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## Won't tolerate demographic changes in WB, Tripura, Bihar: Shah

nounced that The Centre had constituted a high-level committee to examine demographic changes in India arising from "infiltration and other unnatural causes", saying the issue had implications for national security, sovereignty and social stability.

The panel will be chaired by retired judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar and include Census Commissioner, former IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra, former IPS officer Balaji Srivastava and economist Dr Shamika Ravi as members. The Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I) in the Ministry of Home Affairs will serve as the member secretary.

According to Shah, the committee was tasked with conducting a "comprehensive assessment" of demographic changes taking place across the country due to illegal infiltration and other "unnatural" factors. It will also study patterns of "abnormal population shifts" among religious and social communities and recommend "planned and time-bound solutions".

"Infiltration and other reasons causing unnatural demographic change pose a very significant challenge to the present and future of any nation," Shah had said in his statement.

He had added that demographic change was linked not only to sovereignty, but also to national security, law and order, changes in social structure and the preservation of tribal societies.

The announcement had come amid continued political debate over infiltration and demographic shifts in several states, particularly in border and tribal regions.

The government, however, had not immediately specify the timeline within which the committee was expected to submit its report.

## Historic movement against narco-terrorism has started: LG

become hostages to narco-terrorists who profit from suffering and funding terrorism with their black money. We have launched a war against narco-terrorists, who seek to destroy the future of our youth," he added.

The LG said that in every march in Jammu & Kashmir, he had spoken about how drugs were destroying the future of people, robbing them of their ability, their dreams, and their dignity and how the proceeds from drug smuggling were used in buying weapons, and spreading terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir.

"This is not simply a matter of ordinary crime but it is also a question of national security and a direct threat to the very survival of our society. The narco-terrorists, whether sitting in neighbouring countries or operating inside Jammu & Kashmir, are enemies of our people. They are enemies of our children. They are enemies of our progress. Let me make this clear that narco-terrorists operating in Jammu & Kashmir will have to pay a heavy price," he added.

He said that the administration will ensure that those who have harmed our youth face justice so severe that the world will remember their punishment.

He called upon mothers, sisters, and daughters to rise as protectors of our villages, cities and neighbourhoods. He also called upon youth of Jammu Kashmir to stand as guardians of their schools and colleges.

"I promise to the people that narco-terrorists will no longer find refuge. We will hunt them down. Narco-Terrorists days are numbered. Their networks will be dismantled, one by one. This is my oath, my solemn promise that every narco-terrorist will answer for their crimes and their sins," he said.

On the occasion, the LG launched Sindh Samvad, a podcast series and also felicitated the winners of various competitions organised under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan.

## Putin offers Su-57 stealth fighter to India

"In principle, this could have been our (Russia-India) product. We made it independently. And we are ready to work with India. To work and develop. There will be no restrictions whatsoever," he said.

Notably, New Delhi has not yet completely closed its doors on the Russian offer, as state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is in touch with the Sukhoi Design Bureau, the manufacturer of the jet, for possible collaboration.

As the aircraft under the AMCA project is unlikely to join the Indian Air Force (IAF) before 2035, the government is considering the procurement of at least two squadrons (around 36) of Su-57s, provided they fulfil the technical specifications.

India and Russia were in talks for joint development and production of a fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) for close to 15 years.

However, in 2021, India conveyed to Russia its unwillingness to go ahead with it primarily due to the high cost involved in the project. The cost was estimated at around USD 30 billion or Rs 2 lakh crore.

In his remarks, Putin also expressed Russia's willingness to join hands with India in development of other critical platforms including integrated air defence systems. "The same goes for the air defence system," he said, explaining that Russia is ready to work with India on air defence systems and related hardware.

India is developing an indigenous air defence system

called "Sudarshan Chakra" and Russian-origin S-400 missile systems are set to be its one of the key components.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding a warning by the US that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions under the provisions of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). The fifth squadron is yet to be delivered.

The S-400 systems played a crucial role during Operation Sindoor.

