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Rajnath to ...

education, emergency services, and economic opportunities — a fundamental shift for some of the most remote communities in the Union Territory.

Even as Rajnath Singh dedicates 125 projects across several states, his visit to Ladakh carries unique weight. Ladakh has emerged as the canvas where India's infrastructure ambitions meet its strategic imperatives.

The BRO's engineering triumphs in the region — whether high-altitude roads, bridges, or now the landmark Shayok Tunnel — reflect the nation's determination to fortify its frontiers with resilience and modernity.

This year's ceremony is not just about celebrating infrastructure; it is about recognising Ladakh's central role in shaping India's security landscape and acknowledging the people who live at the nation's highest and toughest borders.

As Rajnath Singh prepares to unveil these 125 projects, the spotlight will inevitably remain on Ladakh — a land where every kilometre built strengthens the country, deepens national integration, and honours the spirit of communities that have long served as India's first line of strength.

Lt. Gen. Raghu Srinivasan, Director General of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), informed the Lt Governor about the preparations underway for the inauguration of the Shayok Tunnel by the Defence Minister, a major milestone in Ladakh's infrastructure development.

He also detailed the construction and progress being made by BRO's key projects: Project Himank, Project Vijayak, and Project Yojak.

Ladakh University ...

with faculty from forensic science. Representing RRU, Director of the J&K Campus, Dr Mahesh Tripathi, and accompanying faculty members expressed a strong commitment to sharing the university's specialised strengths in national security education, law enforcement sciences and advanced training methodologies. Officials from both sides voiced optimism that the forthcoming MoU will bring sustained academic innovation, structured research collaborations and professionally oriented training programs addressing contemporary national and global challenges.

The formal signing of the agreement is expected soon, marking what university leaders described as a major step toward broadening learning horizons and employment prospects for the youth and academic community of Ladakh.

Wintervacation...

The extended break is expected to provide students a safe period away from harsh weather while allowing schools time to prepare for the next academic session. The CEO's office has directed all principals, headmasters, and education officers across the district to take note of the change and ensure compliance

Modi, Putin ...

red-carpet welcome with Modi personally receiving him at the airport and later hosting a private dinner for him that largely set the tone for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. A joint statement released following the summit said Modi and Putin unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism as unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation. "They also called for concerted actions against all UN-listed terrorist groups and entities, including Al Qaeda, ISIS/Daesh and their affiliates, aimed at rooting out terrorists' safe havens, countering the spread of terrorist ideology, eliminating terrorist financing channels and their nexus with transnational crime, and halting cross-border movement of terrorists," it said. It said the sides called for an "uncompromising fight" against international terrorism and extremism in all their forms and manifestations, noting the importance of increasing cooperation in this area without hidden agendas and double standards on the solid basis of international law and the UN Charter. "Besides, they stressed the need for firm implementation of relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, as well as the balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy," it said. India and Russia also emphasised the primary responsibility of states and their competent authorities in combating terrorism.

"They called for a zero-tolerance policy on terrorism and expeditious finalization and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UN framework, as well as implementation of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council resolutions on countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism," the joint statement said. The two sides also recalled the special meeting of the UN Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee held in India in October 2022 and referred to the unanimously adopted Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. India and Russia noted that the declaration aimed to cover the main concerns surrounding the terrorist exploitation of information and communications technology, such as payment technologies, social media platforms and fundraising methods and misuse of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or drones). "Both sides also expressed their readiness to develop further cooperation in this field with a special focus on preventing radicalisation and the spread of extremist ideology in the online space," the statement said. The two sides also noted the close coordination between India and Russia on Afghanistan. They emphasised the important role of the Moscow Format meetings. Modi and Putin welcomed the counter-terrorism measures against international terrorist groups, including ISIS and ISKP (Islamic State -- Khorasan Province) and their affiliates, and expressed confidence that the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan would be comprehensive and effective. "They stressed the need to ensure urgent and uninterrupted humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people," the joint statement said. Meanwhile, PM Modi exuded confidence that the USD

100 billion bilateral trade target between India and Russia will be achieved ahead of 2030.

Speaking at the India-Russia Business Forum, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Modi invited Russian businesses to 'come and Make In India...and partner with India'.

The Prime Minister recalled that last year, President Putin and he set a target of reaching USD 100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.

"However, after further discussions with President Putin and considering the tremendous potential in our partnership, I am confident that we will achieve this target well ahead of schedule. We are making rapid progress towards this goal," Modi said.

He further said that simplified and predictable mechanisms are being created for businesses, and discussions have begun on the FTA between India and the Eurasian Economic Union.

Whether it is business or diplomacy, the foundation of any partnership is mutual trust, he noted.

