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NDA govt ...

implement the law even before the delimitation exercise actually materialises, another amendment to the Constitution will be required. The government is expected to amend the law in this effect in the three-day sitting of Parliament.

Modi had also urged all political parties to fully support it with an open mind and without political calculations, since "this is an issue related to women's empowerment".

He had asked them to "become partners in winning the trust of the country's mothers and sisters".

Additionally, PM Modi today wished for the excellent health of all fellow citizens and urged everyone to make all possible effort to keep themselves healthy.

On the occasion of World Health Day, he also expressed gratitude to all those who dedicate themselves tirelessly to the service of others and work towards a healthier planet.

"On World Health Day, I wish for the excellent health of all my fellow citizens. I urge everyone to make every possible effort to keep themselves healthy," he said in a post on X in Hindi.

The prime minister also reaffirmed his government's commitment to building a healthier society.

"Let us all keep working together to strengthen healthcare systems and prioritise well-being of every individual," he said.

The World Health Day is celebrated annually on April 7, marking the anniversary of the founding of WHO in 1948.

On this day, each year WHO draws attention to a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world.

Modern courts ...

integrated judicial complex. A detailed presentation outlining the key aspects of the project was delivered in the meeting, where NBCC officials informed that the project is being executed in multiple phases to ensure structured development and optimal resource utilisation.

The chief minister also reviewed proposals for the redevelopment of the Lower Court Complex in Srinagar, the spokesperson added.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary PWD, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Commissioner Secretary Law Achal Sethi, Director General Codes Mahesh Das, Director General Budget, senior officers, and representatives of NBCC.

Stressing the importance of robust judicial infrastructure, the CM directed officials to ensure strict adherence to timelines, quality benchmarks, and transparency in execution.

He called for regular monitoring and resolution of bottlenecks, particularly in approvals, fund flow, and on-ground coordination.

CM observed that modern court infrastructure is essential for efficient justice delivery and public trust in the legal system, and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening institutional capacity across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

Omar listens ...

Khan Gurezi (Gurez), Shabir Ahmed Kullay (Shopian), Javid Mirehal (Karnah), Thakur Randhir Singh (Kalakote-Sundarbani), Mehar Ali (Kangan), Balwant Singh Mankotia (Chenani), Mir Saifullah (Trehgam), Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi (Pampore), Qaysar Jamsheed Lone (Lolab), and Dr Sajad Shafi Uri (Uri) also met the Chief Minister.

They apprised him of various pressing demands, developmental concerns, and public grievances pertaining to their respective constituencies, and urged for their early resolution, emphasizing that most of the issues raised were of public importance.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the visiting legislators and assured them that all genuine issues would be addressed on priority.

He reiterated that his government is committed to ensuring equitable and inclusive development.

West Asia ...

floors of multi-storey buildings, remaining indoors and coordinating any highway movement strictly with the embassy," the mission said.

"Those in embassy-hired hotels should stay put indoors while maintaining regular contact with on-site embassy teams. All are requested to monitor official updates closely," it said.

The embassy said its emergency numbers remain operational.

According to official data, around 9,000 Indians, including students, were in Iran when the conflict began following strikes on Iranian targets by Israel and the US on February 28. Nearly 1,800 Indians have returned to India so far.

LG inaugurates ...

operational efficiency through its robust infrastructure and enhanced customer interface areas.

The integrated and technology-enabled business centre will be pivotal in driving efficiency, deepening market penetration and supporting J&K Bank's vision of sustainable and inclusive expansion across geographies.

Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank also apprised the Lieutenant Governor of the Bank's strong financial performance, highlighting that the Bank's business has crossed Rs 2.90 lakh crore.

"The commissioning of the regional business centre is not merely an expansion of physical infrastructure, but a decisive step towards strengthening our business architecture in a key growth region," he said.

He said the new regional business centre will enhance the bank's presence in the Jammu region while reinforcing its commitment to modernising infrastructure in line with evolving customer expectations and business needs.

The new premise houses a currency chest, a state-of-the-art branch, multiple departmental offices, and dedicated operational and administrative units, significantly enhancing administrative and back-end support.

This facility will enable faster decision-making, improved coordination and superior customer service, the spokesman said.