In March, New Delhi cleared the procurement of a fresh batch of five S-400 missile systems from Russia that will take the total number to 10.

Leading military think-tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in March said India was the world's second largest importer of arms and military hardware from 2021 to 25 and the largest chunk of the imports came from Russia.

## 26 bullet-resistant vehicles flagged off

mandants of various SSB units were present. A spokesman of the SSB said the newly inducted fleet includes two Marksman and four Mine Protected Bullet Proof (MVPB) vehicles each for several battalions of the force.

The DG said the induction of modern vehicles would significantly enhance operational efficiency, mobility and safe movement of troops in challenging situations across J&K.

He reiterated the Government's commitment towards equipping security forces with state-of-the-art infrastructure and resources.

Later, the DG visited NIT Hazratbal, Srinagar, where he interacted with officers and subordinate officers deployed in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts for upcoming Amarnath Yatra duty.

He expressed confidence in the force's dedication and professionalism in safeguarding national interests during the annual duty deployment.

## India no longer the India it used to be: Rajnath

more. However, in India, it stands at approximately something over 3 per cent. I believe that there cannot be any achievement greater than this," Singh said.

To a question on the target of planting 70 crore saplings, he said that we will achieve whatever target we have set.

"We have successfully achieved every goal we have set so far, and we will achieve this goal --- the tree plantation target --- as well," he said.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Singh planted a sapling at the Kasturba Park in Lucknow Cantonment as part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in the Name of Mother) campaign.

On this occasion, leaders appealed for the planting of as many trees as possible to ensure environmental conservation, green development, and a clean, safe environment for future generations.

Singh said that trees are not merely a means to maintain environmental balance but are also the foundation of human existence and prosperity.

He said that the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, launched in response to the prime minister's call, is a meaningful effort to express reverence for nature and motherhood.

He urged all citizens to join this campaign and pledge to plant at least one sapling and nurture it.

The minister also visited the residence of Aparna Yadav, the vice-chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission, to express his condolences over the passing of her husband, late Prateek Yadav.

He met the family members and prayed for peace for the departed souls and for the family to find the strength to bear this grief, the Lucknow city unit of the BJP said in a statement.

## Shri Amarnathji Yatra control room inaugurated

grimage experience for the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

Ganderbal DC Jatin Kishore briefed the LG on the key features of the new facility.

The centre pools CCTV feeds from across Ganderbal installed by the district administration, police and other security forces, for real-time monitoring at a single centralized location.

The facility is backed by a round-the-clock emergency citizen helpline to provide immediate assistance and crisis mitigation.

In order to ensure a safe and seamless pilgrimage, the Emergency Operations Centre also integrates CCTV Feeds from Baltal Base Camp, approach roads leading upto Baltal Base Camp, Parking Areas in Baltal Base Camp, Sonamarg and Manigam Transit Camp.

It will be instrumental in planning and decision-making during the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

## Govt asks employees to ensure timely census work

ducted from June 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026 across the Union Territory of J&K and a large number of government employees, particularly teaching staff and other field-level officials, have been appointed as Enumerators and Supervisors under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948," a

GAD circular said.

"The duties assigned to Census functionaries are statutory in nature and must be performed within the prescribed timelines to ensure successful completion of this national exercise," it added.

## Advance withdrawal approval limit raised to Rs 2 cr

However, proposals involving advance withdrawals above Rs 2 crore will continue to require the concurrence of the Finance Department.

The enhanced delegation of powers has been approved by the Lieutenant Governor under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, and is expected to facilitate quicker execution of government works and improve administrative efficiency.

## Air Marshal Dixit appointed IAF Vice-Chief

key role in enhancing the jointness in the defence forces as they move towards Theaterisation.

Air Marshal Dixit has also been instrumental in promoting indigenous fighter projects in the Air Force during his different stints in the Air Headquarters. He has also played a key role in modernisation of the force.

The Air Marshal was commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on December 06, 1986. He is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla; Defence Services Staff College (Bangladesh) and National Defence College, New Delhi.

