

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Gadkari, Omar review...

make a firsthand assessment of the ground situation and subsequently briefed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in detail about the prevailing condition of the road. Taking note of the disruptions on NH-44 and the loss of vital connectivity with the rest of the country, the Chief Minister spoke with the Union Minister to convey the urgency of the matter. It was in this backdrop that the review meeting was convened, following the Chief Minister's telephonic request to the Union Minister.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javid Dar, and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, along with senior officials of NHAI, NHIDCL, and other concerned agencies, both in person and virtually.

Mata Vaishno Devi...

resume the yatra on September 14 but incessant rains prompted it to extend the suspension period. It had triggered protests by some devotees who also made repeated attempts to break the security cordon and undertake the pilgrimage in violation of the shrine board directive.

Rajnath exhorts Armed...

professionalism" in the planning and execution of Operation Sindoor in May, that was launched in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians, mostly tourists.

"Operation Sindoor has demonstrated that strength, strategy and self-reliance are the three pillars that will give India the power it needs in the 21st century. Today, we have the capability to face any challenge with the help of indigenous platforms and systems coupled with the indomitable courage of our soldiers. This is the real strength of Aatmanirbhar Bharat," Singh said.

Operation Sindoor, which was conceived as a punitive and targeted campaign to dismantle the terror infrastructure across the Line of Control and deep inside Pakistan, showcased a calibrated, tri-services response embodying precision, professionalism and purpose, according to an official.

Terming India's defence sector as an amalgamation of offensive and defensive capabilities, the defence minister called upon the commanders to be proactive in their approach and strive to build the 'Sudarshan Chakra', an air defence mechanism, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Stating that a committee has been formed to examine the project and prepare a "realistic action plan", he suggested devising a medium-term plan for the next five years and a long-term plan for the next ten years to bring the vision to fruition.

The defence minister underscored the importance of synergy among the Armed Forces as well as with other agencies, terming it as "essential" to deal with future challenges.

In this context, he mentioned the creation of tri-service logistics nodes and tri-service logistic management application to promote integration and jointness in the defence sector, while also highlighting the attention being paid to greater civil-military fusion.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Divedi, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and other senior officers were present at the meeting.

Inaugurating the three-day Combined Commanders' Conference at the Eastern Command headquarters of the Indian Army at Vijay Durg, the erstwhile Fort William, here on Monday, Modi complimented the Armed Forces for the success of Operation Sindoor.

He instructed the Defence ministry to implement steps to achieve greater jointness, self-sufficiency and innovation to meet future challenges.

Criminal detained under...

detention under the PSA," he said.

In a related development, two drug peddlers -- Abhinandan Singh and Amit Sangra from Kootah village -- were arrested along with 5.47 gm of heroin from the Hiranagar sector in Kathua, the spokesman said.

Police intercepted the duo during checking on the Railway Road, leading to the recovery of the narcotic substance from their possession, he said.

The accused have been booked under the relevant sections of NDPS Act. Further probe is underway to trace the linkages of the narcotic supply racket, he said.

Action must against...

target of 2047 to make India a fully developed and great nation.

To achieve this, the country has to be fully secure, he said. "The Modi government is determined to wipe out the drug menace from the country and is making all-out efforts to achieve this goal," Shah said.

"PM Modi has set forth the vision of creating an India by 2047 that will be the world's number one in every aspect and fully developed -- a nation secure enough that no one can penetrate. For this, our youth are the biggest hope, and if they are determined, nothing is impossible, as they are the foundation of any nation," he said.

Shah said the time has come to bring those people within the ambit of the law who sit abroad and run the drug trade in the country.

"The CBI has done very good work for this. I appeal to all heads of the ANTF that with the help of the CBI, they should make the arrangement for the extradition of fugitives here. This will not only help in breaking the narcotics gangs but also terrorism gangs too," he said.

The home minister said action is also being taken against those involved in the retail trade of drugs.

"Strict action is being taken against those cartels operating at all entry points of the country, cartels distributing from entry points to states, and cartels operating at the level of making and selling drugs 'pudiya' up to 'paan; shops or kiosks," he said. Shah said the time has come to deal a big blow to these three types of cartels.

"I believe that it can happen only when the officers responsible for working against drugs decide to take strong action against them," he said.

According to Shah, in some parts of the world, people have seen the link between a nation's development and the challenge of drug abuse. "Unfortunately, two of the regions from where drugs are supplied globally are very close to us. So this is the time that we fight against it strongly."

