

Cont. From Page 1

Modi tears into AAP over law & order, other issues

to ensure the state's development, Modi said.

Attacking the Congress, he said, "What was the condition of railways before 2014? The then-Congress government would simply make false announcements about new trains and then just sit back." Modi also said that the infighting in Congress' Punjab unit over the chief minister's chair seems never-ending.

"They are not fighting for people - they are fighting among themselves," he said.

On the occasion, the prime minister flagged off the Amritsar (Chheharta)-Varanasi Sant Ravidas Express, establishing a direct rail link between the two prominent spiritual and cultural centres.

Modi reached Jalandhar after unveiling several projects in Chandigarh and Haryana's Jind, where he flagged off India's first hydrogen-powered train.

This was Modi's second visit to Jalandhar after he went to the Dera Sachkhand Ballan in February.

The visit is being seen as a political outreach ahead of the 2027 Punjab polls, which the BJP is preparing to fight on its own.

The prime minister earlier inaugurated 75 redeveloped railway stations in 20 states under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

Under the project, modern, passenger-friendly facilities have been added to the stations at a cost of about Rs 1,570 crore.

LG visits Nunwan camp, calls for welfare of pilgrims

parency and prevent overcharging.

In view of the forecast of heavy rainfall during the coming days, the LG directed the administration and all stakeholder agencies to remain fully prepared, strengthen contingency measures and ensure the safety, security and convenience of pilgrims under all circumstances. He also directed that each tent should have a mandatory fire extinguisher.

Sinha also interacted with pilgrims and discussed about their experience during the holy pilgrimage. The pilgrims expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and appreciated the cleanliness, sanitation arrangements, security, accommodation facilities and invaluable support of the personnel engaged in yatra duties.

"The expansion of infrastructure and pilgrim facilities in recent years have been reflected positively in the feedback from devotees. Alongside these advancements, it is essential to ensure that every pilgrim accesses these facilities seamlessly, without any impediment," he said.

The LG also interacted with shopkeepers, service providers, langar-sevadars, volunteers, and lauded their valuable contribution in facilitating the smooth pilgrimage of the devotees of Baba Barfani.

Later, speaking to media persons, he said: "Through the seamless coordination of all departments of J&K administration, police, Army, security forces, shrine board and all stakeholders, the arrangements for this year's pilgrimage are significantly enhanced. Feedback from the pilgrims has been overwhelmingly positive. This pilgrimage continues to drive vital economic benefits for Jammu & Kashmir. Furthermore, following the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for visiting pilgrims to purchase local products, a large number of devotees are buying local products such as handloom and handicrafts. In the days to come, this pilgrimage will be remembered as a truly memorable and historic one."

He was accompanied by V K Birdi, IGP Kashmir; M Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic J&K; Sujit Kumar Singh, IGP Security; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Nodal Officer for Pahalgam Axis; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG South Kashmir Range; Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; Amod Nagpure Ashok, SSP Anantnag, Anoo Malhotra, DG Rural Sanitation; and other senior officers of shrine board, civil administration, police and security forces.

Saxena commissions India's first geothermal wells

been termed as a big stride towards the establishment of India's first-ever Geothermal Power Plant in Ladakh.

The commissioning of the two 1000-mt-deep wells, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft, would significantly advance Ladakh's journey towards becoming a clean energy hub, powered by renewable sources, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The project also fulfills the PM's vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh and the call to harness alternative, renewable energy sources for our future security.

The two geothermal wells are critical for the successful implementation of the 1 MW pilot geothermal power project at Puga, which will be India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Notably, the geothermal power project had suffered a major setback following the expiry of the earlier tripartite MoU between the Ladakh administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC Energy Centre, resulting in critical delays of several months in project execution. Recognising the strategic importance of geothermal energy for India's energy security and clean energy transition, Saxena personally intervened to facilitate the renewal of the MoU for another five years, in June this year, following which works resumed for the completion of the two geothermal wells.

Successful completion of the two wells would facilitate critical reservoir evaluation, power plant planning and the eventual commercial development of geothermal resources in Ladakh. Project Engineers informed that the maximum temperature of 135 degrees Celsius was recorded at a depth of 400 meters. Further testing is on and the engineers are hopeful to achieve even higher temperatures for operation of the 1MW pilot geothermal power project and eventual commercial exploration of geothermal energy.