He is a Qualified Flying Instructor and Experimental Test Pilot with over 3,300 hours of flying experience on over 20 types of aircraft, including Mirage-2000, MiG-21 & Jaguar.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit also commanded a premier Fighter Training Base in the Southern Sector, where his leadership led to the base being adjudged the best in the Command.

As a test pilot and later Commanding Officer of the Flight Test Squadron at Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment, Bengaluru, he was involved in several indigenous upgrades and development programmes, including the avionics upgrades for Jaguar & MiG-27. As Director of Air Staff Requirements, he played a key role in the planning and conduct of the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft trials.

## Jitendra launches Jammu Met Centre

saying the move marks the beginning of a new chapter in the 151-year history of the country's weather forecasting agency.

He said that a decision was taken to decentralise the workload of the Delhi regional meteorological centre and improve weather forecasting, early warning dissemination and disaster preparedness across northern India.

"The Meteorological Department has completed 151 years. In this long journey, a new chapter is beginning today with the division of Delhi into three parts by establishing regional meteorological centres at Jammu, Delhi and Lucknow," he said.

The meteorological centre which has been upgraded to a regional centre will cater to the weather service requirements of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, with a special focus on mountain meteorology, snow forecasting and high-altitude weather services.

Singh said the earlier arrangement placed the entire northern region under the Delhi centre, making decentralisation necessary for better maintenance and efficient functioning of meteorological services.

"Under the new structure, the Jammu RMC will serve Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, while the Delhi centre will cover Delhi, Haryana and Punjab.

"The Lucknow Regional Meteorological Centre, which will cater to Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, is scheduled to be inaugurated on June 8," he added.

Describing weather forecasting as a critical component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat, the Union Minister said improved disaster management can significantly reduce losses to life and property.

Highlighting the expansion of weather infrastructure under the Modi government, Singh said that when the government assumed office in 2014, the country had only 17 weather radars. Over the past 12 years, 30 more radars have been installed, taking the total to around 50, while another 50 radars are planned under Mission Mausam.

The minister also highlighted technological advancements in forecasting and said the Nowcast Service now provides highly accurate forecasts up to three hours in advance.

Further, the recently launched SkyCast system at Delhi International Airport helps provide information on fog-related flight disruptions, the minister said. Referring to Jammu and Kashmir's development during the past decade, Singh cited several projects, including the completion of the Shahpur Kandi Project and the establishment of institutions such as IIT, IIM, AIIMS, IIMC and the Central University in the Jammu region.

The minister also said that the IMD has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with institutions in Jammu and Srinagar, and the Department of Science and Technology, under the government's "Whole-of-Government" approach to strengthen meteorological and climate-related services.

The upgraded Jammu centre is expected to significantly enhance weather monitoring, forecasting capabilities and disaster preparedness across the northwestern Himalayan region, particularly in vulnerable mountain areas prone to extreme weather events.

## PM Modi calls for renewed commitment to sustainable growth

he said. World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5 to raise awareness and encourage action for environmental protection.

Established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1973, it is the largest global platform for public outreach on environmental issues, celebrated by millions worldwide.

In 2026, the event will be hosted by Azerbaijan. The celebration has become one of the most extensive platforms supporting environmental causes globally.

LG Manoj Sinha and J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah also called for collective efforts to protect the environment, saying it was vital for a healthier planet for future generations.

"On World Environment Day, let's rededicate ourselves to the conservation of Mother Earth and preservation of nature's delicate balance. Our collective efforts towards environmental protection are vital for the well-being of humanity and a healthier planet for future generations," Sinha said in his message.

Omar in his message said his government was committed to environmental conservation, and called upon every citizen to join the collective mission.

## Z-plus security cover of Lalu, Rabri withdrawn

Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi will now be provided security cover by the Bihar Special Armed Police (BSAP).

The decision was taken after the department reviewed the security of various VIP protectees in the state, an official said.

"The Z-plus security comprises a dedicated team of trained personnel equipped with advanced arms," he said.

The current security arrangement of the two RJD leaders feature two to eight house guards from the BSAP, two bodyguards from the Patna District Force, and a pilot and bulletproof car, he said.

