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Terrorism has no nationality,
no theology: Rajnath

lished rule-based world order. We must focus on a global consensus where co-existence, co-habitation and compassion take precedence over chaos, competition and conflict," the defence minister said.

"It is the responsibility of SCO to ensure regional as well as global peace and stability. We should continue to follow the path of dialogue & diplomacy and not of unrelenting force. We should not allow it to become an era of violence & war, but an era of peace & prosperity. Let me recall the message of Mahatma Gandhi that an eye for an eye makes everyone blind and before every action we must remember how that action can make a difference to the life of the poor and needy. As people responsible for defence and security, we have the responsibility to uphold this spirit of brotherhood and harmony. The real test of power is not in using it against the poor and the weak, but to use it in the interest of those who are unable to defend themselves," he stated.

He voiced India's belief that SCO possesses the requisite strength and resolve to significantly contribute towards peace and stability. The ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam embodies this sense of togetherness, overcoming all differences of race and religion, he said.

Singh reiterated India's commitment to contribute constructively to the implementation of the SCO's mandate, advocating that greater cooperation and mutual trust among member states based on equality, mutual respect and deeper understanding can make this organisation a beacon of hope and peace.

During the meeting, he, along with member countries, held discussions on matters related to the aspects of security, terrorism and radicalisation affecting the region and its wider implications on the peace and tranquility of the world.

The SCO members emphasised the symbolic significance of 2026, which marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the organisation and how its role is becoming more important than ever due to growing unpredictability and uncertainty.

Chouhan hands over PMGSY-IV
approval letter to Omar

ment would continue to take positive decisions on the remaining required routes.

"The objective is not merely road construction but connecting every village, habitation, and remote settlement to the mainstream of development, as roads bring schools, hospitals, markets, and opportunities closer to people," he said.

Focusing on women's empowerment, the union minister said that a Mother Sanction exceeding Rs 4,568.23 cr had been released under DAY-NRLM for women Self-Help Groups across 24 states and Union Territories.

Addressing the J&K women, he said the goal was not limited to creating 'Lakhpati Didis' only but to transform them into stronger and more empowered entrepreneurs.

On the occasion, Chouhan and Omar Abdullah also felicitated Lakhpati Didis.

On agriculture and farmers' issues, he specifically referred to the challenges of small landholdings, difficult terrain, and weather-related risks in Jammu & Kashmir.

"The central government stands firmly with the region through the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme and will undertake concrete measures such as promoting clean planting material of improved varieties, establishing high-quality nurseries, and advancing scientific crop diversification," he said.

He announced that a team of scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research would be deputed to Jammu & Kashmir to study its climate, soil, water resources, and agricultural potential, and to prepare a comprehensive roadmap.

Highlighting integrated farming as an effective model for enhancing farmers' income, Chouhan said instead of relying solely on grains, fruits, or vegetables, farmers can significantly increase their earnings by integrating allied activities such as animal husbandry, fisheries, sheep and goat rearing, beekeeping, and other enterprises.

He added that the central government would work closely with J&K government to design an integrated programme that makes agriculture more profitable, sustainable, and employment-oriented.

He said that all five lakh families in Jammu and Kashmir living in 'kuchha' houses, would be provided 'pucca' houses after physical verification.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given me the task of providing pucca houses to poor people under the PM Awas Yojna. A new survey in Jammu and Kashmir found that five lakh families lack permanent housing. After conducting physical verification, I assure you that no one will live in a kuchha house in Jammu and Kashmir," Chouhan said.

The minister also launched 330 new road projects covering 1,600 km at a cost of Rs 3,550 cr under the Batch-II of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). These roads will benefit 363 remote habitations in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said Prime Minister Modi had given top priority to development of Jammu and Kashmir, and the government would leave no stone unturned in this regard.

On the women self-help groups, he said an amount of Rs 4,000 cr was being disbursed for making women self-reliant.

"There are two lakh Lakhpati Didis in Jammu and Kashmir. The PM set a target of six cr for the country. We want

that no one should remain poor in this country," he said.

The minister said the government was introducing schemes and taking new measures to ensure that the income of farmers increases.

Chugh visits Mata Vaishno
Devi cave shrine

the spiritual aura of sacred shrines like Mata Vaishno Devi reinforces the collective resolve to build a stronger and more prosperous India.

He said he prayed for the well-being of every citizen and for sustained harmony and unity across the country. He noted that such spiritual journeys strengthen the sense of duty towards public service and motivate leaders to serve the nation with greater dedication.

He also interacted with devotees and appreciated the arrangements made for pilgrims. He lauded the improved infrastructure and efficient management, stating that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, such efforts were continuously enhancing the pilgrimage experience and contributing to the vision of a developed India.

