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Modi acknowledges Norway's support in fight against terrorism

terror attack in Pahalgam had claimed 26 lives. On April 22, 2025, the nation was left shocked when terrorists struck the tourist town of Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, entering a village and killing 26 civilians.

Known as a tourist spot with scenic beauty, Pahalgam was rendered in blood as Pakistan-backed terrorists killed several innocent people. In the cross-border communal attack in Pahalgam, the assailants reportedly questioned the victims about their religion before killing them, leaving families grappling with loss even a year later.

As India mourned the loss, what followed was decisive action by the Indian armed forces in the form of Operation Sindoor. Indian armed forces struck terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

In the aftermath of the attack, India launched 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7, 2025, targeting terror infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). According to official details, Indian armed forces destroyed nine major terror launchpads linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen, and eliminated over 100 terrorists during the operation.

What followed were drone attacks and shelling by Pakistan, which led to a four-day conflict between the two neighbouring countries. India showed formidable defence and conducted retaliatory strikes, destroying Radar installations in Lahore and Radar facilities near Gujranwala.

Inflicted by heavy damage, Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called the Indian DGMO and a ceasefire was agreed on May 10.

Furthermore, Operation Mahadev was another big joint success of the Army and security forces last year, as they tracked down and eliminated three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack.

Among non-military actions, India terminated the Indus Waters Treaty and all bilateral trade with Pakistan.

LG Sinha conducts on-site inspection of Yatri Niwas

The yatra features a comprehensive multi-layered security grid. Key measures include compulsory RFID tracking for pilgrims, real-time digital screening, a declared "No Flying Zone" over the routes, and joint deployment by police, Army, and paramilitary forces to avoid any untoward incident during the yatra days.

On the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which pilgrims take while moving from Jammu to Pahalgam for their onward journey to South Kashmir Himalayas, the administration has ordered to ensure fool-proof security arrangements.

DA enhanced to 262 pc for employees

Commission.

As per the order, arrears from January to April 2026 for employees covered under the General Provident Fund scheme will be credited to their GPF accounts, while employees under the National Pension System (NPS) will receive the arrears in cash.

The revised DA will form part of the monthly salary from May 2026 onwards.

The government stated that any fraction of 50 paise and above in the DA amount will be rounded off to the next higher rupee, while fractions below 50 paise will be ignored.

Meanwhile, the government also enhanced DA for government employees and pensioners from 58 per cent to 60 per cent with retrospective effect from January 1, 2026.

The finance department issued two orders in this regard for employees and pensioners/family pensioners drawing pay and pension under the 7th Pay Commission recommendations.

As per the orders, the revised DA for employees will be calculated on Basic Pay, while pensioners and family pensioners will receive the enhanced allowance on Basic Pension and Family Pension respectively.

The arrears from January to April 2026 in respect of employees covered under the General Provident Fund scheme will be credited to their GPF accounts, whereas employees under the National Pension System (NPS) and pensioners will receive the arrears in cash.

The enhanced DA will form part of the monthly salary and pension from May 2026 onwards.

The Government further stated that in case of NPS employees, the employer's contribution on DA arrears will also be deposited accordingly.

The orders also clarified that any fraction of a rupee arising during DA calculation will be rounded off to the next higher rupee.

Ladakh police service recruitment board reconstituted

proposed the constitution of a fresh recruitment board to ensure the smooth and timely conduct of recruitment examinations in Ladakh police.

The board is responsible for conducting recruitment examinations for all notified Group 'B' (non-gazetted) posts, including Sub-Inspector (Level-6C), and Group 'C' posts, including Constable (Level-02) cadre and Follower Level-SL-2 posts of Ladakh police.

The reconstitution of the board reflects the commitment of the UT administration towards ensuring fair, transparent and merit-based recruitment opportunities for the youth of Ladakh. The administration is committed to providing every youth with equal and transparent opportunities in public service. A credible and professionally managed recruitment system will further strengthen the confidence of aspiring candidates and create greater employment opportunities for local youth," Saxena said.

The board has been entrusted with the task of ensuring a fair, transparent, technology-enabled and merit-based recruitment process through the Transparent Recruitment Process (TRP). The Board has been mandated to use biometric verification, CCTV surveillance, digital attendance systems, online applications and other technological safeguards approved by the board to maintain integrity and credibility in the recruitment process.