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Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Sudhir Gupta, Executive Director, J&K Bank; R.K Chhibber and Arun Gandotra, Directors on Board of J&K Bank; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Chief General Managers, Divisional Head, General Managers and other office bearers of the Bank, senior officials of the Industries and other line departments attended the inaugural ceremony.

NH 44 ...

rains in the Ramban-Banihal sector are making the task difficult.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir authorities on Tuesday issued a 'medium danger' avalanche warning for the higher reaches of Ganderbal and Kupwara districts in view of a fresh wet spell in the Valley.

"Avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur above 2600 metres over Ganderbal and Kupwara in the next 24 hours," an official of the Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority said here.

People living in these areas were advised not to venture into vulnerable areas till the advisory is in force.

The warning was issued in the wake of a spell of rain in the plains and snowfall in the higher reaches of Kashmir.

Heavy rains lashed the Jammu region today, triggering cold wave-like conditions with day temperatures plunging up to 7.2 degrees Celsius below normal, while landslides forced the closure of the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that an active western disturbance has impacted the region for 36 hours, bringing widespread rainfall, a sharp fall in temperatures and disruption to normal life.

Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 23.2 degrees Celsius, which is 7.2 degrees below normal, marking a significant dip under persistent cloudy and rainy conditions, as per the IMD.

Similar trends were recorded across the region, including Katra at 20.5 degrees Celsius (6.7 degrees below normal), Batote at 14.2 degrees Celsius (5.8 degrees below normal), Bhaderwah at 16.6 degrees Celsius (5.2 degrees below normal) and Banihal at 17.1 degrees Celsius (3.2 degrees below normal), it said.

Heavy rains continued intermittently in most districts, leading to waterlogging in some areas and a chill in the air, officials said.

The rainfall activity remained pronounced across the Jammu division, with Katra recording the highest precipitation of 7.8 mm between 0830 and 1730 hours, followed by Jammu at 5.8 mm, Bhaderwah at 3.0 mm and Batote at 2.4 mm. Banihal also received 0.9 mm of rainfall during the same period.

The highway linking Kashmir with the rest of the country was closed after multiple landslides hit stretches between Digdol and Khooni Nallah in Ramban district.

"Traffic movement has been stopped in both directions -- from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice versa -- due to a heavy landslide. The road is completely blocked," a traffic police spokesperson said.

Despite inclement weather, the pilgrimage to the revered Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine continued without major disruption, officials said.

The IMD has warned that two back-to-back western disturbances will affect northwest India, with peak intensity expected on April 7 and 8 over Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

It has issued a heavy rain alert and cautioned about moderate to high risk of flash floods in parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Uttarakhand over the next 24 hours.

Rising humidity levels also reflected the prevailing moist conditions, with Jammu recording an increase from 53 per cent in the morning to 88 per cent in the evening.

In contrast, the Kashmir Valley witnessed comparatively lesser rainfall activity, with most stations recording either dry weather or light precipitation. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 17.3 degrees Celsius, 1.5 notches below normal, while Qazigund and Kukernag registered minor rainfall over the past 24 hours.

The department is closely monitoring the system and has advised people to remain cautious, especially in hilly and landslide-prone areas, as intermittent rainfall may continue to impact normal life.

The weather department advised people to remain cautious, particularly in landslide-prone and hilly areas, as intermittent rainfall, gusty winds and thunderstorms may continue over the next couple of days.

Authorities have also issued advisories in several districts, including Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar and Poonch, warning of possible landslides, flash floods and shooting stones, and urging residents and travellers to follow official guidelines.

LeT racket ...

residents identified as Mohammad Nazeem Bhat, Adil Rashid Bhat, and Ghulam Mohammad Mir alias Mama, were among the five arrested. They are accused of providing shelter, food and logistical support to the terrorists.

The two Pakistani terrorists are categorised as 'A+' grade militants and the officials said they infiltrated India approximately 16 years ago and remained active across various districts of the Kashmir Valley, commanding around 40 foreign terrorists over the years, most of whom have since been neutralised, the officials said.

Forged documents with addresses from other states were recovered from Abdullah and Usman, indicating the use of false identities to facilitate movement outside the valley. Probe findings also suggest that one foreign terrorist managed to travel outside the country on a valid passport made from the forged documents.

More arrests could be in the offing with investigation in progress to identify additional associates, financiers, facilitators, safe houses and inter-state linkages, they said.