Govt blacklists Reliance
General Insurance

process, had entered into a tripartite agreement on October 15, 2018 with M/s Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Limited (Insurance Broker) and M/s Reliance General Insurance Company Limited (Insurer) for the implementation of a Group Mediclaim Insurance Policy/Scheme for government employees and other eligible.

'Criminal' detained under PSA

Considering his persistent involvement in criminal acts and the threat posed to public safety, a dossier was prepared and submitted to the competent authority, which approved his detention under PSA, the officials added.

He was lodged in the district jail, Rajouri.

BDO suspended over poor
progress in electoral roll revision

progress in the revision work and was earlier informed through official communications on April 10 & April 17.

During special camps held on April 25 and April 26, all concerned officers were directed to achieve the benchmark of 4 pc addition in the electoral roll within the stipulated time, officials said.

However, the BDO allegedly failed to discharge duties properly, resulting in delayed and incomplete revision of rolls, non-adherence to the prescribed guidelines and timelines, and lack of supervision over field staff, the officials added.

Officials said the lapses affected the integrity and reliability of the revision process.

Accordingly, the officer was placed under suspension, pending further inquiry into the matter, officials said.

During suspension, the officer was attached to the office of assistant commissioner panchayat, Rajouri, and directed not to leave headquarters without prior permission.

SC directive to convene meeting
on fund utilisation

meeting on May 6 with the Centre, all states and Union Territories.

"We are of the view that a meeting be convened by the amicus, as done earlier, in which the home secretary of the central government or his nominee not below the rank of joint or additional secretary and the home secretary of states/Union Territories will participate," the bench said.

The issue cropped up after the amicus flagged the aspect of utilisation of funds by the states.

Dave told the bench that in UTs, the Centre gives 100 percent funds while in hilly states, the central government gives 90 percent funding.

He said in remaining states, the Centre gives 60 percent while the rest 40 percent funding is by the respective state.

"Why don't we get responses of the states only on utilisation of funds?" the bench said.

The top court suggested that the amicus can convene a meeting with the Centre, states and UTs on the issue.

It posted the matter for hearing on May 13 and said that a report be submitted before it.

On April 7, the Centre told the top court that all issues concerning installation of CCTVs in police stations would be sorted out within two weeks.

Attorney General R Venkataramani had told the bench that he was taking stock of the issue and a lot of things were happening.

On February 26, the apex court directed the Centre and others to participate in a meeting to deliberate upon the feasibility, modalities and implementation framework of the issues, including creation of a centralised dashboard and standardisation of CCTV infrastructure in police stations.

The top court had earlier directed registration of a suo motu case over the lack of functional CCTVs in police stations after taking cognisance of a media report.

The apex court had in 2018 ordered the installation of CCTV cameras across police stations to check human rights abuses.

In December 2020, the top court directed the Centre to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at the offices of investigating agencies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

It said that states and UTs should ensure that CCTV

cameras were installed at every police station, at all entry and exit points, main gate, lock-ups, corridors, lobby and reception, as well as in areas outside the lock-up rooms so that no part was left uncovered.

The top court said that CCTV systems must be equipped with night vision and have audio as well as video footage.

The court made it mandatory for the Centre, states and the UTs to purchase such systems which allow storage of data for at least one year.

Committed to 'Act East, Act Fast' for
'Ashtalakshmi' in northeast: Modi

ness of the state's roads and its air purity shows that people here are true brand-ambassadors for the conservation of nature."

Modi asserted that the northeast, including Sikkim, is set to become the hub of futuristic growth and sustainable development through initiatives such as organic agriculture.

"Sikkim has immense scope in eco-wellness tourism, which the government is promoting. As many as 1,000 homestays are being built, and adventure tourism is getting an infrastructure boost."

He said that Sikkim "reflects 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' at a time when efforts are made to divide the nation based on faith and political affiliation".

Describing Sikkim as the heaven of the East, the prime minister appealed to tourists to visit the state for its natural beauty, especially its diverse orchids.

The prime minister, who played football with budding talents in the morning, said, "The government is making all efforts to augment sports infrastructure in Sikkim and hone talents, especially in football and archery."

He availed the opportunity to take potshots at successive Congress governments, accusing them of keeping Sikkim's development projects on the back burner.

"The Congress neglected health services in Sikkim. The current government is committed to augmenting health infrastructure and providing quality and affordable service to people," the prime minister added.

UAE pulls out of OPEC

geopolitics to production ?quotas.

OPEC Gulf producers have already been ?struggling to ship exports through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow choke-point between Iran and Oman through which a fifth of the world's crude oil and liquefied natural gas normally passes, because of Iranian threats and attacks against vessels.