The home minister said it is very important to save the young generation from drugs to achieve the goal of a fully developed India as the foundation of any great state is its young generation. He said during the previous UPA government tenure, drugs worth Rs 40,000 crore were seized, whereas under the NDA government, over the past 10 years, drugs worth Rs 1,65,000 crore have been seized, which is a very significant achievement. "But making numbers in the fight against drugs is not our goal. Our goal is to build an India where the need to create such numbers doesn't even arise. This will be possible through a top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top approach," he said.

Referring to the 'Narcotics-Free India' campaign carried out by the NCB, Shah said it has a decisive role for ANTF.

"Until every district, police of every district and the education officer of every district become sensitive towards this campaign, this campaign cannot be successful," he said.

At the event, Shah also set in motion the process of destroying 1.37 lakh kg of narcotic substances worth Rs 4,794 crore seized in different parts of the country.

On Monday, Shah said the Modi government was determined to eradicate the menace of drugs by uniting all ANTFs. He also released the NCB's annual report 2024.

The NCB has been actively coordinating with the GST department, state drug controllers, Income Tax authorities and financial institutions to uncover the full extent of the drug diversion network.

Over 2,200 fruit...

in the aftermath of record rainfall on August 26 and 27, leading to its closure for vehicular movement.

The traffic on the highway was partially restored last week, but hundreds of trucks, including those carrying apples to different markets within and outside Jammu and Kashmir, remained stranded for days, causing extensive damage to the produce. In a major relief to fruit growers and traders of the valley, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, informed that over 2,200 fruit-laden trucks were successfully evacuated via the Mughal Road during the past 24 hours. Taking cognisance of the situation, the Div Com undertook a comprehensive visit to Peer Ki Gali on the Mughal Road to ensure smooth movement of fruit trucks, a spokesman said.

Garg also visited Fruit Mandi Aglar, Shopian, where he held detailed interactions with various stakeholders, including fruit growers, traders, transporters, and representatives of the horticulture sector.

Expressing appreciation for the prompt action, President of the Fruit Growers and Traders Association, Mohammad Ashraf extended gratitude to the Chief Secretary J-K for his timely and prompt intervention and directions, which facilitated the smooth transportation process, the spokesman said.

He also said that restoration work on the National Highway (NH) is being carried out on a war footing to enhance connectivity.

Kashmir apple prices...

leading to its closure for vehicular movement.

The traffic on the highway was partially restored last week, but hundreds of trucks, including those carrying apples to different markets within and outside Jammu and Kashmir, remained stranded for days, causing extensive damage to the produce.

"It is a difficult period for everyone...the road has done more damage than the rain. Some of the trucks, which had left Kashmir on September 1, are reaching here today (September 16)," Sandeep Mahajan, a trader at Narwal Mandi, the main terminal market for fresh vegetables and fruit in Jammu, told PTI.

He said this is the peak apple season and "the government needs to take corrective measures to minimise the losses".

"What is the survival rate of the perishable goods when a truck takes a fortnight to reach Jammu market from Kashmir?" he said, claiming that 60 per cent of the produce is almost damaged, forcing them to sell the apples at throwaway prices.

He said the introduction of a freight train to carry apples from central Kashmir's Budgam to New Delhi via Jammu cannot be an alternative, given its limited load carriage and non-coverage of all fruit-producing areas, especially south Kashmir.

Randeer Gupta, another trader, said they are staring at the total loss of their money this time.

"I do not think it will be more than five per cent of what we have invested. The boxes worth Rs 1,000 are selling at Rs 100 and Rs 200. The apple-laden trucks are taking more than 10 days to reach here," he added.

He said the traders have invested a lot of money with the hope of overcoming past losses. "This time, the grower as well as the trader are ruined."

Manik Gupta said he has been trading in the market for five decades, but had never seen such a situation.

"We have seen ups and downs in the past, but this time, it is total destruction. Almost 60 per cent of the crop has been destroyed," he said, adding that given the situation, the growers in Kashmir are reluctant to load their produce because they have suffered huge losses.

He said the goods reaching the Jammu market are of no value.

"After farmers, the traders who have invested a lot of money are also suffering. We have already given more than 50 per cent of payments almost six months in advance. Some people have taken loans and others invested all their earnings," he pointed out.

He said the apple season lasts for three months and the government should ensure smooth transportation of the horticulture produce, which is the backbone of the J&K economy.

"We have heard that controlled atmosphere stores are already full in Kashmir. The government must work hard to facilitate the smooth transportation of horticulture produce from the valley," he noted.

CM reviews telecom...

coverage of uncovered and remote habitations.