The board shall comprise K K Sharma, DIG, Leh-Kargil Range, as Chairman, Vikas Kumar, SSP Traf-

fic Ladakh, as Member Secretary, along with Fulzele Piyush Nirakar, SP Security, Raam R, SP District Leh, Nitin Yadav, SP District Kargil, Padma Dorje, DSP DAR Leh, and Anayatullah, DSP Headquarters Kargil, as members.

DGHS advisory to protect citizens from heat stress

issued a comprehensive public health advisory for the summer season.

It provides a detailed guide for the general public, vulnerable groups, employers, workers and participants in mass gatherings and sports events to protect themselves from heat stress and related illnesses.

It emphasised adequate hydration, avoiding direct exposure to sunlight during afternoon hours, wearing light cotton clothing, and consuming seasonal fruits and electrolyte-rich fluids.

According to the advisory, infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly, outdoor workers and people suffering from chronic illnesses such as heart disease and hypertension are particularly vulnerable during heatwave conditions and require special care and monitoring.

Special precautions have also been advised for workplaces, public gatherings and outdoor activities, including provision of shaded rest areas, regular hydration breaks, acclimatisation measures for workers and awareness creation regarding symptoms of heat stress.

The advisory urged citizens to remain alert for symptoms of heat-related illnesses such as dizziness, headache, nausea, altered mental status, high body temperature, dehydration, seizures and loss of consciousness.

Heatstroke has been identified as a medical emergency requiring immediate medical attention, with the advisory recommending prompt use of emergency helplines 108 or 102 in severe cases.

The advisory also incorporates traditional wellness and preventive measures from various AYUSH systems for combating heatwave conditions.

The Ayurveda section recommends cooling dietary practices, intake of hydrating beverages such as buttermilk, coconut water and lemon-based drinks, and use of traditional preparations including Nimbu Phala Panaka (lemonade), Amra Prapanaka (raw mango 'sharbat') and Chinchu Panaka (tamarind drink) to help regulate body temperature during extreme heat.

The Siddha and Yoga sections advise adoption of cooling refreshments and breathing techniques such as Sheetal Pranayama along with gentle yoga practices to reduce heat stress.

The Unani system recommends herbal applications to prevent sunburn and dehydration, while the homeopathic section suggests precautionary measures during peak heat hours.

The advisory further encouraged people to include hydrating and cooling food items such as cucumber, watermelon, lime, musk melon, ash gourd and tomatoes in their daily diet during the summer season. Citizens have also been advised to regularly follow weather updates issued by the India Meteorological Department and take necessary precautions during heatwave alerts.

HC grants interim bail to Er Rashid

He shall be permitted to visit the burial ground or any other place of worship, but shall not be permitted to move anywhere else from his residence in Srinagar and Langate, the bench ordered.

Rashid sought interim bail on the grounds that his father, who was undergoing treatment at AIIMS, passed away on the night of Sunday.

"Accordingly, due to the demise of the appellant's father, interim bail is granted to the appellant until 2nd June, 2026," the court ordered.

"Immediately, upon expiry of the bail period, the appellant shall surrender before the concerned Jail Superintendent and shall be brought back to Tihar Jail, Delhi," it added.

The court ordered that any meeting between Rashid and persons other than his immediate family members shall take place only in the presence of the police officials and that he could use only one mobile number, which would be given to the investigating officer and kept "switched on" at all times.

It also directed Rashid not to contact any witnesses or their family members or indulge in any criminal or unlawful activity or leave the country without its prior permission.

Rashid is facing trial in the terror-funding case. He faces 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 National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested him in the 2017 case.

After he was named in a chargesheet in October 2019, a special NIA court framed charges against Rashid and others in March 2022 under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging war against the government), and 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code and under relevant provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Suwendu govt ends religion-based schemes in Bengal

judgment and will set up a panel to decide quota eligibility," said minister Agnimitra Paul.

She said schemes being implemented under religious categorisation by the departments of Information and Cultural Affairs and the Minority Affairs and Madrasa Education would continue till the end of this month and would be stopped from June.

Addressing a press conference after the meeting at the state secretariat Nabanna, minister Agnimitra Paul said women, who applied for citizenship under the CAA and approached tribunals for inclusion in voter rolls in the wake of the SIR exercise, will also receive 'Annapurna' scheme benefits.

"The cabinet gave a nod to the 'Annapurna' scheme of Rs 3,000 monthly assistance to women from June 1. It also approved a proposal to allow free travel for women in government-run buses from next month," she said after the second meeting of the state council of ministers.

The BJP, during the recent assembly poll campaign, had pledged that its government would ensure free travel for women in state-run buses and offer a Rs 3,000 monthly scheme to them, as against the Rs 1,500 provided under the previous TMC government's "Lakshmi Bhandar" scheme.