The project has been undertaken in one of the world's most challenging operating environments, characterised by extreme weather conditions, rugged terrain and a limited annual working season.

Despite countering geothermal activities, complex sub-surface conditions and operational challenges, the first of the two wells was successfully drilled to its target depth of 1000 metres on 22 May 2026. Subsequently, the other geothermal well was spudded on 03 June 2026, and in a record time of just over a month, it was successfully drilled and completed to 1000 mt depth on July 8, 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG termed the commissioning of the geothermal wells as a historic milestone in India's clean energy journey and a defining moment in Ladakh's transition towards a carbon-neutral future.

"This Geothermal Power project would act as a catalyst for Ladakh's holistic development. Beyond its scientific significance, this initiative will strengthen Ladakh's energy security, promote environmental sustainability and contribute to regional socio-economic development. What has been achieved in Puga Valley would serve as a blueprint for India's net-zero journey and significantly contribute towards making Ladakh a carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable region," he said.

He lauded the ONGC engineers, saying the Indian engineers and technicians were among the best in the world, capable of achieving the most difficult engineering feats, and they truly symbolise India's growing stature in the field of global engineering. He also appreciated every worker associated with the project, saying it was a true testament to their grit, determination and perseverance.

SOG man killed in road accident

tal, where doctors declared one of them dead, while the other was undergoing treatment, officials said.

The dead was identified as Tariq Ahmad of Hanjura

and the injured as Riyaz Ahmed.

Police had taken cognisance of the incident.

PWD AE caught while taking bribe

the complainant's residential house had suffered damages during the construction of PMGSY road connecting Thathri and Kathawa in Doda district.

The complainant was entitled to a compensation amounting to nearly Rs 10 lakh for the damage caused.

It was alleged that the AE had demanded a bribe of Rs 50,000 to facilitate the processing and release of the compensation amount. Following negotiations, the accused allegedly agreed to accept Rs 30,000 from the complainant, officials said.

Acting on the complaint, the CBI laid a trap and apprehended the accused while he was allegedly demanding and accepting the bribe amount of Rs 30,000. The accused was caught red-handed, the officials added.

Further investigation was underway, officials said.

Court denies bail to accused in Abdullah assault case

him bail.

The bail application was heard by Principal Sessions Judge R N Watal, who passed the order, dismissing the plea filed by the accused.

The applicant sought bail on the grounds of innocence, advanced age, and medical ailments, including neurological and psychiatric disorders. The defence argued that the accused had no intention of harming Farooq Abdullah and had merely attempted to approach him during a wedding function to take a photograph.

It was also contended that the investigation was substantially complete and that the accused deserved bail considering his medical condition.

Oposing the application, Public Prosecutor Hemanshu Parkash argued that the allegations involve a grave and politically motivated attempt to murder a prominent public figure.

He submitted that granting bail at this stage could undermine public confidence in the criminal justice system, create fear among witnesses, and encourage similar acts.

According to the prosecution case, the incident occurred on March 11, 2026, during a wedding function at Greater Kailash, where Farooq Abdullah was present.

In its detailed order, the court observed that offences involving attacks on public figures were not merely crimes against an individual but had far-reaching consequences for public order, democratic stability, and the rule of law.

The judge held that individual liberty must be balanced against societal interest, particularly in cases carrying serious allegations with significant public implications.

JeM terror module busted

of Mohammed Amin Shera, arrested earlier this month, a shocking detail emerged that another group of persons was involved with him in making preparations for a blast," ATS Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Sunil Joshi told reporters.

Bilal Shera (24), a resident of Ahmedabad and educated at Jamiyat-ul-Uloom Madrasa in Sabarkantha; Mohammad Ayyub Kadiwal (22), resident of Patan and studying at Jamia Abul Hasan Madrasa in Khadiyasan; Mohammad Ayyubbhai Sunsara (20), resident of Patan and studying at Darul Uloom Mafiwalah Madrasa in Bharuch; Shafi Raees Mukhi (21), resident of Banaskantha and studying at Jamia Islamia Talimuddin Madrasa in Dabhel and Mohammad Hasan Hanifbhai Kardiya (20), resident of Patan and studying at Darul Uloom Mafiwalah Madrasa in Bharuch were arrested on Wednesday.

