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Citizens will be protected; infiltrators won't be spared: Modi

urged voters to defeat what he called the "syndicate raj". The prime minister accused the ruling party of resorting to abuse and intimidation instead of governance.

"TMC's only strategy seems to be hurling abuses, issuing threats and spreading falsehoods. They have targeted me, constitutional institutions and even the armed forces with their derogatory remarks," he alleged.

Reaching out to Matuas, a refugee-origin community influential in several districts of south Bengal, Modi assured them that the BJP government would ensure citizenship and documentation for all eligible people. "I assure the Matua community that you will get citizenship and all necessary documents will be provided to you," he said.

Referring to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Modi said the BJP had already fulfilled one of his major ideological commitments by abrogating Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

He added that another of Mookerjee's aspirations was West Bengal's prosperity and a permanent solution to the refugee issue. "A new BJP government will work to fulfil this vision," Modi said.

Promising employment opportunities for the youth, Modi said West Bengal had suffered migration for decades due to a lack of jobs. "West Bengal has endured the pain of migration for decades, as there were no jobs. The BJP government's priority will be employment for the youths in the state," he said.

He also invoked Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's Vande Mataram song's imagery of Bengal and said the BJP would work to restore the state's prosperity. "We will make 'sujalam sufalam' our policy, turn 'shasyashyamala' into the inspiration for employment, and make 'malayaja sheeta' the source of happiness and prosperity," he added.

Society must embrace spirit of 'Nasha-Mukt J&K Abhiyan': LG

mands unity beyond all divisions. As citizens of Jammu & Kashmir, we should pledge to stand together, bound by our common duty to protect our youth, strengthen families, and secure prosperity," he added.

"Jammu & Kashmir is now rising with renewed strength to reject the drug menace that corrodes our society. We vow to shield our youth from its grip. I assure people that the spirit of our land will not be stifled. This is the hour for society to awaken, to fight and to prevail," Sinha said.

"No single authority can wage this battle against drug abuse alone and it must ignite within every heart. Let every village, hamlet, and city of Udhampur become fortresses of resistance; let every household stand as a vigilant bastion. I call upon each resident to enlist as a warrior in this cause," he said.

"Every family must rise, ensuring that chronicles remember Udhampur's united stand, united fight, united triumph and a legacy of a narcotics-free tomorrow dedicated to nation-building," he added.

"In the coming 83 days, let us reshape society's perception and treat those trapped in addiction as sufferers who deserve compassion and not condemnation. Rehabilitation must restore their dignity and reintegrate them into the community. Let collective energy drive the Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir campaign. Transform awareness into accountability, ensuring public participation deepens and highlight the vital role of women and youth in leading this fight," Sinha said.

"This war against drug menace will unfold in phases, each demanding courage and devotion," he said and added that awareness campaigns must enlighten families about drug addiction symptoms and dangers of narcotics and they should be reminded that the threat was not distant, but among us.

On the occasion, the LG also flagged off an anti-drug awareness bike rally and launched mini-olympics under Nasha Mukt J&K Campaign.

He also handed over sanction letters to individuals recovered from substance abuse, and felicitated the winner of Nasha Mukt Ideas Championship.

NIA takes over case, gets remand of 5 terrorists

other Pakistani terrorist, Usman alias Khubaib and three Srinagar residents - Mohammad Naqeeb Bhat, Adil Rashid and Ghulam Mohammad Mir alias Mama - were also arrested in the major operation that involved J&K police and central agencies.

The probe unearthed a deep-rooted LeT network involved in providing logistics and financial support to terrorists.

After taking over the case for further investigation, NIA produced the arrested terrorists before the special NIA court in Jammu on Monday, officials said.

The court remanded all the five terrorists to the agency's custody, officials said. While the two Pakistani nationals were granted two-day remand, the three local terrorists were sent to 15-day custody.

Having infiltrated India more than a decade and a half ago, Abdullah was believed to have established operational bases and support structures outside J&K.