The Bihar government has retained the Y-plus security cover provided to Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, the official said. The notification added that the existing security arrangements for Lalu Prasad's eldest daughter and

MP Misa Bharti and Tejashwi Yadav's wife Rajshree Yadav will remain.

## Omar meets K'taka CM, expresses confidence in stronger inter-state cooperation

confidence that Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka would continue to strengthen cooperation and exchange best practices in governance, public welfare and inclusive development.

"It was a pleasure to meet and be able to congratulate my friend D.K. Shivakumar in person on the sidelines of The Hindu Huddle. I'm sure his term in office will be hugely beneficial to the people of Karnataka," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said after the meeting.

Shivakumar was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Karnataka on June 3, 2026.

## US visa policies not targeting India, applied uniformly worldwide: State Deptt

international mobility for economic activity, investment and workforce development. He said Washington remains committed to working with partner countries to facilitate the movement of people whose presence contributes to trade, business and professional collaboration.

"When it comes to visa policy in general, we are of course going to work with other countries to allow people to enter the country that are needed for trade and investment, to work, and there are numerous examples of that happening with different bilateral partners across the world."

At the same time, he said, the United States seeks to ensure that domestic workers also benefit from economic opportunities created within the country.

"We also are clear, as in any country, that if you are going to create a job in the US, that we want to make sure that Americans have opportunities there, and every country has a similar mentality," he said, adding that Secretary of State Marco Rubio has stressed that each country pursues its own national interests.

Reiterating the administration's position, Pigott said visa policies are intended to strike a balance between attracting talent and investment while protecting opportunities for American citizens.

"Of course, we're going to facilitate and allow ways that people need to come in to facilitate investment, to train workers, and make sure that visa policies are in place to allow that to happen. We're applying the laws consistently across the board. There are no visa laws that target India specifically."

"We are going to make sure that when we have visa policies in place, that while we facilitate the entry of workers into the United States, we want to make sure, as any country would, that Americans in America, or name your country and their own citizens, have the opportunities of that investment as well," he said.

Pigott's remarks come at a time of heightened uncertainty among immigrant communities following a tougher immigration posture adopted by the Trump administration during its second term in office.

The administration has intensified enforcement measures and introduced stricter requirements affecting immigrants entering the country on work visas, including the H1B programme, which has long been a key pathway for Indian professionals seeking employment in the United States.

The policy shift has also coincided with concerns among sections of the Indian diaspora over a rise in anti-immigrant rhetoric and hostility directed at immigrant communities, including Indians, amid the administration's hardline stance on immigration.

## NC part of INDIA bloc: Farooq

of us will go. Obviously, we are part of that. We will be there," Abdullah told reporters at Hazratbal.

To a question on LoP Sunil Shamra's remark about Article 370 having been "buried", he said the party will keep the issue alive "till eternity".

The National Conference on Wednesday announced that its legislators will protest in Delhi to press for the restoration of statehood and special status.

## Kavinder calls for collective action for clean environment

Life" and witnessed enthusiastic participation of people from Himachal Pradesh and the neighbouring states. Personnel from Central Armed Police Forces, students from schools, colleges and universities, senior citizens and specially-abled participants also took part in large numbers.

The marathon also served as a platform to educate citizens about the ongoing Self-Enumeration Campaign being conducted by the Census Department.

"The people of Himachal Pradesh are fortunate to live in a state blessed with a pristine environment and clean air, which contribute significantly to a healthy lifestyle," he said and emphasised the need to preserve and protect the state's natural environment for future generations.

The governor appreciated the overwhelming enthusiasm shown by participants and remarked that such public involvement reflects a growing commitment towards environmental protection and social causes.

He said, "Development cannot be accepted at the cost of the environment. Environmental protection and a drug-free society are the foundations of a better future."

Expressing concern over the growing challenge of drug abuse, the Governor lauded the efforts of the Himachal Pradesh Police for spreading awareness through innovative outreach programmes.