Incriminating material has been seized from several hideouts in various parts of Srinagar and other cities. These include three AK-47 rifles, one AK-Krinkov rifle, pistols, hand grenades, electronic equipment and gadgets, the officials said.

Besides, forged documents with addresses located in other states have also been recovered from Abdullah and Usman, indicating the use of false identities and possible facilitation channels outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The elaborate network began to unravel on March 31 when the first of the three Srinagar residents, Nazeem Bhat, was arrested from Pandach area along with a pistol and other incriminating material.

During his questioning, he said that he was part of the LeT and procured the arms and ammunition from another associate, Adil Rashid of Zakoora. He also provided support to foreign terrorists, the officials said.

From Bhat, police were led to Mir and Rashid Bhat, both active associates in Srinagar. The officials said the probe indicates that a foreign terrorist managed to travel outside the country on the basis of forged documents and identity with the help of the Lashkar-e-Taiba network in other states.

During the investigation, following disclosures from those arrested, various hideouts were also busted in forested areas in and around Srinagar.

In the earlier 'Al Falah operation' in November 2025, Srinagar police unravelled a network comprising highly educated professionals, mostly doctors, who had been radicalised to carry out terrorist activities.

One of the accused was the Al Falah university's Dr Umer-un Nabi, who was driving the explosives-laden car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10 killing more than a dozen people. He had earlier made unsuccessful attempts to join terror groups in 2016 and 2018, the officials said.

Bhagwat pitches ...

unanimous judgment," he said. Bhagwat said the apex court gave the judgment because of the "feelings" across the country. "Similarly, the same feeling should be visible for the cows. You are also making efforts, we are also making efforts."

The decades-long struggle for the Ram temple in Ayodhya ended in 2019 with the Supreme Court judgment.

A 'bhoomi puja' ritual at the temple construction site was held in August 2020 in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, followed by a 'pran pratishtha' ceremony in January 2024.

According to a statement issued after the event by the organisers, Bhagwat said he had no doubt India would become a

world leader.

"India, taking inspiration from its saints and its spiritual values, will provide a new direction to the world," Bhagwat said.

On the unrest in West Asia, the RSS chief said that the time has now come for "India to emerge as a 'Vishva Guru' and to make a new, happy, and beautiful world."

Bhagwat stressed the need for enlightenment for everyone and urged the people to observe not only the words of the saints, but also the sentiments underlying them.

He said that for 452 years, the Maluk Peeth kept the tradition of Saint Maluk Das alive. Everyone should draw lessons from the philosophy of life from this example.

"There cannot be (any) religion without truth and compassion. Everyone should live together in harmony. Compassion enters one's life when the suffering of others feels like one's own suffering," he said.

Responding to Mahant Rajendra Das Maharaj's demand for a complete ban on cow slaughter, Bhagwat said transform society into devotees of the cow, and cow slaughter will stop on its own.

"Empower... This would be a courageous step. Cow products will be taken to every single person. The Sangh will work in this direction," he added.

CAG flags ...

It said contractual appointments exceeded permissible limits, with 121 contractual teachers engaged against the norm of 10 per cent of total faculty strength. In some cases, salaries of contractual staff for self-financing courses were paid from government funds, in violation of rules.

Irregular appointments of those without the requisite teaching experience were made to the posts of readers and associate professors, compromising the minimum standards set for maintaining quality education as prescribed by the UGC.

In the absence of comprehensive recruitment rules, the university also lacked a uniform policy for career advancement of non-teaching staff.

The audit highlighted that while a three-tier career progression scheme existed for some positions, academic grade pay and Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) benefits meant for teaching staff were extended to select non-teaching posts, treating them as non-vacation academic positions.

Additionally, the UGC's Career Advancement Scheme was applied to certain non-teaching roles by equating them with assistant registrars and deputy registrars, leading to irregular financial upgradations. "These benefits were, in some cases, granted retrospectively, placing an additional burden on the state exchequer," it said.

Recommending corrective measures, the CAG urged the university to establish a well-defined, fair and transparent recruitment policy. It also called for the finalisation of recruitment rules for all posts with clearly defined promotion stages to ensure probity and transparency.

A lecturer was appointed on a lien-bound vacancy and was retrospectively granted 2.5 years of past service for promotion despite a five-month break, leading to an undue benefit of Rs 16.25 lakh. Another lecturer's corporate service during extraordinary leave was counted for increments and CAS, causing excess payment of Rs 19.63 lakh due to higher pay fixation.

