

INBRIEF

FTAs, skilling
impulses jobs
for youth: PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the government was working on multiple fronts to expand employment opportunities for the youth, citing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), skilling initiatives and a Rs 1 lakh crore employment incentive scheme aimed at bringing two crore young people into the formal workforce.

Addressing a 'Rozgar Mela' (Jobs Fair) virtually, he also said that the talent and skills of India's youth have won the trust of the entire world, which has great expectations from Indian innovators, entrepreneurs and the country's youthful strength.

"India signed 40 Free Trade Agreements. These FTAs are opening new doors of possibilities for our youth. Such trade agreements pave the way for new ► P11

Autumn Session: NC, BJP, Cong
to hold legislature meets today

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah will chair the ruling party's legislature meeting here on September 20, the eve of the autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, party chief whip Mubarak Gul said on Saturday.

In a letter to party MLAs, Gul said the meeting will also be attended by Independents supporting the government.

"I am directed to inform you that a meeting of the Hon'ble members of the Legislative Assembly belonging to the J&K National Conference and the independent members supporting the government will be held under the chairmanship of Dr Farooq Abdullah, in presence of

Fire breaks
out in District
Hosp Poonch

JAMMU: Panic gripped the district hospital in Poonch after a fire broke out in a section on Saturday, but a swift response from hospital staff and the fire and emergency services brought the blaze under control before it could spread to the wards, officials said.

There were no reports of any casualties in the incident, they said.

The fire started at around 8 am in garbage dumped outside the hospital's labour room and quickly spread, engulfing the windows of a nearby room where unused hospital equipment was stored, the officials ► P11

LG lays foundation for Mata
Lalleshwari Heritage Centre

Sinha said that this Centre will preserve timeless wisdom of Yogini Lalleshwari, promote cultural harmony & inspire future generations



JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday laid the foundation

stone of the Mata Lalleshwari Cultural Cum Heritage Centre at Mata Bhaderkali Asthan, Thalwal, Jammu. The project, sanctioned under the Capex budget with an allocation of Rs. 4.5 crore, is envisioned as a landmark initiative to preserve and promote the timeless legacy of Yogini Lalleshwari.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that Jammu Kashmir has, since ancient times, been a cradle of sages, saints and seekers of truth. The Centre, dedicated to Mata Lalleshwari, will embody India's civilisational consciousness and serve as a beacon of cultural harmony, spiritual tourism, and academic ► P11

Centre amends Inter-State Council rules
LGs to be part of meetings
if President's rule imposed

WHERE AN ORDER ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT UNDER SECTION 73 OF THE J&K REORGANISATION ACT, 2019 (34 OF 2019) IN RELATION TO THE UNION TERRITORY OF J&K IS IN FORCE, THE LG OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF J&K SHALL BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL



state of Jammu and Kashmir under section 92 of the Constitution of Jammu and Ladakh was in force.

In 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, after Article 370 was abrogated.

The 2026 order replaces that July 1990 proviso with a four-part provision. It retains the provision

for a state under Article 356, specifying that "the governor of that state shall be invited to attend the meetings of the Council."

It then adds three provisions covering Union territories with assemblies.

The amendment provides for the lieutenant governor's participation in the council meetings when the president's rule is imposed under the respective provisions of the laws governing the three Union Territories with assemblies -- Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir, and the NCT of Delhi.

For Puducherry, it provides that when an order under Section 51 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, is in force, "the lieutenant governor of the Union ► P11



Art serves as entry to inner awakening: Sinha
Lt Guv unveils statue of Acharya Abhinavagupta; launches 2 books

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha addressed a gathering in Jammu today, marking the unveiling of the statue of Acharya Abhinavagupta, the launch of the new logo of the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, the release

of two books, and the inauguration of a welfare scheme for artists and writers. The Lieutenant Governor described the occasion as the beginning of a cultural renaissance reawakening the soul of the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that the welfare scheme for artists and writ-

ers, conceived in 2021-22 and formalised in August 2024, reflects the nation's gratitude towards those who preserve collective memory through stories, songs and our priceless traditions.

"I believe that artists and writers are not only creators but also guardians of society's collective ► P11

NIA court denies bail plea of 3
in Sunjwan terror attack case

JAMMU: A special court has rejected a joint bail application of three accused arrested in a case related to an April 2022 terror attack near here ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Samba, citing the gravity of the offences and the material on record.