"The greatest strength of India-Russia relations is this trust. It is this trust that gives direction to our joint efforts and also provides momentum," the Prime Minister said, adding that this is the launchpad that gives inspiration to take flight towards new dreams and aspirations.

He noted that India is a global leader in affordable, efficient electric vehicles, two-wheelers, and CNG mobility solutions, while Russia is a major producer of advanced materials.

By partnering in EV manufacturing, automotive components, and shared mobility technologies, the two countries can not only meet their domestic demands but also contribute to the development of the Global South, Modi said.

President Putin said Russia is for strengthening its multifaceted relations with India in various fields.

He also said that Russian companies are ready to increase purchases of a wide range of goods and services from India.

Ladakh's youngest ...

the DIET, Leh faculty was recognized as instrumental in this achievement.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Bhanu Prabha expressed her unwavering support for the initiative.

She commended the work done so far and set forth a clear expectation for the development of Bhoti language textbooks up to the 12th standard, urging the team to prioritize and establish a definitive timeline for this expansion.

This event signifies a firm commitment by the UT Ladakh School Education Department to nurture linguistic identity and provide quality educational resources in the Bhoti language, paving the way for a robust multilingual educational framework in the region.

J&K UTLBC ...

occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of banking institutions in driving financial awareness and urged them to further intensify outreach initiatives. He encouraged people to keep their bank records updated, complete KYC formalities, and maintain regular account activity.

Participants were briefed about the RBI's UDGM portal, which enables citizens to trace unclaimed deposits across banks. It was highlighted that an amount of Rs 6.15 crore lies as unclaimed deposits in 30899 accounts in Ramban district. Awareness was also created about key social security schemes including PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY.

A major highlight of the programme was the distribution of cheques amounting to Rs 15.43 lakh to 13 beneficiaries, handed over by the Deputy Commissioner after successful claim settlements.

Kishtwar Camp: A district-level Mega Facilitation Camp was today organised by the Lead Bank Office (Kishtwar) at the Conference Hall of the New DC Office Complex. The camp witnessed a good public participation.

Deputy Commissioner (Kishtwar) Pankaj Kumar Sharma - who was also the chief guest – presided over the event in the presence of RBI LDO Amandeep Singh, LIC Officer Sandeep Sen, J&K Bank Cluster Head Khurshid Akhoo, SBI Chief Manager (Kishtwar Main Branch) Sanjeev Bagati, PNB Branch Manager Harsimrandeep Singh, J&K Grameen Bank Branch Manager Nikhil, and officials from SBI Life and PNB MetLife. Branch Heads of J&K Bank branches at Kishtwar, Hidyal, TP Branch, Nagseni and Dulhasti also attended.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of close coordination between banks and the district administration to enhance public awareness and expedite the settlement of unclaimed financial assets.

Addressing the participants, RBI LDO Amandeep Singh elaborated on the objectives of the campaign and explained the process for claiming unclaimed amounts related to bank deposits, shares, dividends and mutual funds.

He also highlighted the role of the UDGM portal in enabling citizens to easily trace and claim their unclaimed deposits. Informing the gathering that 30236 accounts worth Rs 8.51 crore of unclaimed funds from Kishtwar currently lie in the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF), he urged all stakeholders to work collectively to bring down the pendency.

An open interaction with participants allowed claimants to share the difficulties they had faced in reclaiming their funds, many of which were resolved on the spot by officials from participating banks and financial institutions.

A key highlight of the event was the distribution of settlement cheques by the Deputy Commissioner to beneficiaries from J&K Bank, SBI and PNB. During the camp, J&K Bank successfully settled 28 cases amounting to Rs 14.34 lakh, while SBI settled 5 accounts worth Rs 5.20 lakh, and PNB concluded 18 settlements totalling Rs 35000.

Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the Government of India's initiative led by the Department of Financial Services (DFS).

Ganderbal Camp: A district-level Mega Facilitation Camp was organised by the Lead Bank Office (Ganderbal) in collaboration with financial institutions and the district administration. The event saw active participation from senior officials of the Reserve Bank of India, district administration, various banks, insurance companies such as PNB MetLife, SBI Life and LIC, civic bodies, students, and members of the gen-

eral public.

The Lead District Manager (Ganderbal) Gazanfar Husain informed the participants that Ganderbal district has 52477 unclaimed accounts worth Rs 9.52 crore and called on banks to intensify outreach to depositors and legal heirs.

Speakers from RBI and participating banks sensitised attendees about the claim process, documentation requirements, eligibility norms, and settlement procedures. A live demonstration of the RBI's UDGM portal enabled citizens to search unclaimed deposits transferred to the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund, and understand the bank-wise claim workflow.