During the discussions, several issues were highlighted which require the intervention of the Government for timely completion of projects. These included early allotment of land for installation of telecom towers and equipment, and the expeditious grant of Right of Way permissions by departments such as R&B, PMGSY, BRO, and Forests for the laying of optical fibre cables.

The need for uninterrupted services was also emphasized, with a focus on providing electricity connections to all Gram Panchayats to operationalize BharatNet, implementing centralized billing and smart metering systems, and ensuring the availability and functionality of Panchayat or alternate government buildings where digital services are to be hosted.

Assuring full support from the government, the Chief Minister said: "Digital empowerment of our villages and towns is a cornerstone of inclusive growth. We are committed to ensuring that no part of Jammu and Kashmir remains disconnected-whether it is a remote hamlet, a dark zone, or a railway tunnel." The Chief Minister directed BSNL and concerned government departments to work in close coordination, resolve bottlenecks swiftly, and ensure timely delivery of connectivity projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

IGP V K...

other senior officers.

During the meeting, the IGP was briefed about the law and order scenario by senior superintendents of police in their respective districts. Birdi emphasised the need to strengthen investigations, build stronger cases to improve conviction rates in narcotics and terrorism-related matters, and establish effective follow-up mechanisms for successful prosecutions.

He directed officers to intensify area domination, conduct night patrolling in sensitive areas and maintain strict surveillance on anti-national elements (ANEs). Birdi also stressed the need to enhance market checking to prevent unlawful activities.

DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for Navratri, Mahanavmi, Dussehra Festival

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: To ensure the smooth and safe celebration of the upcoming festivals, the District Administration Kishtwar, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, JKAS, convened a crucial meeting with Officers from various line departments.

The DC emphasized the need for interdepartmental coordination to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place well in advance of the festivals.

The DC asked SSP Kishtwar to ensure proper security arrangements at all locations in the town and adjoining areas, including temples and the vicinity of Adarsh Dramatic Club, Kishtwar. Additionally, intensive night checking and patrolling within the town have been directed in view of the upcoming festivals.

The Jal Shakti (PHE) Department was directed to ensure round-the-clock availability of safe drinking water, including the deployment of chlorinated water tankers at key locations such as Dharamshalla, Adarsh Dramatic Club Kishtwar and



DC Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma chairing a meeting.

Chowgan Ground during the events.

The JPDCL Kishtwar was directed to ensure an uninterrupted power supply, make proper lighting arrangements at all temples, at Adarsh Dramatic Club Kishtwar, and at key locations, and provide a generator set at the Ramleela venue to facilitate the smooth conduct of the events.

The AD FCS& CA was directed to ensure an adequate supply of ration and LPG cylinders during the festival period.

Tehsildar Kishtwar, AD FCS&CA Kishtwar, and DO Food Safety and Drugs Control were directed to conduct market inspections to prevent overcharging and the sale of substandard food

items.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO), District Hospital, and the AYUSH Department were directed to establish First Aid Camps and ensure the availability of ambulance services at both the Ramleela and Dussehra venues.

They were also instructed to maintain sufficient medical staff and healthcare provisions to address any medical emergencies or health-related needs during the festivities.

The AD Fire & Emergency Services was directed to deploy fire tenders at strategic locations, including Hidyal Chowk, Bus Stand, and the Dussehra venue.

The CEO KDA and CEO Municipal Council were directed to ensure cleanli-

ness, lime-lining, and waste management en route and at key temples and venues.

The representatives of Sanatan Dharma Sabha and Adarsh Dramatic Club Kishtwar actively engaged in discussions and provided valuable suggestions on a range of critical matters. These discussions covered sanitation, uninterrupted electricity supply, regular and safe drinking water, security arrangements, traffic management, adequate ration and firewood stocks, as well as checking rates and food quality.

The DC, after patiently hearing the participants, assured full support from the District Administration for the hassle-free celebration of the festivals.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh, ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Kishtwar Rishi Kumar Sharma, CEO KDA Kishtwar Kaiser Bhawani, ACR Kishtwar Idrees lone, DIO Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, other Senior Officers and representatives from Sanatan Dharma Sabha Kishtwar and Adarsh Dramatic Club Kishtwar.

Jammu South Police nabs woman peddler with heroin, cash

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the Supervision of SSP Jammu and the direct guidance of SP City South, SDPO City East and SHO PS Bahu Fort, Jammu Police achieved a breakthrough with the arrest of a lady drug peddler and recovery of a heroin-like substance, Cash RS 7420 and one electronic weighing scale under Operation Sanjeevani.