An assistant sub-inspector of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was killed and several security personnel were injured in the attack on their vehicle in the Sunjwan area on the outskirts of Jammu on the intervening night of April 21 and 22, 2022.

The two attackers, identified as Pakistani nationals affiliated with the proscribed terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad, were subsequently killed in retaliatory action and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was seized from them.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is probing the case. Rejecting the bail applications of the

arrested accused -- Shafeeq Ahmad Sheikh, Bilal Ahmad Wagay and Mohd Ishaq Chopan, all residents of south Kashmir -- Special Judge, NIA court, Prem Sagar, observed on September 17 that there was sufficient evidence to presume that the accusations against the accused were prima facie true.

The accused had sought bail, citing the delay in trial and their prolonged incarceration, among other grounds.

The court said the delay in trial is not good ground, particularly in militancy related cases.

"In the present case, delay in trial is not attributable to prosecution. Moreover, time and again, it has been held by apex court and different high courts that delay in trial cannot be considered as good ground for granting bail by trial court.

"Such a plea can only be raised before constitutional court and not before the trial court. So this ground for bail is outrightly rejected," the court said in its 27-page order. ► P11

Flyover-displaced traders to
get 'new' shopping complex

The upcoming shopping complex will provide alternative commercial space to traders displaced from Satwari & Nai Basti

JAMMU: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Saturday laid the foundation stone here for a new shopping complex meant for the rehabilitation of shopkeepers affected by major infrastructure development works, an official said.

The upcoming shopping

complex at Bhagwati Nagar will provide alternative commercial space to shopkeepers displaced from Satwari Chowk and Nai Basti due to the construction of the flyover, according to a spokesperson.

He said the rehabilitation initiative has been undertaken to address the concerns of shopkeepers whose existing shops had to be removed to facilitate the development of the flyover.

The affected shopkeepers have been operating from JMC-allotted shops and regularly paying rent to the Corporation.

Recognising the need to provide a structured and permanent rehabilitation solution, the JMC has taken up the construction ► P11

Omar attends closing day of
Viksit Bharat financing conf

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday attended the concluding day of the two-day high-level conference on "Financing India's Journey towards Viksit Bharat," organised by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, in New Delhi.

The conference brought together State Finance Ministers and Finance Secretaries of States and Union Territories with Legislature to deliberate on strategies for financing India's long-term development and growth.

The Chief Minister noted



the significance of the deliberations in shaping strategies for the long-term growth of the country and Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in areas

of developmental financing, agricultural marketing and renewable energy.

The conference featured deliberations by eminent ex-

perts and economists on various aspects of financing the shared vision of Viksit Bharat. The sessions covered key themes ► P11

India's GDP will rise to
USD 38 Trillion: Doval

ROORKEE: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval said on Saturday that India's GDP would increase from the current USD 4.015 trillion to USD 38 trillion in the next 20 years.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee as the chief guest, Doval said that the students are fortunate to be living in a transformative era where their future holds great promise.

Citing the example of Lord Ram, the NSA urged students to be courageous in their lives. He said that sage Vishwamitra chose Lord Ram to annihilate demons

because of his courageous nature.

"Massive changes are taking place in India, and the country is moving towards a magnificent future," the NSA said.

"As the prime minister has termed the period leading up to 2047 as 'Amrit Kaal', it is truly a wonderful Amrit Kaal. India's current GDP stands at USD 4.015 trillion, and it will reach USD 38 trillion in the next 20 years," Doval added.

"The Current generation is the luckiest with abundant opportunities, unlike past struggles. This is the age of technology, engineering, and ► P11

President Trump
signs Sanctioning
Russia & Iran Act

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump signed the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, which seeks to impose steep levies on Moscow and its top energy buyers such as China and India.

"On Friday, September 18, 2026, the President signed into law: H.R. 5334, the 'Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026,' which authorizes and expands statutory sanctions, tariffs, and prohibitions on Russia and extends existing ► P11

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PURE VEGETARIAN

GI Tagged
Jammu Basmati

GI Tagged
Bhadarwahi Rajmah

Jammu
KA ASLI
COMFORT
FOOD

ESPATO SPECIAL

RAIYMA CHOUL

with Cow Desi Ghee