CM Abdullah meets...

Kashmir will submit its report within six months, according to student leaders. The students are protesting against the reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir implemented after the abrogation of Article 370.National Conference leader and Lok Sabha member from Srinagar Aga Ruhullah Mehdi led a peaceful protest outside the residence of Abdullah to support the demand for "rationalisation" of reservations in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We met the chief minister and held discussions on the reservation issue for about 30 minutes. The crux of the discussion was that the chief minister has asked for six months for the sub-committee to complete its work," one of the student leaders told reporters after meeting Abdullah at his residence. Taking to social media, Abdullah said the channel of communication with the students will remain open without any intermedi-aries."Today I met the representatives of the Open Merit Students Association. The beauty of democracy is the right to be heard & dialogue in a spirit of mutual cooperation. I have made certain requests of them & given them a number of assurances. This channel of communication will remain open without any intermediaries or hangers-on," the chief minister posted on X.

Mehdi, a firebrand leader, had on Sunday announced that he would be joining the student protest. With the Centre granting reservation to Paharispeaking people in Jammu and Kashmir, the open merit category has been reduced to 30 per cent while 70 per cent of seats are reserved for various communities. Students, especially those undergoing training in medicine and surgery, have been protesting, saying the reservation policy promotes mediocrity where merit should reign supreme. Asked if he was satisfied with the outcome of the meeting between the students and the chief minister, the Lok Sabha member said his satisfaction was immaterial. "If the students are satisfied, I am satisfied. The good thing is that the process of the sub-committee has been made time-bound. Earlier it was openended," Mehdi said

He said it was wrong to call the event a protest as it was "an assembly of people to discuss" the reservation policy. Several political leaders including Lok Sabha member from Baramulla Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer and leaders of arch-rival PDP -- Waheed Para and Iltija Mufti -- have supported the protest led by the leader of the ruling NC.Mirwaiz Umar Faroog, the chairman of the separatist Hurrivat Conference, has also called for "rationalisation" of reservations.PDP MLA from Pulwama Waheed Para in a post on X said he welcomes Mehdi's decision to stand with the youth in "demanding rationality and fairness in reservation policies. This is a pivotal moment to address pressing grievances and ensure our policies are inclusive, youth-friendly, and just".

Para said at the heart of this matter lies the urgent and vehement demand for proportional representation, a system that allocates opportunities based on the socio-economic realities of communities, ensuring no group is disproportionately favoured or left behind."Our demand is not antithetical to affirmative action, in fact, we are in favour of strengthening it. We believe that inclusion through reservation must go beyond tokenism to foster substantive equality. We believe in empowering marginalised communities to not just be present but to shape decisions and lead change

"However, let's be clear: Merit must remain the bedrock of our systems. Reservations must serve only as targeted exceptions to bridge inequalities, not as tools for perpetual imbalance. Policies that reduce the majority to a minority are neither just nor sustainable," he added. The Mirwaiz, in a post of X, said the issue of reservations should be addressed with justice and fairness by those in charge, safeguarding the interests of all segments of society and not at the expense of any one group.

"The current status of reservations does that, by undermining the interests of the General/open merit category. Fervent appeal to address their concerns immediately! Support #openmeritstudentsassociation @OMSA_JK sit-in protest," he said.The Mirwaiz said he would be part of the protests if allowed by authorities. "My delegation will be there to support. Will also raise the issue in #JamaMasjid whenever permitted to go," he added.Awami Ittehad Party MLA Sheikh Khursheed and chief spokesman Inam un Nabi also joined the protests in support of "rationalisation" of reservations.

Today's Cong is 'duplicate...

He also alleged that government money was being used by the ruling party for the centenary celebrations of the 1924 Indian National Congress session that was presided over by Mahatma Gandhi in Belagavi. The 39th session of the Indian National Congress held in Belagavi was the only Congress session presided over by Mahatma Gandhi.

The centenary event is scheduled in Belagavi on December 26 and 27."Today's Congress party is not the inheritors of the Congress party during Mahatma Gandhi's time. What is there now is a duplicate Congress and fake Gandhis (referring to Sonia and Rahul Gandhi)," Joshi said.Speaking to reporters here, he alleged that thousands of rupees from the government is being spent and decorative light arrangements have been done by Hubballi Electricity Supply Company (HESCOM) in Belagavi for the celebrations. "Entirely government money."