He said that protecting the younger generation from the dangers of narcotics is a collective responsibility and can only be achieved when every section of society joins hands in the fight against drugs. "When every section of society works shoulder to shoulder, Himachal Pradesh can certainly become a drug-free state," he said.

The governor said that public participation plays a crucial role in the success of any social campaign.

He appreciated the efforts of the organizing departments for ensuring the involvement of people from all walks of life and expressed confidence that such initiatives would yield positive and lasting results.

Highlighting the importance of cleanliness, Gupta said that the habit of maintaining cleanliness must begin at the individual and family level. He urged citizens to adopt cleanliness as a way of life and contribute actively towards building a healthier and more sustainable society.

Interacting with the participants, he encouraged youth to maintain physical fitness and adopt a healthy lifestyle, emphasizing that a fit and disciplined generation is essential for building a strong and progressive society.

He urged young people to stay away from drugs, engage in sports and outdoor activities, and contribute actively towards environmental conservation and social well-being.

Earlier, the governor administered a pledge to all participants, encouraging them to remain committed to cleanliness, environmental protection and a drug-free lifestyle.

He also interacted with the participants and motivated them to contribute towards preserving Himachal Pradesh's green cover and to stay away from substance abuse. He also visited an exhibition organized by the Department of Environment, Science, Technology and Climate Change, and appreciated the efforts being undertaken to promote environmental awareness. He also signed the "Harit Himachal and Chitta-Mukt Himachal" campaign wall, reaffirming his commitment to both causes.

Shimla Municipal Corporation Mayor Surender Chauhan, DGP Ashok Tiwari, secretary, Department of Environment, Science, Technology and Climate Change, Sushil Kumar Singla, Director of Census Operations, Himachal Pradesh, Deep Shikha Sharma, along with senior officers and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

## HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUNE 05

The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Centre on Friday celebrated World Environment Day 2026 on the theme "A Global Call for Climate Action" with engineers, academicians and environmental experts highlighting the urgent need for sustainable development and ecological conservation.

The programme was attended by engineers from various departments and organisations, senior engineers and members of the managing committee of IEI Jammu Centre.

Dr. V. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, J&K Government, was the Chief Guest, while Dr. Pratik Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil (Environmental) Engineering, IIT Jammu, delivered the keynote address. The func-



tion was presided over by Er. Anil Verma, FIE, Chairman, IEI Jammu Centre.

In his welcome address, Er. Anil Verma spoke about the visible impact of climate change in India, citing the unusually early flowering and fruiting of mango trees this year as a glaring example of changing climatic patterns. He stressed the need for all stakeholders, particularly those associated with infrastructure development, to ensure that ecological balance is maintained during developmental activities.

He also advocated the creation of ecologically sensitive wildlife and environmental corridors on the pattern of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway

near Rajaji National Park.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Pratik Kumar informed the audience that summer temperatures in India this year were nearly 2°C higher compared to previous decades. Referring to scientific studies, he said that human-driven climate change has made the Earth around 1°C hotter than it would otherwise have been. He cautioned that the Hindu Kush Himalayan region could lose up to 75 per cent of its glacier ice by 2100 if global temperatures continue to rise at the current pace. He called for close coordination among academicians, government agencies and industrialists to address climate-related challenges prudently.

He also emphasised the need for sustainable solutions to address growing environmental challenges such as biodiversity loss, pollution, degradation of natural resources and increasing pressure on ecosystems.

During the seminar, technical papers on the theme were presented by Er. P. K. Nanda, FIE; Er. B. L. Rawal, FIE; Er. Gopal Krishna Sharma, FIE; Er. Ranjeev Sawhney, MIE; Er. Joy Ganjoo, AM Technologist; and Er. Anil Kumar, AMIE.

Chief Guest Dr. V. S. Senthil Kumar appreciated the efforts of senior engineers in presenting technical papers on environmental concerns. He highlighted the initiatives being undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir Government to tackle climate change, with focus on tourism, ecosystem preservation and disaster management.

He also emphasised the need for sustainable solutions to address growing environmental challenges such as biodiversity loss, pollution, degradation of natural resources and increasing pressure on ecosystems.

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