

"Perfection is not attainable. But if we chase perfection we can catch excellence."

—Vince Lombardi



Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K



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India stands at forefront of AI transformation: PM

Modi inaugurates Expo, interacts with startups



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the India AI Impact Expo here featuring over 600 high-potential startups and 13 country pavilions showcasing international collaboration in the AI ecosystem. He also interacted with startups participating in the expo. The prime minister visited

various stalls and spoke with the companies participating in the expo. He was seen asking questions from company representatives to better understand what they are showcasing.

The prime minister spent several minutes at various stalls while interacting with the representatives.

Modi said in a post on X, "Inaugurated the India AI Impact Expo 2026 at Bharat Mandapam. Being here among innovators, researchers and tech enthusiasts gives a glimpse of the extraordinary potential of AI, Indian talent and innovation. Together, we will shape solutions not just for India but for the world!"

The Expo brings together global technology firms, startups, academia and research institutions, central and state governments and international partners.

Spread across 10 arenas covering more than 70,000 square metres, the Expo brings together global technology firms, startups, academia and research institutions, Union ministries, state governments and international partners.

The Expo also features 13 country pavilions, showcasing international collaboration in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem. These include pavilions from Australia, Japan, Russia, the United

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Sinha reopens 14 tourist spots in J-K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday ordered the reopening of 14 tourist spots in the Union territory, including Asia's largest tulip garden in Srinagar and the serene alpine meadow of Yousmarg, which were closed in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack last April.

The L-G administration shut down nearly 50 tourist spots in J-K after the terror attack at the Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam on April 22 last year, which claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists.

"After a thorough security review and discussions, I have ordered the reopening of more tourist spots in the Kashmir and Jammu divisions, which were temporarily closed as a precautionary measure," the L-G's office said on X.

Eleven tourist spots in the Kashmir Division -- Yousmarg, Doodhpathri, Dandipora Park in Kokernag, Peer Ki Gali, Dubjan and Padpawan in Shopian, Astarpora, Thajwas Glacier, Hung Park in Ganderbal, Wular and Watlab in Baramulla, and the tulip

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New criminal laws improve 'conviction rate': Amit Shah

Naxal violence to be vanquished by Mar 2026

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed confidence on Monday that the conviction rate in criminal cases will rise to 80 per cent once the three new criminal laws are fully implemented across the nation in the coming years.

Speaking at the 79th Raising Day parade of the Delhi Police, Shah stated that the fight against Maoist violence is in its final phase and assured that the menace will end by March 2026.

He highlighted that the three new justice-based crimi-



Rahman to take oath as B'desh PM today

DHAKA: Tarique Rahman will take oath as Bangladesh's new Prime Minister on Tuesday after leading his party to a forceful victory in the crucial general elections.

Breaking with a long-standing tradition, the swearing-in ceremony of the 60-year-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairman would be held at the South Plaza of the Parliament Complex instead of Bangabhaban.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin will administer the oath to the new cabinet members at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday afternoon, state-run BSS news agency reported on Monday. "The Parliament Secretariat is set to

2 Pak nationals among 3 inmates flee juvenile home; 2 cops injured in firing

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Three inmates, including two Pakistani nationals, escaped from a juvenile home in the border area of Jammu after allegedly attacking and injuring two police personnel on duty on Monday, police said.

The escape occurred at around 5.15 pm at the juvenile home in RS Pura, they said.

"The three inmates -- Karjeet Singh alias Gugga, a resident of Dablehar in RS Pura, and Pakistani nationals Mohammad Suna-ullah and Ahsan Anwar -- allegedly assaulted the policemen before fleeing the facility," the police said. During the incident, SPO Vinay Kumar

and Head Constable Parveen Kumar sustained injuries and were provided medical attention.

Police have launched a massive search operation in the area to trace and apprehend the escaped inmates.

In a statement, police said, "Cognisance has been taken and an

investigation has been initiated. Special teams have been constituted and are conducting raids at various locations to apprehend them."

Special teams have been constituted, and raids are being conducted at various locations to apprehend the escapees, the officials added.

Further details are awaited.

GOC reviews anti-insurgency Ops in Kishtwar

JAMMU: The General Officer Commanding of the Army's White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General P K Mishra, on Monday visited Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district and reviewed the counter-terrorism grid and operational preparedness of the troops.

He urged all ranks to remain vigilant and mission-ready at all times.

"The GOC, White Knight Corps, accompanied by GOC CIF (Delta), visited the general area of Kishtwar, J-K, to review the counter-terrorism grid and assess the operational preparedness of deployed units," the White Knight Corps said on X.

Lt Gen Mishra was accompanied by the General Officer Commanding, Counter-Insurgency Force (Delta), Major General A P S Bal. He was briefed on the prevailing security situation and measures to further strengthen the security framework and inter-agency synergy.