These five, along with Amin Shera, Zakariya Durani Mohammad Ammar Ghagha and Ahmed Abdullah Gajiwala (all three arrested ealier) were involved in developing Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) while Mufti Faujan Ismail Dauwa supported their efforts, said one of the investigating officials.

They tried to learn bomb-making techniques and IED detonation mechanism, he said.

They also purchased materials needed for making gunpowder including potassium nitrate, sulphur and charcoal through a shopping portal and in local markets, he said.

DIG Joshi said that they were also doing research on the quality of wire used in bombs and the kind of pipes used for packing explosives.

"Between 2023 and February 2026, the accused made eight separate attempts, at different locations, to study and practise various explosive timer mechanisms and methods of carrying out blasts," as per the ATS statement.

Amin Shera allegedly delivered jihad-related speeches and sermons.

"Bilal Shera provided a pen drive to Mohammad Amin Shera which allegedly contained jihad-related speeches, videos and literature of JeM chief Masood Azhar," the release said.

All the accused photocopied and read the book "Akela Mujahid Jihad Kaisa Kare" (How a Lone Mujahid should carry out Jihad) and invited other madrasa students to join jihad by holding three "recruitment meetings", it added.

The ATS made first arrests on July 2 by rounding up eight persons who had allegedly formed "Darul Islam Gujarat Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)".

The ATS found a JeM flag, printed copies of jihad-related books written by Masood Azhar, a printed copy of a letter addressed to him, and Rs 1.30 lakh allegedly meant to finance terrorist activities.

A case was registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

NDA ministers discuss strategy to get bills passed

plans to introduce the Income-tax (Amendment) Bill in the upcoming Monsoon session to replace the Ordinance effected to exempt foreign investors from income tax on interest earnings and capital gains from investment in G-secs.

The Ordinance was promulgated last month to attract foreign capital to ease pressure on the depreciating rupee due to the West Asia crisis.

In the upcoming session, the government may also bring an amended women's reservation bill along with a delimitation bill to seek its passage in Parliament, with NDA sources expressing confidence in getting the required two-thirds number with the support of various opposition parties, except the Congress and the Samajwadi Party.

The government is learnt to be working on multiple formulations to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats for all states by 50 per cent to assuage the concerns of southern states, as it seeks to operationalise a fresh draft of the Constitution amendment bill on women's quota law.

The draft is being readied keeping in mind the concerns of the southern states that a population-based delimitation exercise would shrink their political power in the Lok Sabha.

The first Bill failed to clear the Lok Sabha test on April 17 as the government could not muster the two-thirds majority required to pass it.

The sources said the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, listed for introduction, consideration and passing, may be first brought in the Rajya Sabha.

The amendment bill seeks to give the national song Vande Mataram the same statutory protection as the national anthem Jana Gana Mana.

The Monsoon session of Parliament, beginning July 20, is likely to see opposition attack on the government on a variety of issues, including NEET paper leak, death of Indian seafarers in the West Asia conflict and the mixing of ethanol

in petrol.News magazine subscription

The opposition will also raise the issue of alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

A weakened opposition following assembly poll results in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, and differences between the Congress and the DMK over the formation of government by the TVK in Tamil Nadu are likely to embolden the ruling alliance in Parliament during the session.

Must remain forward-looking: Prez to IFS officers

tions will continue to present new challenges," she said while addressing probationers of the Indian Forest Service (IFS), who called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

"As officers, you must remain adaptable and forward-looking. You should keep learning and remain open to innovation while staying firmly rooted in constitutional values," Murmu said.

The president asked them to encourage people's participation in conservation, restoration and sustainable livelihood initiatives.

Understanding the views and concerns of tribal communities, forest dwellers, women, farmers and local institutions will provide you with valuable insight, she said.

"Indigenous knowledge has preserved the forests for generations. You should build trust between the administration and the local people. When communities are stakeholders in protecting forests, conservation efforts will be more effective and long-lasting," Murmu said.

The president said that the IFS officers' responsibilities extend beyond conservation alone.

"Ecological protection must be harmonised with the legitimate aspirations of people who live in and around forests. Development and conservation should not be viewed as opposing goals. You should work towards solutions where both nature and communities can thrive together," she said.

Addressing the officers, the president said they are not only administrators of forests but the custodians of India's natural heritage.

"Your role has become more significant today. The world is facing the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Forests are central to addressing these challenges.

