

Union Cabinet hails PM Modi's 25 yrs of uninterrupted leadership as head of Govt

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday hailed PM Narendra Modi's 25 years of uninterrupted leadership as the head of government, first as the Gujarat CM and then as the prime minister, saying his "extraordinary journey" was guided by the principle of "Nation First and Citizen First".

In a resolution, the cabinet also said that three overwhelming mandates in Gujarat and support in three successive Lok Sabha elections reflect the "enduring trust" that the public has reposed in Prime Minister Modi.

Briefing reporters on the resolution adopted at the cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said



the cabinet passed the resolution congratulating the prime minister on completing 25 years of continuous leadership as head of government.

"Far more than a customary tribute, it celebrates the extraordinary journey of

PM Modi guided by the principle of 'Nation First and Citizen First,'" he said.

Vaishnaw said ten salient features capture the unbroken thread connecting his leadership in Gujarat with his leadership later as the country's PM. ► P11

Multi crore SME growth fund approved

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday committed Rs 10,000 crore to establish an SME Growth Fund (SGF) for direct equity investments in Small and Medium Enterprises.

The decision was taken at the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Cabinet approved the government commitment of Rs 10,000 crore to ► P11

Proposal to set up ITLA approved

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal to set up an Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA), Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The authority will function as the apex body for integrated transport and logistics planning, research, project appraisal and monitoring, policy support and data analytics. ► P11

Omar approves land for mobile towers in JK CM charts global course for Kashmir Marathon, eyes world-class status

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reviewed the preparations for the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon and called for a stronger national and international outreach to attract runners from across India and abroad and establish the event as a major global sporting attraction.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the October 25 marathon, the Chief Minister directed the Tourism Department and other concerned agencies to intensify publicity for the event, including through leading running and fitness influencers.

He called for inviting prominent runners and fitness influencers to Kashmir ahead of the event to generate greater interest and build



wider visibility around the marathon.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need to leverage the event's substantial prize purse to attract competitive runners from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The Kashmir Marathon 2026 carries a total prize purse of ₹3.17 crore, including ₹2.11 crore for the Full Marathon and ₹1.06 crore for the Half Marathon. A dedicated J&K Local Category, with an additional prize component of ₹25 lakh, has also been introduced to encourage and recognise local talent.

To expand participation beyond competitive runners, the Chief Minister called for introducing an untimed 5K Fun Run, providing an opportunity for families, young people and amateur runners to participate in the event.

He also proposed a virtual participation of runners in Kashmir Marathon's next edition to enable runners from different parts of the country and the world to participate remotely and become part of the ► P11

CEO checks readiness for Shardiya Navratra

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board CEO Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Tuesday reviewed preparedness for the upcoming Shardiya Navratra festival, which begins on October 11 and continues till October 20, officials said.

Vaishya chaired a meeting with local administration, security agencies and other stakeholders at the Shrine Board's Central Office here to review arrangements for the anticipated rush of pilgrims at the holy shrine and Katra base camp.

The CEO stressed the need for close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure a smooth and hassle-free

pilgrimage during Navratra.

As per the directions of Shrine Board Chairman and Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, he emphasised disaster management preparedness, including firefighting arrangements and mock drills.

He directed the State Disaster Response Force personnel to work closely with the Shrine Board's Disaster Management Task Force to monitor vulnerable areas and strengthen crowd-management capabilities.

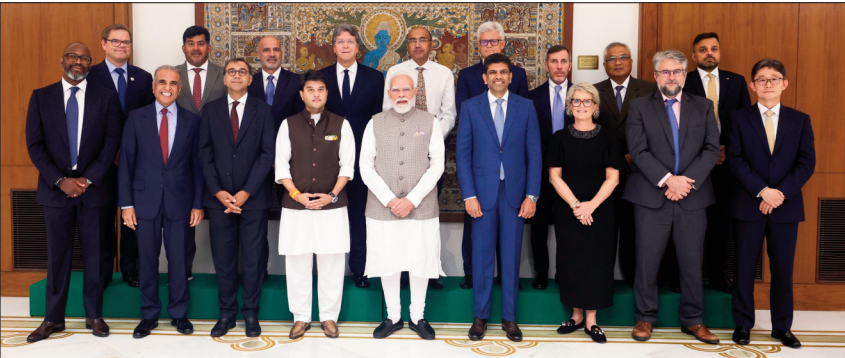
Regular public announcements, joint beat monitoring, decongestion of crowds and creation of designated holding areas were also emphasised, they said. The CEO directed officials to keep ► P11

Cross-border drug racket busted, 4 held

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested four persons allegedly linked with a cross-border drug-smuggling racket and recovered more than 1 kg of narcotics besides a pistol and live ammunition from their possession, officials said on Tuesday.

The arrests followed investigation with an alleged airdrop of narcotics in a forward village in Arnia sector, purportedly by Pakistan-based handlers, officials said.

A police spokesman said four persons, including a Punjab resident, have been ► P11



PM: Democratising technology so no one is left behind, especially in global south

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday stressed that democratisation of technology is essential to ensure that no section of the society is left behind and that technology and digital services should be made affordable and accessible, particularly for the Global South.

Interacting with the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) board members here, Modi also emphasised that technology must become a tool for inclusive and sustainable development.