Paul, the women and child development minister, said the government also approved the constitution of the 7th state pay commission for its employees, and

staffers in allied statutory civic bodies, education boards and those working in state-run education institutions, she said.

Asked whether the issue of dearness allowance was taken up in the meeting, chaired by Suwendu Adhikari, Paul said, "There was no discussion on DA today. Such discussions will be held later."

Par panel summons NTA chief

to various undergraduate courses, on May 21, a Rajya Sabha notice said.

The agenda includes a review of the implementation of the K Radhakrishnan Committee report on NTA reforms and an update on the investigation into the alleged NEET-UG paper leak case.

The committee, headed by Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, has summoned the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Vineet Joshi, and NTA Chairperson Pradeep Kumar Joshi for deliberations.

The NTA cancelled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Exam (Undergraduate) held on May 3 amid allegations of irregularities. Nearly 23 lakh candidates had registered for the test, which was administered by the NTA across the country.

According to the NTA, information regarding alleged malpractice was received on the evening of May 7, four days after the exam was held.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday announced that the NEET-UG re-examination would be held on June 21. He said the medical entrance exam would be computer-based from next year.

The panel will also deliberate on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on education and strategies to enhance students' employability. Representatives from Anthropoc India, Pratham, IIT Kanpur, Infosys and IIT Madras are among those summoned for the discussions.

In a separate session, the committee will hold discussions with the vice-chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and the chairperson of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) on issues related to institutions, including implementation of reservations, vacancies and the National Education Policy (NEP).

The panel will also discuss its 379th report on action taken by the government on recommendations contained in the 365th report on Demands for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

It will also take up the 380th report on action taken on recommendations contained in the 368th report on review of the functioning of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and teacher training initiatives under the NEP 2020.

UAPA conviction rate below 1 pc in J&K, 6 pc nationally: SC

low KA Najeeb. And for this, we have referred to a few statistics of the last five years placed before the Parliament by the Minister of State for Home Affairs based on the statistics of the National Crime Records Bureau. For the five years from 2019 to 2023, all India figures, the rate of conviction minimum is 1.5 pc and a maximum is 4 pc. Whereas in the case of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the rate of conviction in 2019 was zero and the maximum was in 2022 - 0.89 pc," the court said.

The court directed release of the appellant on bail subject to conditions to be imposed by the Special NIA Court. It directed him to deposit his passport and appear before Handwara police station once every fortnight.

The court also disapproved of the judgment in Gul-fisha Fatima v. State which denied bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam. The Court expressed "serious reservations" regarding various aspects of the judgment, including the direction effectively preventing the accused from seeking bail for one year.

The appeal arose from a Jammu and Kashmir High Court judgment dated August 19, 2025, which had refused bail to the appellant, Syed Ifikhar Andrabi, in an NIA case alleging narco-terror activities.

The High Court had held that the prosecution material prima facie showed the appellant's complicity in narco-terror activities and noted allegations regarding recovery of heroin and cash as well as alleged links with persons operating from across the border.

The High Court had also noted that more than 320 witnesses had been cited in the case and only a small number had been examined during trial.

Satheesan sworn in as Kerala CM

Governor.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, among others, attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Thousands of Congress workers arrived in the state capital from across Kerala for the event.

The assembly elections to the 140-member House were held on April 9, with the results declared on May 4. The Congress-led UDF won 102 seats, while the LDF secured 35 and the BJP won three.

'India buying Russian oil irrespective of US sanctions waivers'

should be there for us to purchase," she explained, indicating that the lapse of the American framework would not trigger a shift in New Delhi's buying patterns.

The senior official also allayed domestic anxieties regarding energy availability, guaranteeing that the nation's energy lifelines remain resilient against overseas geopolitical crosscurrents and vulnerabilities across global maritime shipping lanes.

"There is no shortage of crude. Enough crude has been tied up repeatedly... and this, whatever waiver or no waiver, it will not affect," Sharma added.

This assertive posture from the petroleum ministry comes at a juncture when international oil indices are holding at elevated thresholds, driven by regional conflict and persistent anxieties regarding potential supply bottlenecks around the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

International benchmark Brent crude was trading upwards by 0.93 per cent at USD 110.28 per barrel, while US counterpart WTI crude climbed 0.85 per cent to hit USD 106.32 per barrel.

Energy markets have experienced sustained

volatility following a series of kinetic strikes tied to the broader West Asian crisis, sparking widespread fears of disruptions to global energy distribution networks.