"They conserve biodiversity, regulate local climates and sustain the livelihoods of millions of people. Your work will therefore contribute not only to India's environmental security but also to global efforts towards sustainable development," she said.

Asserting that technology is becoming indispensable for environmental governance, Murmu said that the use of technology enables better monitoring of forest health, wildlife movements, fire prevention and restoration efforts.

"However, you should remember that technology can never be a substitute for human touch, ethical decision-making and compassion. The best decisions often emerge when scientific evidence is combined with wisdom gained through experience and dialogue with people," she said.

The president said that their integrity must remain unquestionable.

"Your words should reflect humility. You must lead from the front, particularly during difficult situations. You should always remember that empathy is one of the finest qualities of a public servant," Murmu said.

She said that public service is about improving the lives of people and contributing to the nation's progress.

"Ecological security is integral to the national goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047. I am confident that as Indian Forest Service officers, you will play a defining role in ensuring that India's progress remains green, inclusive and sustainable," the president said.

JPC defers adoption of report on J&K, UT Bills

that we needed more deliberations and consultation with more stakeholders," she said.

Sarangli also outlined the timeline of the committee's work. She said the Joint Committee was constituted on August 20, 2025, the day the Union Home Minister introduced the Bills in the Lok Sabha. The committee was notified on November 12, 2025, and held its first meeting on December 2, 2025.Executive Branch

She added that the committee would continue engaging with stakeholders before finalising its report on the three Bills.

Meanwhile, Aparajita also serves as the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Sub-Committee on Defence, which is examining defence-related reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

In newly created JK4C, govt posts 5 police officers

ing, preventing, detecting and investigating cybercrimes across Jammu and Kashmir.

The centre will function in close alignment with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, ensuring seamless coordination with the national cybercrime framework.

According to the home department order, the JK4C will be headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector General of Police (IGP), who will function as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centre.

As part of the restructuring, the subject of cybercrime has been detached from the Crime Wing of Police and will henceforth be exclusively handled by the JK4C.

The government ordered that the existing two Zonal Cyber Crime Investigation Centres of Excellence (CICEs) and 23 District Cyber Police Stations shall become integral components of the JK4C, thereby creating a unified and coordinated institutional mechanism for tackling cybercrime across the Union Territory.

The order also stipulates that the proposal for creation of various posts required for the functioning of the JK4C shall be processed separately in accordance with the prescribed procedure after completion of all requisite formalities.

Pending the creation and regular filling of sanctioned posts, the police headquarters, has been directed to deploy the required number of police personnel of the rank of DSPs and below from the existing police strength to ensure the centre becomes operational without delay.

The government has also approved the organisational structure, tentative staff strength, operational framework, workflow of various verticals, and the functions and responsibilities of different divisions and units of the JK4C, as detailed in the annexure accompanying the government order.

The establishment of the JK4C is expected to significantly enhance the Union Territory's preparedness to address emerging cyber threats, improve inter-agency coordination, strengthen cybercrime investigations, and provide a more robust institutional framework for safeguarding citizens against cyber-enabled offences.

1 killed, 3 SOG men injured in firing incident

from Bhaderwah town, following reports of suspicious movement in the high-altitude area.

At about 11.30 pm, the SOG team intercepted a youth. Officials alleged that he attacked the SOG personnel and attempted to snatch the service rifle of one of them.

A scuffle broke out, following which a cop opened fire. In the incident, the youth and three police personnel sustained bullet injuries, officials said.

All the four were taken to the sub-district hospital, Bhaderwah, from where they were referred to the Government Medical College & Hospital, Doda, for specialised

treatment.

However, during treatment, the 'youth', who was identified as Aarif Hussain of Cheeka village, succumbed to his injuries, officials said.

As a precautionary measure, additional deployments of CRPF and police had been made in Bhaderwah town, the officials added.

4,640 pilgrims leave for Himalayas for darshans of ice-Shivalingam

around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra marks the beginning of one of the country's most revered spiritual pilgrimages and reflects the coordinated efforts of the administration and all stakeholder departments to facilitate a secure, seamless and memorable pilgrimage experience for every devotee.

Traffic restrictions will remain in force on various stretches of the highway till August 28, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

US strikes bridges, collapses tower at key port in Iran

Abbas, Iran's main port, from roads leading into the Islamic Republic's central region onward to Tehran, the capital.

While other routes still are open, the US strikes could expand further, potentially disrupting both the movement of military materiel and goods needed for Iran's 90 million people.