"What is your relationship with Mahatma Gandhi's Congress? Your Congress is a duplicate Congress. Congress has got spoiled after getting split several times. What is there now is a group of thieves. You Gandhis are fake Gandhis. Why is government money spent on fake Gandhis' fake Congress? It has to be immediately stopped and the money spent has to be made public and the Congress party has to pay the money," he said.Further noting that after getting to know about objections being raised over government money being spent for the event, the Congress is playing a new "drama" by trying to project it as an event of Mahatma Gandhi, who fought for the country's freedom, and started inviting everyone for it, Joshi said and added that "they are trying to give it a new twist, but people are not fools." "There is a huge difference between this Congress and the then Congress. There is no relation between them. What is there today is a group of thieves, today's Gandhis are fake Gandhis," he added. The party has decided to hold a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) on December 26 in Belagavi and a public meeting on December 27.Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress chief D K Shivakumar had recently said that as part of the government programme there will be the unveiling of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on December 26 on the premises of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge.

the articles, monographs, books on regional literature, folk music, drama genre and Pahari art become a part of every household, he added. The Lieutenant Governor also applauded the IGNCA and J&K Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT) for organising Toycathon.

He said the Toycathon provides an opportunity to our youngsters to participate in grassroot innovation and lead them to design and develop toys based on local cultural ethos and life of local heroes. The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the revolution taking place in UT of J&K in edu-cation sector, in the past few years. "I am proud that Jammu Kashmir is leading the country in implementing the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020", he said.On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the students who excelled during the District/School level competitions under Toycathon 2024.

He also released several publications of IGNCA, and visited the stalls put up by different school students exhibiting innovative and creative toy designs, and clay models prepared by artists from various states.Ms Sakina Ittoo, Minister for School/Higher Education, Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare; Dr Sachidanand Joshi, Member Secretary IGNCA; Sh Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary Culture and School Education; Dr Rashmi Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education; Prof. (Dr) Parikshat Singh Manhas, Director SCERT J&K; senior officials; Teachers, Artists and students were present. Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Vice Chancellors of several Universities and Heads of various educational institutions were also present on the occasion.

Rozgar Mela: PM ...

empowering youth through job creation and fostering meaningful participation in nation-building. Addressing the gathering, PM Modi extended his congratulations to the recruits and their families, saying, "I met Indian youth and professionals in Kuwait, and now I am interacting with the youngsters of the nation. Today marks a new beginning for your journey. Your years of hard work have borne fruit."

He underscored the government's achievements in leveraging India's youth potential, stating, "Through Rozgar Mela, we are advancing this initiative. Over the past ten years, the campaign for providing jobs in government departments, ministries, and organisations has been ongoing. Today, over 71,000 youth have received their appointment letters."Highlighting the transparent recruitment process, he added, "In the last decade, our government has provided permanent government jobs to over 10 lakh youth, a record in itself. Unlike previous governments, today, not only are lakhs of youth receiving government jobs but these appointments are being made with full transparency. I am confident the youth selected through this process will dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the nation."

Reaffirming the Centre's commitment to the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047', PM Modi attributed the country's progress to the youth's hard work, talent, and leadership.He cited initiatives like Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Startup India, and Digital India as examples of policies shaped by young minds."Today, India stands as the world's fifth-largest economy and third-largest startup ecosystem. Youth launching startups now have access to a well-planned ecosystem for support. In sports, modern facilities for training and tournaments ensure confidence among our young athletes. Across sectors, we are witnessing remarkable transformation," he said. The Prime Minister also emphasized India's achievements in manufacturing, renewable energy, tourism, space exploration, organic farming, defence, and wellness. He praised the advancements brought by the National Education Policy (NEP), Atal Tinkering Labs, and PM Shri Schools, which benefit rural and underprivileged students.

Invoking Chaudhary Charan Singh's legacy on 'Kisan Diwas', PM Modi highlighted the Centre's efforts for rural development and farmer upliftment.He mentioned employment-focused schemes like Bima Suraksha, Lakhpati Didi, and Drone Didi, aimed at empowering rural areas and farmers.He also lauded the participation of women in the Rozgar Mela, saying, "Today, many women have received their appointment letters. I hope they inspire others. Schemes such as Sukanya Samruddhi Yojana, Jan Dhan Bank accounts, and Mudra Yojana enable women to pursue education without financial worries.

The Prime Minister also mentioned that under the PM Awas Yojana, maximum houses are under the name of women. The Rozgar Mela is being conducted at 45 locations across the country, with recruitments for various ministries and departments, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Posts, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Department of Financial Services. According to a government release, the Rozgar Mela aligns with the Prime Minister's commitment to employment generation, offering meaningful opportunities for youth to contribute to nation-building and self-empowerment

Need to broaden IB's...