Meanwhile, cheques amounting to Rs 6.19 lakh were handed over to beneficiaries and legal heirs upon completion of verification formalities. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks.

Shopian Camp: The Lead Bank Office (Shopian) successfully conducted a Mega Facilitation Camp at CFC Zainpora that witnessed encouraging participation from residents seeking assistance in tracing and claiming their unclaimed financial assets.

The camp saw the active presence of J&K Bank's Cluster Head (Shopian) Ab. Majid Wani, Lead District Officer (RBI) Anoop Sharma, and DDM NABARD Junaid Hakeem along with senior officials from various banks and representatives of insurance companies including LIC, PNB MetLife, and Bajaj etc. Their coordinated efforts significantly enhanced the outreach and impact of the programme.

Representatives from RBI provided on-the-spot hand-holding support for processing claims related to unclaimed deposits, insurance proceeds, mutual funds, dividends, shares, and other inactive financial instruments.

A major highlight of the camp was the successful settlement of five accounts amounting to Rs 11.26 lakh, offering immediate financial relief to the beneficiaries. Pertinently, District Shopian accounts for 25914 unclaimed accounts amounting to Rs 5.12 crores.

Senior officers from the District Administration, along with other dignitaries, appreciated the unified efforts of all participating institutions for promoting financial awareness and ensuring that eligible citizens receive their rightful dues.

Speaking on the occasion, LDM (Shopian) Farooq Ahmad Dar extended his gratitude to all stakeholders for their collaboration and reaffirmed the commitment of the Lead Bank Office Shopian to continue organising such initiatives aimed at enhancing public awareness across the district.

RedFort...

were barred from covering the proceedings. The accused was produced before Principal and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna who allowed the probe agency to interrogate Soyab for 10 more days.

Court sources said that the federal agency sought 10 more days of custodial interrogation of the accused.

An official spokesperson for the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had said the agency arrested Soyab, a resident of Dhaui in Haryana's Faridabad, for allegedly providing logistical support to "terrorist Umar-Un Nabi" before the Delhi terror bomb blast.

Soyab is the seventh accused arrested by the NIA in the case, which is linked to a "white-collar" terror module busted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"The agency continues to pursue various leads in connection with the suicide bombing, and has been conducting searches across states in coordination with the respective police forces in a bid to identify and track others involved in the gruesome attack," the NIA previously said in a statement

DG BRO ...

Administration's unwavering commitment to inclusive growth, grassroots empowerment and improved public infrastructure across the Union Territory.

He was addressing a public meeting in Zanskar after dedicating a series of important development initiatives to the people, describing them as significant milestones that will strengthen the region's foundation for long-term progress.

Kavinder Gupta said that the initiatives inaugurated today reflect the Administration's firm resolve to bridge developmental gaps and deliver modern facilities to even the most remote regions of Ladakh.

He inaugurated four new Community Halls constructed under the Special Development Package in Lungnak Block at a cost of Rs 1 crore. These halls, he noted, will serve as vital centres for community activities, social events, educational programmes, winter tuitions and public outreach—thereby enhancing community cohesion and strengthening grassroots engagement.

The Lt Governor also launched the 'Nayi Chetna 4.0' Campaign, a national-level initiative aimed at promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and gender-sensitive community environments.

Leh district...

On Friday, the Deputy Commissioner, Leh Romil Singh Donk along with CPO Leh, Tsewang Gyalson chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), during which the PHE Division Leh presented a detailed account of infrastructure created under the mission.

The division informed that 249 reservoirs, 900 pumps and borewells, and 2624.86 km of water distribution network have been established across the district, supported by one UT-level, one district-level, and three sub-division-level water testing laboratories.

The Deputy Commissioner was also apprised of the joint inspection reports of various JJM schemes, which assessed on-ground functionality and pointed out issues where tap connections exist but water supply remains non-functional. The DC directed that these functional issues be resolved on priority to ensure sustainability of service delivery.

They apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the need to constitute a dedicated committee for streamlined coordination and monitoring, following which the DC directed that the committee be formally established by next week.

In addition, the PHE Division presented the list of pending works, including appointment of Nal Jal Mitras, activation of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) accounts, strengthening of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) systems, completion of Sujal Gram Samvad activities, formal

scheme handover processes, and final commissioning of completed schemes. The meeting also included a review of matters related to Jal Arpan Diwas.

The DC Leh instructed all concerned officers to expedite these pending tasks and emphasized the need for stronger coordination among field engineers, PRIs, and VWSCs to ensure long-term functionality and transparency in JJM implementation.

The meeting was attended by the SE PHE Leh, ACD Leh, CMO Leh, DSWO Leh, DPO Leh, and Ex En PHE Leh, along with all AEEs, the PMU team, TPI, and the JJM IEC team, who were present to provide updates and inputs on the ongoing initiatives.