The arrests were the culmination of a coordinated operation involving J&K police and central agencies, spanning multiple states.

Investigators had conducted extensive searches at 19 locations across J&K, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab. These raids led to the recovery of a substantial cache of weapons, including four AK-series rifles, an AK Krinkov, pistols, grenades, and a large volume of incriminating digital & documentary evidence.

Officials had described the network as "deep-rooted," revealing that it facilitated logistics, finances, forged documents, and safe passage for LeT operatives across state lines and, in at least one case, beyond India's borders.

The investigation began to unravel on March 31, when Naqeeb Bhat was arrested in the Pandach area of Srinagar with a pistol and other incriminating material. His interrogation exposed a wider network of facilitators embedded across the valley and other states.

Officials believed Abdullah and Usman remained active across multiple districts of the valley, handling or commanding nearly 40 foreign terrorists over the years-most of whom had since been neutralised.

Their prolonged presence in India, investigators say, was enabled by a sophisticated support system that provided forged identity documents, safe houses, and operational cover.

Rajnath reaches Bishkek for SCO defence meet

warmly welcomed by members of the Indian diaspora upon his arrival in Kyrgyzstan's capital of Bishkek, where he will participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting.

Visuals from the Kyrgyz capital showed members of the Indian community greeting the Defence Minister with enthusiasm, offering bouquets and highlighting strong people-to-people ties between India and Kyrgyzstan.

Earlier in the day, following his arrival here, Singh was accorded a traditional welcome and offered Borsok, a popular Kyrgyz delicacy, as part of the ceremonial reception.

The Defence Minister is leading a high-level Indian delegation to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

According to an official press release by the Ministry of Defence, the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting will see participating countries deliberate on a wide range of issues concerning regional defence and security, including international peace, counter-terrorism, and strengthening defence cooperation among member states.

The meeting is taking place against the backdrop of geopolitical tensions, particularly developments in West Asia.

The SCO, one of the largest political and economic groupings in the region, is expected to consider measures aimed at reducing the impact of the ongoing conflict.

During discussions, Singh will underline India's commit-

ment to global peace amid evolving security challenges and reiterate New Delhi's consistent policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and extremism. He is also likely to hold bilateral meetings with defence ministers from select participating countries on the sidelines of the event.

The SCO comprises India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus. India became a full member in 2017 and assumed the organisation's rotating chairmanship in 2023.

The SCO, established in 2001 by China, Russia, and several Central Asian nations, has evolved into a significant regional bloc over the past two decades. The grouping's influence was further bolstered in 2023 with the inclusion of Iran as a full member during the Indian presidency, cementing its role as a primary platform for security and economic cooperation across Eurasia.

The upcoming gathering serves as a critical forum for discussing the enhancement of military-to-military ties. Deliberations are expected to focus on comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies, the organisation of joint military exercises, and the deepening of intelligence-sharing mechanisms among member states.

LG enquires about health of bus accident victims

At least 21 passengers, including women & children, were killed and several others injured after the bus carrying them had peered off the road and landed on another road beneath.

In the hospital, the LG was briefed by a team of senior doctors on the health condition of the injured.

He directed the hospital administration to ensure the best possible medical care for their early recovery.

35 IAS, JKAS officers assigned to VVP

along the IB and the LoC and the launch of VVP-II, the officers are hereby assigned the vibrant villages for overseeing the implementation of programme during the month of May and June, 2026."

The deputy commissioners concerned shall facilitate the visits and provide necessary logistical and administrative support. All line departments shall extend full cooperation and furnish requisite data and information as required, says the order.

Shabir Shah's remand extended by 10 days

remand. Shah was arrested by the Srinagar branch of NIA on April 17 in Delhi in the 1996 case involving a terrorist attack on policemen during a terrorist's funeral. The Patiala House Court allowed his transit remand and subsequently he was produced before the NIA court in Jammu the next day.