Intelligence Bureau Centenary Endowment Lecture' here in the national capital, Shah said the Intelligence Bureau must prepare itself to become a cutting-edge intelligence agency and that young officers must step forward to achieve this goal. The Home Minister also highlighted the need to build a robust ecosystem to counter misinformation and stressed that to reduce the spread of propaganda to zero, we need to have a strategy, technology, and readiness in place.

security agencies have faced all challenges until now, they will be able to confront these threats with the same readiness and vigilance.

Doctors can play... is necessary," Murmu said."There is a kind of hesitancy among people towards organ donation. Doctors can play an important role in removing this and can help build awareness to motivate people for the noble cause, she stated

To boost organ donation, National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) was set up in this institute, she said. Growing use of technology in medical stream has made collaboration between engineering and medical institutes very important, she said. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), mRNA technology, robotics and the likes are going to bring a major change in the field of medical science, she added.Murmu mentioned that she recently inaugurated India's first CAR-T cell therapy developed through collaboration between the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH).

She urged the Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung hospital to tie up with premier engineering and technical institutes to boost research and innovation.Interdisciplinary knowledge is beneficial for everyone, she said. The president said medical profession is unlike any other profession. It involves the noble cause of treating and curing people of diseases and saving lives. She said doctors provide the healing touch to humanity and they can make a difference between life and death."You have a big responsibility being doctors, because you will be taking care of people's health," she stated.

Crediting Safdarjung Hospital for treating 10,000 people every day, she said, "It is a matter of pride that Safdarjung Hospital is among the top 20 medical institutes in the country as per the latest NIRF rankings."She also noted the achievements in the healthcare sector during the last 10 years. "The number of medical institutions has increased and the number of PG seats has doubled. New AIIMS have been established and undergraduate courses have been introduced in these institutions.""The recently announced Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme will help catering to the needs of the 70 plus elderly population," she said.

Chugh demands resignation...

statement here, criticized the government for neglecting its electoral promise of providing 200 units of free electricity, stating that there is still no sign of fulfilling this commitment. Instead, the people of Kashmir are enduring unscheduled and frequent power cuts, which have plunged their lives into severe hardship.

He emphasized that during the harsh winter months, particularly the ongoing Chilai Kalan-the 40-day coldest period starting December 21, when temperatures drop below freezing point-access to electricity is not a luxury but a necessity. Highlighting the dire situation, Chugh pointed out that Srinagar recorded a night temperature of minus 8.4 degrees Celsius on the first day of Chilai Kalan, the lowest in over three decades. Prolonged power outages, coupled with water scarcity, have left residents struggling to meet their basic needs.

'The NC government has failed to prioritize essential amenities like electricity and water. The water crisis in the Valley is equally alarming, adding to the hardships faced by the people. The administration's negligence towards these issues is a complete failure to address the fundamental needs of its citizens," Chugh asserted. Chugh warned that if immediate steps are not taken to restore electricity and resolve the water crisis, the BJP will organize demonstrations against the government.

'The Omar Abdullah-led administration must act swiftly to address the suffering of the people and fulfill its promises. Neglecting these concerns is unacceptable, and the BJP will not remain silent while the people of Kashmir face such hardships," he said. The BJP leader demanded that the National Conference government take serious note of the situation and work without delay to restore normalcy, ensuring that the people of Kashmir receive the electricity and water they desperately need during this challenging period.

He further criticized Abdullah's leadership, accusing him of losing the trust of both the people and his party.Referring to the protest by Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi outside Abdullah's residence and other parties joining in, Chugh remarked, "This is a clear sign of the Chief Minister's failure. Omar Abdullah must resign immediately.'

Situation in Bangladesh...

remarks are deeply unfortunate and have no place in a democratic nation like ours. The public will respond appropriately to such divisive and derogatory comments. The government will also take appropriate action."

"Whether it is the Samajwadi Party or Congress or its INDIA alliance partners, they are focused on appeasing the Muslim community. On the other hand, Prime Minister Modi follows the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. BJP does not believe in appeasing anyone," the minister

He instructed the Power Development Department (PDD) to strictly comply with the scheduled curtailment program and ensure proper publicity of planned power outages to keep consumers informed in advance. The Chief Minister was briefed on the current power situation in the valley, including the Load Curtailment Plan (LCP) and the demandversus-consumption statistics. It was highlighted that despite a 7-8% increase in electricity supply compared to the previous year, the extreme cold has caused a significant rise in the load profile, exceeding available resources. This situation is further aggravated by record-low power generation due to minimal water discharge in hydroelectric power plants, the meeting was informed.

Officials also apprised the Chief Minister of the department's interventions to reduce the demand-supply gap.It was reported that substantial capacity additions have been made since the last winter to meet increased demand. The Chief Minister directed officials to rationalize the load curtailment program based on the loss profile of feeders and explore options to enhance the allocation of power.He also stressed the importance of equity in providing electricity to all while incentivizing law abiding consumers but ensuring adequate power supply, especially during this period of severe cold, is made available to the general public.