Over the past few years, Russian crude has transformed into a cornerstone of India's diversified oil import matrix, primarily because it is frequently secured at competitive discounted rates relative to alternative global benchmarks.

The latest assertions from the petroleum ministry signal that India is poised to sustain its intake of Russian oil independent of changes in the Western regulatory landscape, provided the supplies continue to offer commercial viability and remain structurally accessible.

Par panel to review groundwork for VB-G RAM G rollout

The Centre has also said that existing e-KYC verified MGNREGA job cards will remain valid until new "Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards" are issued, and workers without job cards can continue registering at the gram panchayat level.

The government has maintained that workers will not be denied employment due to pending e-KYC and that wages will continue to be transferred directly into bank or post office accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer.

The ministry has also said draft rules covering wage payments, grievance redressal, allocation norms, administrative expenditure, and transitional provisions are being prepared in consultation with states and Union Territories and would be released for public consultation.

The Centre has earmarked Rs 95,692.31 cr for the programme in 2026-27, describing it as the highest-ever budget estimate allocation for a rural employment programme. With states' contributions, the total outlay is expected to exceed Rs 1.51 lakh crore.

The announcement has, however, triggered political reactions, with the Congress criticising the new law as a "headline-grabbing exercise" and alleging it could lead to greater centralisation and weaken the bargaining power of rural labour.

Launched in 2005 under the Congress-led UPA government, MGNREGA was widely projected as a landmark anti-poverty and rural employment initiative.

China to boost trade for US agri products after Trump-Xi summit

as a bird-flu-free zone, while the Chinese side will "likewise actively work" to address US concerns regarding the registration of beef processing facilities and the export of poultry meat from certain states to China, a ministry spokesperson said.

The two sides also agreed to expand trade, including that of farm goods, through measures such as reciprocal tariff reductions on "a specific range of products," though the spokesperson did not specify the products.

China, recognising the link between food security and national security, has diversified its sources of imported soybeans, beef and other farm goods, turning increasingly to Brazil, Argentina and other countries over the US.

Data from the US Department of Agriculture show China's imports of US agricultural goods peaked in 2022 with \$38 billion but fell to \$8 billion in 2025. These figures include nearly \$18 billion in soybean purchases in 2022 and \$3 billion in 2025.

It's not immediately clear how much more China would buy from American soybean farmers, who were hit especially hard in the trade war. China, traditionally the largest foreign buyer of American soybeans, stopped purchasing them altogether last year after Trump hiked tariffs on Chinese goods.

The latest agreement builds on a trade truce Trump reached with Chinese President Xi Jinping in October in which China agreed to resume buying US soybeans. The White House said then that China committed to buying 12 million metric tons in the current marketing year and 25 million metric tons for each of the next three years.

According to the White House, hundreds of US beef plants, including those run by Tyson and Cargill, also will be able to export again to China, though it's not immediately clear how much beef American businesses will be selling to China.

China let licenses for hundreds of US beef plants expire last year, and the import value for 2025 fell to less than \$500 million, according to USDA figures. China's purchases of US beef had peaked at \$2.14 billion in 2022, the government data shows.

The US export of poultry meats and products to China was \$286 million in 2025, down from more than \$1 billion in 2022.

Kathua-Udh has emerged as development hub: Jitendra

hub in over one decade.

"The last 10 years in this constituency having five districts namely Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban have changed the development culture and we moved from promises to performance, from files to fieldwork," he said.

Highlighting the developmental transformation and infrastructural progress in the constituency, Dr Singh said, "Kathua-Udhampur charts this development journey and the region stands as a living example of how sustained political will, scientific intervention, and infrastructure investment can reshape the destiny of a geographically challenging constituency into a hub of opportunity and progress."

"A defining symbol of this change is the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee tunnel on Jammu-Srinagar highway, inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said, adding that upcoming Katra-Delhi Expressway was expected to reduce travel time to five to six hours, while the Border Roads Organisation had built over 200 bridges across the constituency.

He said that in Udhampur, the Rs 190-cr Devika Riverfront Project had rejuvenated the sacred Devika riverfront into a modern urban space, adding, "Iconic Atal Setu in Basohli over the Ravi and the Keediyang-Gandyal bridge in Kathua have enhanced regional mobility."

On rail connectivity he said, "the rail connectivity too has touched new heights with the dedication of the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, and the introduction of two Vande Bharat trains between Katra and Delhi via Udhampur and Kathua."