The prime minister stressed that democratisation of technology is essential to ensure that no section of the society is left behind, according to a statement issued by the PMO. ► P11

Census'27: Army, CAPFs counted on Paper amid security concerns

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Director of Census Operations, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma on Tuesday said the Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and other Central forces had been covered under Census 2027, with population enumeration of Special Charges completed through paper schedules in view of security concerns.

Addressing a press conference here, Sharma said there are 125 special charges in Jammu and Kashmir and 47 in Ladakh, covering the armed forces, paramilitary forces and other central forces.

"Population Enumeration is conducted for special charges, while there is no house listing operation (HLO) for them. Special Charges include the military, paramilitary forces and other Central forces," Sharma said, announcing that the enumeration exercise was successfully completed.

He said the census authorities had adopted a separate mechanism for special charges because of their distinct operational and security requirements.

"The enumeration for these Special Charges is being conducted through paper schedules. There are security concerns involved, so their information cannot essentially be collected over the internet. Therefore, the paper schedules were printed in a timely manner and the ► P11

UN has become 'Irrelevant': EAM; demands urgent reform

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called for reform in the United Nations, saying the global body has become "irrelevant" to the decision-making on major global issues, including the conflicts in Ukraine and the Gulf.

He said this in response to a question during an interactive session held at the 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave here on Monday.

Jaishankar last month addressed the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

At the conclave, the external affairs minister (EAM) was asked what in his view is the future of the UN, and the future of multilateral institutions in the world.

"Where the UN is concerned, I think it's obvious to everybody by now that the UN is gridlocked. If you look at the big issues of the day, whether you look at the conflict in the Gulf, whether you look at the conflict in Ukraine, whether you look at other issues in Africa, whether you look at Covid, actually, the United Nations has been largely irrelevant to the decision-making," Jaishankar said.

"I think, again there's a widely held view that a lot of it is because the (UN) Security Council is gridlocked, that the Security ► P11

Air Marshal Dixit appointed as CAS

NEW DELHI: The Government has appointed Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM, presently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff, in the rank of Air Chief Marshal, with effect from the afternoon of October 31, 2026.

The present Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singhsuperannuates office on October 31, 2026.

Born on December 09, 1966, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit was commissioned into the fighter stream of Indian Air Force on December ► P11

Chugh likens Rahul to Jinnah, Congress to Muslim League

PALANPUR: Gujarat BJP in-charge Tarun Chugh on Tuesday likened Congress MP Rahul Gandhi to Pakistan founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah and accused the Grand Old Party of becoming a "new avatar of the Muslim League", alleging it was indulging in vote-bank politics and appeasement.

Talking to reporters at Palanpur in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, he criticised Congress and INDIA bloc leaders for not publicly appreciating the extraordinary courage of Captain Smit Machchhar, whom he described as a "son of India" who helped

save 180 people on board an aircraft after a mid-air attack on him.

"The entire world is praising this son of India (Machchhar) Yet, leaders of the Congress and the 'INDI alliance' could not even post a single tweet of thanks or appreciation for him on social media," Chugh maintained.

"What kind of helplessness is this? Has the vote bank become so all-important? Has the hunger for votes grown so insatiable? Can we not even sing of India's glory?" he asked.

Chugh alleged that the Congress and other parties of the ► P11

SP Smartians Sing with Joy at SP Smart School, Sidhra



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: SP Smart School, Sidhra hosted the second edition of its musical extravaganza, "SP Smartians Sing with Joy," on October 6, bringing together students from all classes for an evening of soulful music and vibrant performances.

The parents of the students graced the occasion as the Chief Guests, adding warmth and encouragement to the celebration.

Shilpa Gupta, Additional CEO, SP Smart Schools, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the importance of providing students with platforms to nurture creativity, confidence and self-expression.

The evening featured a series of melodious performances by students, including soulful renditions of "Saanson Ki Mala" and "Chhap Tilak," among others. ► P11

Indo-Swiss research framework to supercharge India-Switzerland STI partnership: Jitendra Singh



NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and MoSPMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Tuesday

said that the Indo-Swiss Research Framework (ISRF) will give fresh impetus to the longstanding India-Switzerland Science, Technology and Innovation partnership and provide a structured platform for taking bilateral cooperation

into new and emerging areas.

Addressing the inaugural Indo-Swiss Research Flagship Event 2026 in New Delhi, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the event was an occasion not only to celebrate two decades

of healthy and progressively expanding cooperation, but also to chart the way forward by diversifying the partnership into emerging areas of Science, Technology and Innovation and creating greater opportunities for researchers and innovators in both countries.

The Flagship Event, held at New Delhi, brought together H.E. Guy Parmelin, President of the Swiss Confederation; H.E. Maya Tis-safi, Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan; Dr. Martina Hirayama, State Secretary for Education, Research & Innovation; Prof. Umesh V. ► P11

JK govt preparing new industrial policy

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is preparing a new industrial policy to rectify past mistakes and benefit the people, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary said here on Tuesday.

"The government is bringing a new industrial policy, which is in its final stages. We are bringing a new policy because people were not happy with the previous one," Chaudhary told reporters here.

The deputy chief minister said the government's efforts are to undo any discrimination that occurred under ► P11