter the original manufacturer's specifications of the vehicles.

CM advocates organic...

course correction, calling for a decisive shift toward sustainable and organic practices. He also emphasized the rising concerns around microplastics in the food chain and climate vulnerability, noting that environmental awareness is no longer optional, but an operational imperative.

Encouraging the graduating students, Omar Abdullah urged them to imbibe the ideals of SKUAST and contribute to the broader mission of rural transformation. "Let your innovation create employment, let your knowledge build enterprises and let your compassion redefine agriculture," he said, calling on the new graduates to be job creators rather than seekers.

Commending the University's efforts, the Chief Minister appreciated the launch of the Ex Situ Gene Bank, highlighting its role in conserving native seed varieties and crop diversity. "Such infrastructure will only bear fruit when paired with the right talent," he said, urging students and faculty to make full use of the facilities to address the evolving challenges of agri-science.

The Chief Minister also lauded the students' academic excellence and equal participation in developmental narratives, expressing confidence that SKUAST-Jammu's alumni will drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the agri-sector.

Presenting the University Report, Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi highlighted SKUAST-Jammu's consistent achievements in education, research, innovation and outreach. "Our commitment to excellence is reflected in the patents we've secured, the start-ups we've incubated and the knowledge we've transferred to empower the farming community," he noted.

The convocation saw the awarding of 446 degrees, including 157 Master's, 46 Doctorates and 243 Undergraduate degrees, in addition to 8 Gold Medals for meritorious students. Several Professors of Practice, innovators and entrepreneurs were also felicitated for their contributions to agri-technology and rural entrepreneurship.

The ceremony also marked the inauguration of a Farmers' Hostel and a state-of-the-art Faculty Building funded under CAPEX-NABARD and J&K Government, bolstering SKUAST-Jammu's capacity for academic and research excellence.

The event was attended by senior officials, members of the University Council and Board of Management, faculty, students, farmers and members of the public.

Proud to be...

of asking America and England to intervene with the so -called purpose of saving democracy in India. As quoted by S. Jaishankar the EAM, Rahul Gandhi took guidance from the Chinese Ambassador during the Galwan crisis. Right from Operation Uri to Balakot, he questioned our brave forces by asking proof of strikes. And now, he seems to have stuck at the point of asking only one question: how many of our planes were shot down in Operation Sindoor? Strangely, this is not even asked by the Pakistanis themselves. Is questioning strategic aspects of an operation of national importance prudent? Well, I doubt.

His Party- being more than hundred years old- still demands proof that the killers of Pahalgam massacre were from Pakistan; whereas The Resistance Force or TRF itself claimed "credit" for sadistic asking religion and then shooting in the heads of Hindus. And Pakistan was too eager to protect 'TRF' on the International arena, while successfully blocking its name in the UN Security Council condemnation of ghastly attack. One wonders if the LoP and his Party are spokespersons for Pakistan, giving it a clean chit and always casting doubts on the actions of Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

And what for? It seems his ever- losing elections and his lust for power has put a cloud on his ability to differentiate between opposing the ruling party and opposing India; going to the extent of what can be called treason.

I had read somewhere that a cartoon can say more effectively what thousand words cannot. And today's cartoon in the STATE TIMES aptly depicts the position of our LoP where Pakistan FM Munir while hearing his speech is asking Shahbaaz Sharief: Shall we include him in our party? And the reply comes: No...no. We already have many in Pak! The word is too strong for me to be used. But then, the cartoon aptly describes the once highly respected position of the LoP.

Let us hope against hope that he starts criticising and guiding the government on other serious issues of national importance, instead of going Anti-India!

(The author is former Principal GGM Science College and former Chairman, J&K BOSE)

Govt extends Amnesty...

struggling with outstanding electricity dues. Besides, the move is expected to increase the revenue collection for the power development department.

To avail the benefits of this scheme, the consumers have to pay the outstanding dues by 31st March 2026 in equal installments and must also pay their current bills regularly without failure.

Failure to pay any installment or current bill will result in off-amnesty benefits and could lead to penalties.

The domestic consumers who wish to avail the scheme are advised to contact their local electricity offices or visit the official website for more information. The deadline to avail the benefits under this scheme is March 31, 2026.

Robbery case cracked: four accused arrested, weapons, cash recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Police, South Zone, under the supervision of SP South, SDPO

East and SHO PS Bah-e-Bahu has swiftly solved a robbery case reported by Ajay Kumar, S/O Subash Chander, R/O Tange Wali Gali, who is also the complainant in FIR No. 43/2025 U/S 304 BNS, 4/25 Arms Act, Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu.



On July 26, 2025, the complainant gave an interview to local news portals, alleging that he was robbed and assaulted in broad daylight. As per his statement, around 3:25 PM on the same day, while he was en route to Narwal Mandi on his scooter, he was followed by a group of 5-6 persons riding a scooter and a motorcycle. The accused trailed him from Gujjar Nagar to Qasim Nagar, opposite the Forest Office, where they intercepted him. The complainant alleged that the accused forcibly stopped him, snatched ₹30,000 in cash using sharp-edged weapons, and inflicted injuries during the incident, leaving him traumatised.

Acting swiftly on this information, Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu called the complainant for verification of facts and recorded his detailed statement. Subsequently, FIR No. 43/2025 was registered under relevant sections of law.

During the investigation, with the aid of CCTV footage and credible information from local sources, six accused were identified Abhi Sharma, S/O Shyam Lal, R/O Shahabad Colony, Bagh-e-Bahu; Musavir, S/O Khalid Rashid, R/O H.No. 562, Jogi Gate, Jammu; Adil, S/O Khurshid Ahmed, R/O H.No. BC-88, Bawe Wali Gali, Shahedi Chowk; Jagot Singh @ Karan, S/O Late Inder Raj Singh, R/O Trikuta Nagar Extension, Greater Colony near Park; A/P Mehmoodpur and two Juveniles.

Out of these, the accused listed at Serial Nos. 1 to 4 have been apprehended. The police successfully recovered Rs 12,000 of the snatched cash, sharp-edged weapons used in the commission of the crime, along with the motorcycle and scooter used by the accused. The individuals at Serial Nos. 5 and 6 are reportedly juveniles. Their involvement is being investigated in accordance with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act.

Kishtwar police cracks two burglary cases, 7 accused arrested; stolen material worth Rs 3.30 lakhs recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Police has successfully cracked two separate burglary cases reported at Police Post Dool and Police Post Padyarana, arresting a total of 07 accused per-