

Modi: PMJDY has had unmatched impact, transformative outcomes

From 14.7 Cr Jan Dhan accounts in 2015 to 59 Cr in 2026, India has expanded formal banking access



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which completed 12 years on Friday, has had an unparalleled impact and transformative outcomes.

Launched by Modi as one of his very first programmes on August 28, 2014, the

PMJDY has witnessed a transformation in India's financial landscape, and the scheme has become a torchbearer for financial inclusion worldwide. As the world's largest financial inclusion initiative, PMJDY continues to redefine access to banking for all Indians.

The PMJDY ensures that every unbanked adult ► P11

PM on two nations visit from today

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan from August 29 to September 1, during which he will hold delegation-level talks and attend the 26th SCO Summit.

At the SCO Summit to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from August 31 to September 1, Modi will highlight India's priorities of security, connectivity and opportunity and will also hold bilateral meetings with SCO leaders on the sidelines of the ► P11

Exam Reforms: Task Force calls for suggestions

NEW DELHI: A high-powered task force, set up by the Centre amid the recent protests by student bodies over paper leak allegations at the Jantar Mantar, on Friday invited public suggestions on comprehensive reforms in public examinations, including measures to fix accountability and strengthen institutional arrangements.

The Centre in July announced the constitution of the six-member high-powered task force (HPTF) chaired by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani to examine and recommend reforms related to the ► P11

Politician booked for duping man of Rs 8.25L

SRINAGAR: A "political leader" was booked on cheating and fraud charges in Anantnag district on Friday, police said.

Anantnag Police has registered the case based on a written complaint filed by Waheed Ahmad Itoo, a resident of Hassan Noor in Aishmuqam, who is currently residing at Government Degree College Boys Hostel in Khanabal.

In his complaint, Itoo alleged that Aabid ► P11

J&K sets target of 11,000 MW hydropower capacity by 2035



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir is set to witness a major transformation in its power landscape, with the Government charting a comprehensive, time-bound roadmap to raise its operational hydropower generation capacity to 10,969.65 MW by December 2035,

more than three times the present installed capacity of 3,540.15 MW.

The ambitious roadmap, aimed at strengthening energy security, reducing dependence on external power and creating the foundation for long-term economic growth, was reviewed in detail during a high-level meeting chaired by ► P11

Nepal-Tibet Flash Floods Death toll surges to 579; 320 Indians still missing

“At least 320 Indians remain missing and around 400 others are stranded on the Chinese side.

KATHMANDU: The death toll from flash floods in central Nepal rose to 579 on Friday, with more bodies recovered as search and rescue operations resume at full pace after a brief slowdown due to fear of fresh floods following an increase in the water level in the Bhotekoshi River area.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said rising water levels at the site of a devastating flash flood earlier this week increased the risk of another flood in the area.

"The water level mixed with mud has increased at the same place where the flash flood occurred on

Wednesday, and there is a risk of more flooding in the area," the NDRRMA said.

The warning came after a massive flash flood swept through Rasuwa and other parts of central Nepal on Wednesday, killing hundreds and causing widespread damage to settlements, roads, bridges and hydropower infrastructure.

The NDRRMA urged people involved in search and rescue operations, as well as those staying in the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli areas for various reasons, to remain highly alert and immediately move to safer places if they face any risk.

Nepal Police on Friday said 579 bodies were recovered from eight districts of the Himalayan nation, with thousands still missing.

According to the police, 233 dead bodies have been recovered from Chitwan district, 154 from Nawalparasi East, 46 from Gorkha and 40 from Dhading ► P11



57-day Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra concludes with rituals, prayers

Over 4.80 lakh pilgrims undertook pilgrimage

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SRINAGAR: The 57-day annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra formally concluded on Friday with the arrival of the 'Chhari-Mubarak' -- the saffron-robed holy mace of Lord Shiva -- at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas for special prayers, officials said.

The conclusion of the yatra, which began on July 3, coincided with the festival of Raksha Bandhan and came nearly three weeks after the pilgrimage was suspended for the year on August 9 due to damage to the track and adverse weather conditions.

The 'Chhari-Mubarak', carried by a group of sadhus led by its custodian Mahant

Dipendra Giri, reached the holy cave in the early hours of Friday after the group trekked six kilometres from the Sheshnag halting station, officials said.

Special prayers were held at the cave shrine following the arrival of the holy mace. The shrine houses the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, considered the ► P11

Anti-terror ops top priority for police: IGP Sujit Kumar

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A day after taking over as the inspector general of police (IGP), Kashmir, Sujit Kumar on Friday said anti-terror operations are a top priority for the force.

"Operations were our top priority earlier and they continue to be our top priority now as well," Kumar told reporters at Hazratbal when asked about anti-terror operations, including the arrest of Over Ground Workers of terror outfits and multiple recoveries.

The police chief of the Kashmir valley visited the Hazratbal shrine to review the deployment of police and paramilitary forces on the Friday following Eid Milad-Un-



Nabi.

"I took charge on Thursday and on Friday, we are here to inspect the deployment of our police team and ensure coordination with

other agencies. Similarly, we are also visiting and reviewing other parts of Srinagar where there are large gatherings," Kumar said.