The US military's Central Command said it hit dozens of targets in its latest airstrikes, which concluded at dawn Friday, the sixth night in a row of American attacks.

The strikes also collapsed a tower at Iran's Chabahar port on the Gulf of Oman, a key trade route for landlocked, neighbouring Afghanistan.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth shared the image of the surveillance tower collapsing, part of his effort to assert American control over the strait. That image had circulated social media via activists prior to Hegseth sharing it.

Chabahar port, which Iran had been running with support from India, has been a repeated target of American airstrikes. Iranian state media acknowledged a third round of strikes on the facility without immediately acknowledging the tower's collapse.

Iran described the tower as overseeing commercial traffic into the port. However, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard also operates at ports across the country.

Meanwhile, Qatar twice warned the public to take shelter as a barrage of Iranian missiles targeted the nation. People heard explosions overhead as air defences fired to intercept the missiles. Qatar's Interior Ministry said falling debris wounded a child.

Qatar, along with Pakistan, is a key mediator in trying to reach an end to the Iran war. But talks have broken down over Iran's chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran also targeted Bahrain and Kuwait early Friday. Jordan's military said it intercepted three incoming missiles Friday morning launched by Iran.

Sheikh Hasina's extradition under scrutiny: India

plans to return to Bangladesh to revive her Awami League party.

"We have received a request for extradition. This request, as we have said earlier as well, is under examination," he said.

"The request is being taken into consideration given the legalities that are involved," he said.

Last week, sources close to Hasina said the former prime minister was preparing to voluntarily return to Dhaka to revive Awami League.

Hasina, 78, has been living in India since she fled Dhaka following the collapse of her government in August, 2024 in the face of a massive anti-government agitation.

Last November, Hasina was sentenced to death in absentia by a special tribunal in Dhaka for alleged "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests in 2024.

Since the verdict, Dhaka has been urging New Delhi to extradite her to face the law.

"We are all prepared to welcome our leader back," Kazi Nasim Rupak, a member of the publicity sub-committee of the Awami League party, said.

The relations between India and Bangladesh witnessed major downturn after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus came to power following the collapse of Hasina's government.

The two sides had initiated efforts to stabilise the relations after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, accompanied by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, represented India at the inauguration of Tarique Rahman as the prime minister in Dhaka on February 17.

Rahman became the prime minister following his party's landslide victory in the parliamentary polls. Hasina's Awami League party was barred from contesting the polls.

In April, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman visited India as part of efforts to repair the strained bilateral ties following more than 18 months of heightened diplomatic tension.

It was the first high-level visit to India by a senior member of the new Bangladesh Nationalist Party government.

SC seeks EC reply on plea for SIR data transparency

tion of citizenship under the Citizenship Act."

"The Election Commission is not a constitutional authority concerning the determination of citizenship. There is no confusion in law. The Election Commission has control and superintendence over the electoral roll," the bench added.

The senior lawyer said that 33.5 lakh appeals are still pending and the disposed of cases show that 70 per cent claims are allowed.

"So, in the meantime they are decided, they are ousted from PDS and other schemes," the lawyer said.

The bench agreed to hear the fresh plea with pending petitions including the one filed by former chief minister Mamata Banerjee on the SIR issue on August 25.

The plea seeks enforcement of rights under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution.

The SIR exercise in West Bengal resulted in the exclusion of over 58 lakh electors during the enumeration phase, it said, adding that while 9.64 lakh applications for inclusion (Forms 6 and 6A) and over 99,000 applications for deletion (Form 7) were received during the claims and objections phase, only around 1.82 lakh additions were ultimately reflected in the final electoral roll published on February 28.

The petitioner said that the poll panel has not disclosed constituency-wise data showing how many applications were received, accepted or rejected, limiting public scrutiny of the exercise.

The PIL said that the absence of detailed data and the non-publication of formats prescribed under the EC's Manual on Electoral Rolls, 2024 undermines transparency and accountability in the revision process.

The petition also raises concerns over the process adopted to identify more than 60 lakh "logical discrepancy" cases, alleging that criteria such as parent-child age gaps, multiple family linkages and name mismatches were introduced without any basis in the Representation of the People Act, 1950 or the SIR notifications.

It alleges that these criteria led to notices and large-scale deletions without adequate transparency regarding the basis of the action.