During patrolling police team from Police Post Narwal, led by IC Police Post Narwal and assisted by other officials, arrested lady drug peddler from Rajiv Nagar (Boot Polish Mohalla). The lady individual was identified as Pinki W/o Vikas R/o Rajiv Nagar Narwal Distt Jammu. Upon conducting a search, the police recovered 19 grams heroin-like substance, Cash Rs 7420 and one electronic weighing scale, from her possession. A case FIR No. 275/2025 under sections 8/21/22/27A NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Bahu Fort Jammu and the accused lady has been taken into custody for further investigation.



DC Jammu stresses on regular monitoring of works to ensure quality construction

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas on Tuesday convened a meeting to review the functioning of the Rural Development Department with special focus on implementation of flagship schemes including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-G, MGNREGA and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

While reviewing the progress under PMAY(G) and MGNREGA, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Block Development Officers to take lead in expediting execution of works and ensure that block-wise plans are effectively implemented. He stressed on timely disbursement of payments under MGNREGA and called for increasing the number of workdays gen-

erated so as to provide maximum benefit to the rural population. The Deputy Commissioner also took a detailed review of block-wise targets and achievements under SBM(G). He assessed the progress of various components including Individual Household Latrines, Community Sanitary Complexes, Solid Waste Management plants, community compost pits and waste management sheds. He emphasised that the ultimate aim under SBM(G) is to ensure proper collection, segregation and scientific disposal of waste and directed the officers to intensify efforts for achieving this objective. The DC directed the officers to undertake regular inspections of civil works to ensure quality and timely completion. He further instructed the Revenue officials to

proactively resolve land disputes hampering developmental works.

The DC reviewed the physical and financial progress under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 and stressed on the need for review of panchayat ghar infrastructure within their respective jurisdictions.

Appreciating the efforts of the Rural Development Department during the recent floods, Dr Minhas lauded the dedication of the officers and urged them to continue contributing meaningfully to the development of the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sher Singh, CPO Ajayal Singh, ACP Shahzada Noor ul Ain, ACD Danish Rasool Mir besides Block Development Officers.

JKJA holds Technical Training Programme on strengthening digital capacity within judicial system

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy (JKJA), under the guidance of the Governing Committee, organized a one-day technical training programme on strengthening digital capacity within the judicial system.

The sessions were chaired by Anoop Sharma, Registrar IT, and Sonia Gupta, Director, JKJA and brought together senior experts from the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Pune who delivered comprehensive sessions on critical components of the e-Courts Project.

The training emphasised on modernising case management systems, data monitoring, and digital filing processes, with the objective of equipping staff with updated technical skills essential for effective integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in judicial functioning.

The programme commenced with address by Jagdish Chhailkar, Scientist-F, who introduced participants to the upgraded features of Case Information System (CIS 4.0) and explained how its advanced functionalities can streamline court procedures and improve accessibili-

ty. This was followed by Ashish Shiradhonkar, HOD COEE and Scientist-F, who spoke on the e-Courts Project, outlining its nationwide implementation and impact on ensuring uniformity and efficiency across courts.

In the subsequent session, Bharati Jadhav, Scientist-D, delivered a presentation on Data Centre operations, Virtual Machines, and Replication systems, stressing their importance for ensuring security, reliability, and continuity of judicial data.

Munishwar Bajolia, Scientist-D, then addressed the gathering on e-Filing and the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), highlighting the role of these platforms in enhancing transparency, speeding up case processing, and enabling seamless coordination between courts, police, and other justice sector institutions.

This was followed by a session conducted by Amol Avinash, OIC-Infra and Scientist-F, who spoke on NJDG Intra, establishment tagging, JSON import, and data monitoring tools.

He emphasized how these digital solutions support real-time analyt-

ics and enable better management of judicial resources.

The concluding technical session was conducted jointly by Wasim Khan, Senior Technical Officer, and Tajamul, Developer, who provided hands-on insights into practical aspects of system development, troubleshooting, and user support in the judicial ICT framework.

They emphasized the importance of continuous monitoring, adaptive solutions, and user-oriented development in sustaining the digital transformation of courts.

Their session blended technical depth with practical demonstrations, enabling participants to gain a clearer understanding of real-time challenges and solutions in judicial technology platforms.

The programme remained highly interactive throughout the day, with participants actively engaging in discussions, seeking clarifications, and sharing their experiences, which enriched the overall learning environment.

The JKJA reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a technology-driven judiciary and to conducting regular training programmes for strengthening institutional capacity.