Rakesh prioritizes ...

load. He noted that while Raru Hydro Project supplies power only to Padum, all other areas continue to depend on DG sets, and instructed the department to ensure uninterrupted power in winter.

The DC directed the DPO, ICDS Kargil to prioritise and promote products of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under LRLM in all ICDS-linked activities.

He also instructed the Executive Engineer, PHE to conduct a detailed review and submit a comprehensive report on the challenges related to non-functional water supply during winter, along with actionable measures.

Issues pertaining to horticulture, agriculture, LRLM and other departments were also discussed, and necessary directions were issued for timely redressal.

The DC also stressed not to leave the station without permission of competent authority.

The meeting was attended by SDM Zanskar along with District Officers from Education, Rural Development, Revenue, Health, ICDS, LRLM, PHE, Power, Agriculture, Horticulture, KREDA, Social Welfare, Cooperatives and other departmental heads and sub division officers and officials.

Over 40 ...

the airport, resulting in chaos. "However, the situation was brought under control immediately," an official said.

A passenger, scheduled to travel to Delhi, said the situation has left people frustrated.

"In their frustration, the passengers were shouting and demanding an explanation for the flight delays and cancellations," the passenger, who wished not to be named, said.

Speaking to PTI Videos outside the airport, a traveller, Rishabh Kumar from Kolkata, said passengers were facing harassments at the hands of the airline.

"I had to reach Delhi yesterday from Kolkata via Srinagar. This was a connecting flight. They (airline officials) told us in Kolkata yesterday that when we reach Srinagar, our flight to Delhi will be ready. But when we came here, they did not help us at all, neither the IndiGo, nor airport authorities," Kumar said.

The Kolkata resident said his group had to face "trouble" at the airport for about four hours.

"First our flight for today was rescheduled to 1:15 pm. But then they cancelled that flight too, and no help was provided," he said.

Accusing the IndiGo of neglecting the passengers, Kumar said he contacted several senior officials of the airline, "but it is the same, they are not willing to help".

When asked if the airline had given any reason for the cancellation, Kumar said neither an explanation, nor any help has been provided.

"I posted videos of what happened at the Kolkata airport yesterday on X. I tagged everyone, IndiGo, airport authorities and relevant departments, and even our aviation minister. We have faced so much of harassment," he said.

A couple from Kerala visiting the Valley were among those left stranded in Srinagar due to the cancellations.

"I checked the flight status in the morning; then, they said the flight was on time. When I came here (airport), they said the flight was cancelled," the husband, Hidayatullah, said.

He said they had a family function to attend in Kerala, but won't be able to reach on time.

"What will I do? I told them it is necessary to go today. But, they said they could do nothing as there are no flights today or tomorrow. Maybe the day after tomorrow..." Hidayatullah sighs.

He said while they plan to go back to the hotel, "it will be difficult, it will cost more money".

Similar scenes of uncertainty prevailed at Jammu airport after IndiGo cancelled 11 departing flights on Friday amid operational disruptions, triggering protests from passengers who were left with little recourse.

Long queues were witnessed at the inquiry counter, with passengers seeking clarification about the status of their IndiGo flights.

"We have been waiting here for two hours for information about the status of our flight, but no satisfactory reply has come from the airline officials. Where would I go? They said it has been cancelled," Swati, who was scheduled to return to her home in Lucknow after a pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi, said.

"We have been stranded here for the past three hours. We do not know what to do," she said.

Arti Razdan, scheduled to travel to Bengaluru, said, "I had come to Jammu to attend a marriage function. I was originally booked for December 2 but was later cancelled, on both December 2 and 3," she grumbled. "It is Friday, and my ticket got cancelled again."

Stranded at Jammu airport with her two children, she said, "I had two days of leave. Due to these cancellations, it has been a week for me in Jammu. My child had an exam, but couldn't take it. We have been here since 8 am but they are not giving any solution. They say there is some operational issue. There is no backup plan."

Officials are facing angry queries from passengers but are unable to satisfy them.

"We are facing the anger of passengers. Whatever information we have, we are sharing with them," an official said.

Meanwhile, all IndiGo flights leaving from Dehradun's Jolly Grant Airport on Friday were also cancelled. Airport Director B C H Negi told PTI that 13 flights of the airline were cancelled, affecting approximately 200 passengers.

He said a local team of the Airports Authority of India was providing all possible assistance to the affected passengers.

IndiGo is seeing operational disruptions as pilot-rostering issues have led to large-scale flight cancellations, leaving passengers stranded at airports nationwide, for as long as three days in some instances.