But the UAE exit from OPEC represents a big win for U.S. President Donald Trump, who has accused the organisation of "ripping off the rest of the world" by inflating oil prices.

Trump has also linked U.S. military ?support for the Gulf with oil prices, saying that while the U.S. defends OPEC members they "exploit this by imposing high oil prices".

The move came after the UAE, a regional business hub and one of Washington's most important allies, criticised fellow Arab states for not doing enough to protect it from numerous Iranian attacks during the war.

Anwar Gargash, the diplomatic adviser for the UAE President, criticised the Arab and Gulf response to the Iranian attacks in a session at the Gulf Influencers Forum on Monday (April 27, 2026).

"The Gulf Cooperation Council ?countries supported each other logistically, but politically and militarily, I ?think their position has been the weakest historically," Mr. Gargash said.

"I expect this weak stance from the Arab League and I am not surprised by it, but I haven't expected it from the (Gulf) Cooperation Council and I am surprised by it," he said.

Farms bedrock of civilisation,
backbone of economies: LG

moil. Now, the threat of climate change reaches far beyond the farmer's field and it imperils every life sustained by agriculture and allied sector. The urgency of this crisis leaves no room for delay," he said.

"The moment has come to move beyond minor adjustments and embrace bold, science-led, farmer-focused transformation. Policies must champion climate-resilient crops. We must close the divide between laboratory & farmland, and researchers should make the creation of climate-adapted varieties their highest priority," Sinha said.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India leads the fight and in 2024-25, agriculture production hit 357 million tonnes, up 25 million from 2023-24, with horticulture at 362 million tonnes, including the high-value crop diversification," he added.

"Ahead of others, India launched nationwide soil testing, distributing 25 cr Soil Health Cards. Farmer credit limits rose from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Rs 100 cr funds high-productivity seeds under a national mission. Pulses procurement at MSP jumped 7,350 pc and oilseeds 1,500 pc since 2013-14. However, climate impacts are intensifying and last year witnessed extreme weather across states," he said.

The LG asked scientists and innovators for seven commitments for climate-resilient agriculture-farmer-led research partnership, expansion of climate-responsive insurance, green credit, localised climate advisories for all, safeguard traditional seeds, policy integration and transparent evaluation.

He also emphasised precision and regenerative farming, water management, diversification, and tech integra-

tion. "Innovations must reflect real-world needs, not remain trapped in seminar rhetoric and governments must scale protection to shield livelihoods from escalating risks," he said.

He also asked banks to prioritise sustainable agricultural financing, conserve heritage varieties as anchors of resilience, align every initiative for seamless, coordinated execution and assess each programme openly, adapt swiftly, and refine continuously.

Sinha said that scientists and policymakers must recognise that small and marginal farmers contribute least to climate change yet endure its harshest blows.

Calling for protection, he said that farmers were not merely producers of grain but they were the custodians of tradition, culture, food security, and the promise of a sustainable future.

"Every farmer deserves real-time climate guidance. Every field must be treated as a national asset & safeguarded with care. Our responsibility in agriculture is clear that we need to preserve it for generations. This is our solemn resolve," he said.

Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs minister Satish Sharma, SKUAST-Jammu Vice-Chancellor (Prof) BN Tripathi, Director General, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Indian Ecology Society president (Prof) A K Dhawan, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu, S K Gupta, organising secretary Syed Sheraz Mahdi, scientists, academicians, policymakers, experts and students were among those who attended the inaugural session.

Omar terms Shivraj 'true friend',
assures him judicious use of funds

"I assure you, we will start work on the approved projects in the next couple of months. When you are satisfied with the works, deputy chief minister Surinder Choudhary and I will come back to you for approval of more projects," he added.

The chief minister said road connectivity significantly transforms the lives of people living in remote areas as it helps them to access education, healthcare and jobs.

"A journey that used to take hours has now been made easier by having access to a motorable road. Tourists come here to see the cities and towns, but our hearts beat for the villages," he added.

Abdullah said the assistance from the Rural Development ministry will help in realising the dream of 'Viksit Jammu and Kashmir' and 'Viksit Bharat'.

"I want to assure you that we will use the funds judiciously so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir reap benefits," he said.

Earlier, Chouhan said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Centre was committed to going beyond announcements and delivering tangible development on the ground.

He emphasised that the focus was on ensuring that roads, services and other facilities reach even the remotest villages.

The minister also underlined that infrastructure development is being viewed as a key driver to further integrate Jammu and Kashmir into the national development mainstream.

Er Rashid granted interim bail

two police officials would accompany him in plainclothes at all times and he would not bear the cost of their travel.