He was recently released on bail after nearly seven years of imprisonment in other cases.

HC quashes PSA against MLA Mehraj Malik

his detention and seeking Rs 5 cr as compensation. On February 23, the high court had reserved its order in the case.

Guv, CM accord warm welcome to Murmu on arrival in Shimla

pal Corporation Mayor Surinder Chauhan, Chief Secretary Sanjay Gupta, Director General of Police Ashok Tiwari, Chief of Staff Lt Gen S S Dhayia and senior officers of the state government and Army were among those present on the occasion.

Omar bats for lasting peace in West Asia

"Harming someone is never justified anywhere. Such life-threatening attacks are unacceptable, and I hope incidents like this never happen to any political leader," he said.

Referring to the situation in J&K, the chief minister said

that the region had witnessed decades of violence and attacks on political leaders. "No one understands this better than we do in J&K. Over the past 30-35 years, many people from different political parties, be it BJP, National Conference, Congress or CPI(M), have lost their workers and leaders to bullets and terrorism. This should have never happened," he said.

On international developments following mediation, Abdullah also reacted to the cancellation of US envoy-level talks scheduled in Pakistan concerning Iran.

He said that dialogue must continue, even if through alternative means. "It is fine if talks are held over the phone, but they should take place," he said.

Emphasising the need for stability, he said, "We want peace to be restored and the ongoing tensions to end once and for all. Iran should be allowed to live in peace. Whatever has happened is done, but now the focus should be on organising lasting peace."

Iran offers to end chokehold on Strait of Hormuz

His trip over the weekend has included two stops in Pakistan and a visit to Oman, which shares the strait with Iran.

Araghchi's visit comes as a standoff between Iran and the U.S. in the crucial Strait of Hormuz persists despite a ceasefire, keeping oil prices high.

"It is a good opportunity for us to consult with our Russian friends about the developments that have occurred in relation to the war during this period and what is happening now," Araghchi said in a video interview posted by IRNA.

Pakistan has been seeking to revive stalled talks between Iran and the U.S., and negotiations had been expected in Islamabad over the weekend. But U.S. President Donald Trump has suggested the talks could take place by phone instead.

Araghchi said it was America's approach that "caused the negotiations to be delayed."

"The previous one, despite the progress that had been made, could not achieve its goals," he said, blaming what he called Washington's "excessive demands."

Trump has questioned who is in charge in Iran at the moment and said confusion within its theocracy made it difficult to reach a deal.

The White House last week said it would dispatch envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Islamabad to follow up on historic face-to-face talks earlier this month. But Araghchi left the Pakistani capital Saturday, and shortly afterward Trump said he had called off the mission because of a lack of progress with Iran.

India 2nd country to operate fast breeder reactor: Jitendra

Modular Reactors", he said India had achieved a significant milestone by developing an indigenously designed 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, which achieved first criticality on April 6, 2026.

Developed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) and built by BHAVINI, this reactor marks the start of the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear power program, using uranium-plutonium mixed oxide fuel to produce more fuel than it consumes.

With this achievement, India moves towards leveraging its vast thorium reserves in the third stage of its nuclear strategy. Once fully operational, India will be the second country in the world after Russia operating a commercial-level fast breeder reactor, he added.

The workshop was organised by National General Secretary BJP, Tarun Chugh.

Dr Singh further explained that the significance of this achievement lies in the fact that with this, India moves toward leveraging its vast thorium reserves in the third stage of its nuclear strategy.

BALGRAN felicitates academic achievers of 10th & 12th classes



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 27

BALGRAN, a home for destitute children, today organized an impressive function to celebrate the stellar academic performance of its students in the recently declared Class 10 and 12 BOSE examinations. Atwell attended function, students securing above 90% marks and distinctions were felicitated with cash awards for marking a significant milestone in the institution's journey towards academic excellence.