A section officer from another university was temporarily deputed against a non-existent post in 2007 and later absorbed as media officer without approvals.

A contractual employee was appointed as an officer in 2009, ignoring more qualified candidates, while another over-age candidate was appointed as a landscape development officer in 2013 with irregular age relaxation.

The university irregularly engaged 607 casual and contractual staff (2002-2011) without vacancies, in which a 2012 probe found malafide intent and procedural lapses, and also converted 16 typist posts into computer assistants (2014), appointing 10 and regularising four daily wagers to such posts later.

Further, 26 assistant professors were wrongly granted advance increments for PhDs under inapplicable rules, leading to irregular benefits.

The report underscored the need for urgent reforms to improve governance, ensure compliance with UGC norms, and maintain academic standards in the university.

It further stressed the need to adopt a uniform policy for career advancement of non-teaching staff to address disparities and ensure equitable growth opportunities within the institution.

ACB nabs ...

complaint and after conducting discreet verification, the allegations were found prima facie substantiated. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 01/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) read with Section 61 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 was registered at Police Station ACB Baramulla and investigation was set into motion."

The spokesperson added, During the course of investigation, a team of ACB laid a successful trap and apprehended both the accused public servants for demanding and accepting bribe from the complainant. The accused were taken into custody on the spot after completing necessary legal formalities.

Further investigation in the case is going on.

J-K proves ...

Development Mission, Leena Pada, lauded the achievement and dedicated this success to the officials who worked tirelessly to ensure effective implementation of the program. She termed it a significant milestone for the Union Territory's evolving skill development ecosystem.

Secretary Skill Development, Rajeev Ranjan Kumar, also lauded the achievement and congratulated the students for their hard work and dedication.

With the focused guidance of the Deputy Chief Minister, Jammu and Kashmir has been steadily strengthening its skilling initiatives, leading to notable accomplishments at national-level skill competitions.

It is pertinent to mention that earlier, Jammu and Kashmir's talent had delivered an impressive performance at the India Skills North Regional Competition 2025.

Jammu and Kashmir's strong performance at the National India Skills Competition 2025-26 continued as 57 candidates participated, bagging 27 medals including 2 Gold, 3 Silver, 9 Bronze and 13 Medallions of Excellence across various skills like Fashion Technology, Bricklaying and Software Testing.

Out of 63 skills, the Union Territory participated in 28 skills, reflecting both strong representation and competitive performance. This continued success is expected to inspire many more young aspirants to pursue excellence in vocational skills and represent Jammu and Kashmir at national and international platforms.

Pakissues..

The spokesperson said a high-level review meeting was held on Tuesday at the Punjab Home Department to finalise security and hospitality arrangements for the pilgrims arriving from India and other parts of the world.

ETPB Additional Secretary Shrinves Nasir Mushtaq said the board has ensured comfortable accommodation in well-decorated marquees, quality bedding, clean drinking water, air conditioning, and proper washroom facilities at the gurdwaras and residential sites.

"Foolproof security arrangements will be in place at all religious sites and surrounding areas," he said.

Baisakhi, or Vaisakhi, is celebrated on the first day of the month of Vaisakh and also marks the beginning of the harvest season.

Omar reminds ...

we will take it to Kolkata," Asif had said while speaking to reporters in Sialkot.

Abdullah said it has not even been a full year post Operation Sindoor, "yet they are unnecessarily forcing us to remind them of the kind of situation that had developed earlier.

"Forget Kolkata -- they could barely reach Jammu, and even in Jammu, they did not cause any significant damage. They could not even reach the country's capital. I think they should forget about their dream of reaching Kolkata; it would be better for them," Abdullah said.

He said it would be in their best interest to try to improve relations, as strained ties harm them more than India.

"Just consider this -- our planes are still flying, and we have not told any international airline that we do not have fuel. Look at the situation in Pakistan; they are telling airlines that they are welcome to come, but must arrive with enough fuel, as they cannot provide it locally. That is their condition," he said.

The chief minister said instead of issuing threats about Kolkata, it would be better if Pakistan's leaders played a role in creating more favourable conditions.

On the arrest of five LeT terrorists, including two Pakistani nationals, the chief minister said, "It is good that the module was busted, but at the same time, it raises an important question -- where did they come from and why did they come?"