The new IGP ► P11

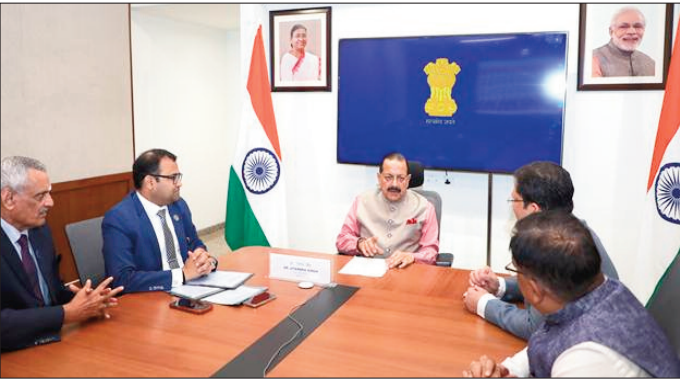


Sanatan Parampara: A sister from Gujar community of J&K ties Rakhi onto the wrist of Rajesh Gupta, Vishva Hindu Parishad president of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh UTs, to mark the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan. The celebrations reflect the commitment of protection of sisters by brothers and affection associated with the festival.

Good corporate governance central to India's development: Dr Jitendra

NEW DELHI: "Good Corporate governance is central to India's development," Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said during today's interaction with a delegation of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), which called on him to invite as the Guest of Honour at the presentation ceremony of the 26th ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, to be held in 2027.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the importance of good corporate



governance and professional excellence, and underscored the expanding role of Company Secre-

taries in India's governance ecosystem. He emphasised that professionals in the ► P11

India to procure Javelin anti-tank guided missile systems from US

NEW DELHI: India has sealed a deal with the US to procure Javelin anti-tank guided missile systems to bolster the Indian Army's combat prowess.

US Ambassador Sergio Gor said the agreement reflects a bilateral defence partnership that is growing "deeper, more capable, and more consequential."

It is not immediately known the number of Javelin anti-tank guided missile systems India is procuring or the overall cost of the procurement.

The United States welcomes the Indian Army's signing of a Letter ► P11

Worker 'sacked' post-arrest in minor's rape-murder case

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A sanitation worker at a district hospital in Kishtwar was dismissed from service after his arrest in an alleged conspiracy to conceal sexual assault and termination of pregnancy of a 15-year-old tribal girl, officials said.

Police arrested the accused, a daily-wager employed as a sweeper at the hospital, on Wednesday after he was named as an accused in the case, prompting the hospital authorities to terminate his service with

immediate effect.

"Police informed us about his arrest. He was dismissed from service on Thursday," Medical Superintendent Yudhveer Singh Kotwal told reporters.

Kotwal, who issued the termination order, said Ahmed's continuation in service was considered incompatible with the discipline, integrity and functioning of a public health institution in view of the serious nature of the allegations and offences involved.

Kotwal clarified that Ahmed has been ► P11

Rift Widens: MP Mehdi takes on NC leadership over Art 370

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Amid reports suggesting that his formal resignation could come on November 3, estranged National Conference Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Friday said he will resign from Parliament but demanded answers on the party's shift in stand on Article 370 before stepping down.

In a two-page letter to party president Farooq Abdullah, who had asked him to seek a fresh mandate for opposing the party line, Mehdi asserted that his resignation would come "even without you asking, but before that must come accountability."

Taking to X, Mehdi said



he has written a letter to his party president in response to the latter's public demand for his resignation.

"Awaiting his response to the questions I have asked in the letter," Mehdi said in the post.

Referencing Abdullah's

recent press statement urging Kashmiris to be self-reliant rather than seeking economic concessions from the Centre, Mehdi said that those words resonated deeply with him, capturing the frustration of being expected to assume a "posture of supplication" before the BJP.

However, the Shia leader questioned why the party leadership objected when he raised the very same concerns about Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional rights.

"The uncomfortable truth is that we are not even 'begging' for Article 370; we are 'begging' for statehood – a right the Supreme Court itself has recognised," Mehdi said in his two-page letter, ► P11

PML-N's Gillani elected as PoJK's prime minister

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Iftikhar Ali Gillani was on Friday elected to the so-called post of prime minister of Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) following recent elections marred by violent protests and allegations of massive rigging.

Gillani, of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), secured 30 of the 44 votes in the so-called legislative assembly during its session in Muzaffarabad, the region's capital.

His challenger, Mukhtar Ahmed of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), secured 14 votes.

The assembly comprises 53 members, but its present strength is 46 because elections for seven seats in Poonch and Sudhnoti districts have yet to be held due

to what authorities described as a law and order situation.

Only 44 lawmakers participated in the voting on Friday as the speaker did not cast his vote while PML-N regional president Shah Ghulam Qadir skipped the assembly session due to differences with his party.

PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif on Thursday nominated Gillani for the so-called post of prime minister.

The polls in the region's so-called legislative assembly were held in three phases on July 27, August 2 and August 3 and were marred by violent protests and allegations of rigging.

Gillani was defeated from a seat he contested directly but later elected to the legislative assembly on a technocrat seat. ► P11

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