In the record-breaking cent percent results of Bal Bharti Public School (Unit of BALGRAN) in this year's BOSE examinations, 11 out of 21 students appeared in

10th Class examination and 3 out of 7 students appeared in 12th class examination this year, secured above 90% marks. This outstanding result reflected dedication of the students, strenuous efforts of the teaching faculty and the robust academic environment fostered by the management.

Ambika Thakur topped the school in 10th class result and Tariq Ahmad in 12th Class examination.

The ceremony saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of members, patrons, and the management committee in addition to School staff. While Cash Awards were presented 14 brilliant students scoring above 90% marks on behalf of the BALGRAN, Patron Prem Gupta and Smt Urmil

Arora also presented cash awards on their personal behalf to all the 28 students who passed in 10th and 12th classes examinations.

In his address, President of Balgran V.K. Raina & Hon. Secretary Er. Vinod Gupta, congratulated the achievers and advised them to pick up professional courses carefully and excel in future examinations as well. Raina urged the students to remain disciplined with their time and to continue studying with unwavering focus. He specifically advised the young scholars to choose their future career paths based on their personal interests and strengths rather than blindly following trends or copying others.

The Principal of the school Dr. Sunita Kumari com-

mended the tireless efforts made by the highly dedicated teaching faculty and also expressed deep gratitude to the management of Balgran for their constant infrastructural and emotional support, which has been instrumental in overcoming the challenges and attaining such an academic height by the students

Patrons A.K. Arora, Prem Gupta, Er. A.K. Khajuria, Ponit Nanda and Bal Bharti School Management team comprising Sadhna Kachroo, Urmil Arora, Neelam Arora, Shashi Ajarawat and other dignitaries felicitated the children.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Hon. Secretary Er. Vinod Gupta who also conducted proceedings of the event.

DC Shopian chairs DLTC meeting

SHOPIAN, APRIL 27: Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) at the Mini Secretariat, Shopian, to review telecom infrastructure and ensure improved, reliable connectivity across the district.

The meeting assessed the current status of mobile and internet services, with emphasis on addressing persistent issues such as weak signals, call drops, and slow data speeds.

A detailed overview of ongoing ini-

tiatives and future expansion plans was presented, highlighting efforts to enhance digital access in both urban and remote areas.

A key development discussed during the meeting was the completion of surveys for installation of new telecom towers along Mughal Road and in weak and grey areas.

The concerned Telecom agencies informed that necessary groundwork has been finalized and installation will be taken up shortly, which is expected to significantly improve con-

nectivity in various weak and grey areas. Other locations, known for their scenic value and increasing tourist footfall were emphasised to be prioritized to strengthen communication facilities, enable better access to emergency services, and support the overall tourism ecosystem by ensuring seamless digital connectivity for visitors and service providers.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for seamless network coverage, particularly in far flung and mountainous regions.

DC Kulgam visits Nandimarg, reviews of Road Projects

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 27

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited the Nandimarg area to take stock of ongoing works and assess bottlenecks hindering the timely completion of key road projects.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the progress of Galman Road, Kanimarg Road, and other ongoing developmental works. He conducted on-site inspections and evaluated the pace of execution.

The DC was apprised by the concerned officials about the current status of the projects and the challenges affecting their timely completion.

He stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination to address issues related to land, utilities, and clearances without delay.



The DC also interacted with local residents and listened to their issues and grievances.

Emphasizing the significance of these roads in improving connectivity and facilitating public convenience, he instructed officials to expedite the work

and strictly adhere to set timelines.

He added that timely completion of these roads will boost connectivity and tourism in the area.

He further urged the general public to extend full cooperation to the administration and execut-

ing agencies to ensure smooth and timely completion of the projects.

Among others, SDM Noorabad, Bashir-ul-Hasan; Executive Engineer, D.H. Pora, Tehsildar D.H.Pora, DMO and other officers accompanied the DC during the visit.