During the one-week period, there shall not be any "undue visitors" except immediate family members, it added.

The court passed the order while dealing with Rashid's appeal against a trial court's April 24 decision refusing to grant him interim bail. The Baramulla MP, who defeated Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is facing trial in the terror funding case with allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

He has been lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him in the 2017 terror-funding case. On Friday, a Delhi court had dismissed his interim bail petition to meet his father.

Engineer, however, was able to attend the Budget Session of Parliament from January 28 after being granted custody parole.

Ladakh LG approves appointment
of DCs, SPs in 5 new distts

tionalisation of governance structures, strengthening law & order, and bringing administration closer to people, particularly those living in remote and far-flung areas.

The LG exhorted the newly appointed officials to take charge of their respective districts without any delay, asking them to work with full vigour and dedication to fulfill the aspirations of people and work towards the inclusive development of the districts.

"The remaining posts of subordinate officials will also be filled on priority, apart from fulfilling the logistical requirements, to ensure their smooth and effective functioning," he said.

He added that a robust administrative framework was being put in place to support long-term governance and development goals to translate the vision of district creation into tangible benefits for people.

He emphasised that decentralised governance would significantly improve service delivery, enhance administrative efficiency, and strengthen law & order at the grassroots level.

DC Anantnag reviews SANJY-2026 preparations
at Nunwan, Chandanwari Base Camps

ANANTNAG, APRIL 28: Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Yatra Officer, Pahalgam Axis, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today visited Nunwan Pahalgam to review and assess the preparations being made for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra – 2026.

ADC, Dr. Muzamil Maqbool Beigh, SDM Pahalgam, Amit Gupta, SE Hydraulics, CAHO, BMO Sallar, Tehsildar Pahalgam, officers from PDA and engineering wings besides other concerned officials accompanied the DC during the visit.

On the occasion, the DC

took a detailed and comprehensive review of the preparedness and arrangements for the upcoming Yatra. He was briefed about the logistical facilities including accommodation, tentage, water supply, power supply, health care, sanitation and other essential services that shall be made available to the pilgrims during their journey to the Holy Cave.

It was informed that round-the-clock monitoring mechanisms have been planned to ensure uninterrupted services and promptly address any emer-

gent issues faced by the Yatis. Further, as a novel initiative, "females only kiosks" will be installed at Nunwan Base Camp to cater to the special needs and issues of the female devotees.

Expressing satisfaction on overall progress on SANJY 2026 preparations made so far, the DC directed that all necessary arrangements including essential services be put in place in a smooth and time bound manner. He instructed for providing adequate facilities to the devotees at all base camps, transit points and other important locations enroute the Holy

Cave so they have a seamless and enriching experience during the entire journey.

Dr. Bilal called for collective efforts and sustained coordination by all stakeholder agencies including civil administration, line departments, police, security forces and service providers, so the Yatra is conducted safely and successfully. He further asked the departments to augment the gaps or loopholes, if any, encountered during last year Yatra and take the effective remedial measures well in advance to facilitate the sacred pilgrimage.

DLSA, District Admin Shopian organise Nasha
Mukt Awareness Camp at GDC

SHOPIAN, APRIL 28: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian, in collaboration with the District Administration Shopian, today organised a Mega Awareness Camp under the ongoing "100 Days Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan" at Government Degree College (GDC), Shopian.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, legal professionals, police officials, and officers of the district administration, reflecting a collective commitment to eradicate drug abuse from society.

Mohammad Ahmad Chowdhary, Principal District & Sessions Judge Shopian, who attended the programme as Chief Guest, lauded the ef-

forts of DLSA and the District Administration in organising the awareness campaign. He urged students to act as ambassadors of the anti-drug movement and called upon teachers and parents to remain vigilant.

He further affirmed that the judiciary stands firmly with the youth in the fight against substance abuse and will continue to support initiatives aimed at building a drug-free society.

ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, while speaking on the occasion expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, performers, and participants for making the event successful. He urged all stakeholders to actively support the ongoing campaign against drug abuse.

Chairman DLSA Shopian, Mah-

mood Ahmad, elaborated on the legal framework to tackle drug abuse and reiterated the Authority's commitment to providing free legal aid to victims and their families.

Rafie Ahmad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) Shopian, and Mudasir Farooq, Secretary DLSA Shopian, spoke about rehabilitation measures, legal aid services, and support mechanisms available for individuals affected by substance abuse.

District Information Officer (DIO) Shopian, Showkat Hussain Ganie, in his address underscored the need for collective societal efforts to curb the growing menace of substance abuse. He highlighted that addiction often begins at an early stage and requires timely intervention and awareness.