"We are repeatedly told that terrorism has ended and that it no longer exists. However, such modules continue to be busted, and foreign terrorists are still being found. Therefore, somewhere we need to further strengthen our surveillance and make efforts to identify and fill any loopholes or gaps that remain," the chief minister said.

Meanwhile, Omar Abdullah today emphasized that the establishment of Centres of Excellence in agriculture and allied sectors is aimed at providing high-quality plant material and seeds to farmers, enabling them to significantly enhance their earnings.

The Chief Minister made these remarks after inaugurating the Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship in Precision Vegetable and Floriculture Farming at Talab Tillo, developed under NABARD at a project cost of ₹5.929 crore.

Last year in August, the foundation stone for this facility was laid by the Chief Minister on August 4, 2025.

Today, following the inauguration, the Chief Minister took a detailed tour of the facility and appreciated the Agriculture Production Department for establishing the hi-tech infrastructure in a record time.

Addressing farmers on the occasion, the Chief Minister spoke about the growing challenges in agriculture due to changing climatic conditions and the need for modern interventions.

"In today's world, being a farmer is not an easy task. It may have never been easy, but it may not have been as difficult as it is today. Because whether a farmer trusts anything or not, he had faith in the weather. But the circumstances of the world have changed so much that it would be foolishness to trust the weather today."

He said erratic weather patterns have made farming increasingly unpredictable.

"When we need rain, sometimes we don't get it. Then when the rain comes, we don't get it. We get a month's rain in 24 hours. We often sell our crops and get rain. Now, look at tomorrow. Look at Shopian and other areas. How much damage has been caused by the hailstorm."

Calling it the government's responsibility to support farmers, he said:

"Now, in these circumstances, it is the government's responsibility to help the farmers as much as possible. Now, we cannot change the weather. The weather is for everyone. But at least we should reduce the effects of the weather, the dangers of the weather."

The Chief Minister stressed measures such as crop insurance, assured irrigation and improved infrastructure to mitigate risks.

"Whether it is for crop insurance, for agriculture, and now it will be for horticulture. Assured water supply through irrigation."

He also highlighted the importance of strengthening irrigation at the grassroots level.

"Often there is a complaint that we clean the big canals, but we don't pay attention to the small canals that deliver water to the tail end. This time, I have told the minister concerned and officials that we will have to clean the last part of the canals, the tail end, so that the water reaches the farmers and the farmers can do their farming properly."

Emphasizing the critical role of quality inputs, the Chief Minister said:

"As long as we provide plant material to the farmers, as long as we do not provide the proper quality of the seed, it is injustice to the farmers. Because the poor farmer puts the seed in the ground, then works hard and if the seed is not of the right quality then all the hard work of the farmer is wasted."

He said the newly established Centre of Excellence would address this gap.

"This is the purpose of this high-tech polyhouse that we have made today, this Centre of Excellence... The farmers will have faith in that plant material that yes, after doing his hard work, the crop that will grow from here, I will get the full benefit of it when I sell this thing in the market."

Lauding the department for timely execution of the project, he congratulated the Agriculture Department, the Minister, the Additional Chief Secretary, and all the officers.

The Chief Minister called for replication of such facilities across districts.

"In the same way, this should be done in the other districts so that the right quality plant material can be delivered to us at the right time."

Reiterating the government's commitment, he said: "Whatever resources I have, whether it is finance, planning... however much we can help the Agriculture Production Department, we will definitely do it."

He assured continued support to farmers and local representatives.

"We will try our best to strengthen the hands of our people who are involved in agriculture and increase their earnings... we will do our best to serve their area," he said.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under the HADP scheme.

Speaking at the event, Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmed Dar said that Centres of Excellence would be established in all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, as announced in Budget 2026-27, adding that significant progress in the agriculture and allied sectors would be visible within the next 2-3 years.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani expressed hope that other projects would also be completed in record time, stating that the government believes in delivering results on the ground.

He noted that while most of J&K's population resides in rural areas and traditionally practices farming, the adoption of modern techniques would significantly boost the region's economy.

MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta thanked the Chief Minister for completing the facility in record time and said that the people have high expectations from the Omar Abdullah led government

Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture Production Department Ashish Chander Verma, Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta, Director J&K Horticulture Produce, Marketing and Processing Corporation Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, senior officers, and a large number of farmers were present on the occasion.