Shrine Board to distribute free 'Prasad' to devotees

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KATRA: To further enhance pilgrim facilities and enrich the spiritual experience, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) commenced free distribution of Prasad to all devotees paying obeisance at the Holy Shrine on Sunday, following Vedic rituals and Kanya Poojan, on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri.

The initiative was formally launched by Manoj Sinha, Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), during the 76th Meeting of the Shrine Board held earlier this month.

Consequent upon the launch of the initiative, the



Shrine Board has introduced an improvised Pouch Prasad, specially designed for free distribution among pilgrims. The pouch contains dry fruits, a sacred Mouli (Kalava) and an engraved commemorative coin depicting the Holy Pindies, symbolizing the divine blessings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. The pouch has been thoughtfully de-

signed keeping in view hygiene, sanctity and ease of handling.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB stated that the free Prasad distribution has been commenced from the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri which holds immense religious significance. He informed that the distribution has been systematically organized to ensure smooth and convenient availability of Prasad to pilgrims after Darshan along the exit route of the holy Shrine.

He further emphasized that through this initiative, the Shrine Board aims to provide a sacred token of blessings to every devotee

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Unemployment ticks up to 5 pc in Jan: Survey

NEW DELHI: The rate of unemployment in the country among persons aged 15 years and above rose slightly to 5 per cent in January this year from 4.8 per cent in December 2025, according to a government survey released on Monday.

The UR (unemployment rate) or joblessness recorded a marginal increase in January in both rural and urban areas, showed the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). The data also showed lower labour force participation rate (LFPR) as well as workers population ratio (WPR) across the rural and urban areas.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, said in a statement that

Govt orders survey to map drug abuse

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government will conduct a survey on drug abuse in 10 districts of the Union territory as it has launched a community rehabilitation programme, Circle of Care, to support de-addiction counsellors in every village, officials said on Monday.

The government is further strengthening the programme to make primary care the first line of treatment for addiction-related disorders, with plans to increase inpatient ATFs and develop long-term rehabilitation facilities in one region of Jammu and Kashmir, she said.

A survey will soon be launched in 10 districts of the Union territory to study substance use disorders in depth. The survey will be

part of a national exercise on substance use disorder," Minister for Health Sakina Itoor said.

She further said that the government has launched the Circle of Care to support de-addiction counsellors in every village. "About 600 counsellors from the health, education and other departments have been trained under the initiative," she said.

The government is further strengthening the programme to make primary care the first line of treatment for addiction-related disorders, with plans to increase inpatient ATFs and develop long-term rehabilitation facilities in one region of Jammu and Kashmir, she said.

On the de-addiction front, the minister

Woman arrested, daughter booked over espionage

MEERUT (UP): A woman was arrested on Monday and her daughter booked for allegedly spying for Pakistan's ISI and residing in the country without valid citizenship, the Meerut police said.

According to the police, Ruksana, a resident of the Delhi Gate police station area, submitted a complaint to the Senior Superintendent of Police and the Additional Superintendent of Police (City), alleging that Saba Farhat, who lives in Nadir Ali Building in Jali Kothi, had travelled to Pakistan in 1988 and married a Pakistani national, Farhat Masood, there.

The complaint stated that her daughter, Aiman Farhat, who was born in Pakistan in 1993, was brought to India in a Pakistani passport and later enrolled in a school

Rs 209 Cr interstate online investment scam busted; kingpin among 9 caught

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police has unearthed a Rs 209 crore interstate online investment scam in Ganderbal district, and arrested nine persons, including the kingpin from Delhi, officials said on Monday.

"So far, police have collected details of 835 accounts and verified transactions of 290 accounts, wherein Rs 209 crore was received from various investors across India. The amount is likely to cross Rs 400 crore upon complete verification," a police spokesman said.

The transnational racket used phishing and fake trading platforms to dupe the victims, he said.

Among the nine persons



held was the kingpin of the racket -- a doctor from Haryana -- who was arrested at Delhi airport, he said.

Acting on a complaint by Firdous Ahmad Mir, police in Ganderbal launched a probe into allegations of identity theft and cheating by a gang of online fraudsters.

Ganderbal SSP Khalid Ahmad Poswal constituted a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the matter, roping in ex-

counts of persons hailing from Budgam, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Baramulla and multiple other places, the spokesman said.

All such accounts were under the control of the fraudsters, who immediately transferred the invested amount into accounts outside Jammu and Kashmir and even outside the country by way of multiple layering to prevent detection, he said.

The main handler of the nexus has been identified as Ekant Yoddutt alias Dr Moraine, a resident of Hisar in Haryana.

The accused learnt these techniques while doing his MBBS in the Philippines. He also had multiple links with Chinese nationals, the spokesman said. The kingpin conspired with Mohd

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