Chief Secretary Atal Duloo attended the meeting virtually, the meeting was also attended by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary PDD Rajesh H Prasad, Managing Director JKPTCL, Managing Director KPDCL and Chief Engineers of various wings of the Power Development Department. The Chief Minister emphasized the urgent need for the smart metering of Distribution Transformers (DTs) and feeders to improve the monitoring and efficiency of the power distribution system.Later, the Chief Minister inspected the Sub Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) at Bemina to review the load monitoring system.

He was provided with division- and district-wise details of power load and consumption and he directed officials to allocate electricity with maximum efficiency o minimize disruptions. Reaffirming his commitment to addressing the hardships caused by the severe winter conditions, the Chief Minister urged PDD authorities to prioritize uninterrupted power supply for essential services and to remain proactive in managing the challenges posed by the ongoing cold wave.

Ex-SC Judge V...

the rights panel said on Monday. The post of NHRC chairperson had been lying vacant since Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra completed his tenure on June 1. Mishra served as the eighth chairperson of the rights panel and was appointed to its top post in June 2021.On December 18, a high-powered committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting to select the next chairperson of the NHRC, sources earlier said.A former chief justice of India or a retired judge of the top court are appointed as NHRC chairperson by the president on the recommendation of the selection committee.

Justice (retd) Ramasubramanian, a former judge of the apex court, has been appointed the chairperson of the NHRC, a senior official said, adding "the NHRC received the communication about the appointment today".Former CJIs H L Dattu and K G Balakrishnan are among those who have headed the rights body in the past. The NHRC, in a post on X, said, "Hon'ble President of India appoints Shri Justice V. Ramasubramanian (Retd.) as the Chairperson, and Shri Priyank Kanoongo and Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi (Retd.) as the Members of the National Human Rights Commission(NHRC), India."Kanoongo earlier served as a chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

"And now as member of the NHRC, I will try to fulfil the responsibilities expected of me," he told on Monday. Mishra, a former Supreme Court judge, was also the first non-CJI to be appointed to the NHRC chief post since the amendment of the Protection of Human Rights Act in 2019.He had succeeded former Chief Justice of India H L Dattu.Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, a member of NHRC, had become its acting chairperson with effect from June 2 after Mishra had demitted office.

Transport Commissioner inspects...

members to ensure that no chaos is created and the driving tests are conducted in a smooth and peaceful manner. During the visit, the Transport Commissioner also interacted with the applicants and emphasized upon the importance of adhering to strict safety protocols and maintaining high standards of driving instructions and rules. The Transport Commissioner's directions were aimed at improving the overall quality of driver training, reducing road accidents and promoting a culture of safe driving practices in the region.

Brother of martyred...

brother Mohd Azam has appealed to the Central government to facilitate his visit to Sri Lanka."I want to offer prayers and ensure my brother's resting place is properly maintained as a mark of respect for his sacrifice," Azam said.He has also requested assistance from the Indian Army and the government to help renovate the grave, underscoring the importance of maintaining the dignity of soldiers who laid down their lives for the nation In Chungan village, Taj's sacrifice is remembered not only by his family but also by the local community, who regards him as a symbol of bravery and patriotism, the brother said. The IPKF operated in Sri Lanka between 1987 and 1990 under an agreement to help end the civil war. Many Indian soldiers, including Taj, made the ultimate sacrifice during this mission, Azam said."Efforts are underway to bring this matter to the attention of the authorities. We hope that the family's wish will be fulfilled, allowing them to pay homage to a soldier who gave his life in service to the nation," he added.

Met advises tourist...

freezing point. The sub-zero temperatures led to the freezing of water supply lines while a thin layer of ice covered the surface of several water bodies.Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius on Sunday night rising by nearly four degrees from the previous night, the meteorological department said.

Pahalgam, the base camp for annual Amarnath Yatra in South Kashmir, registered a minimum temperature of minus 5 degrees Celsius, almost unchanged from the previous night, it said. There was a slight dip in night temperature in Gulmarg, a tourist resort town known for skiing activities in north Kashmir, where the mercury settled at a low of minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, the department added.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, logged a minimum temperature of minus 4.8 degrees Celsius while Konibal, a hamlet in Pampore area, was the coldest recorded place in the valley at minus 6.0 degrees Celsius, it said. The meteorological department has predicted a dip of two to three degrees in minimum temperatures over the next 48 hours."In view of sub freezing temp and icy conditions over roads of important higher reaches, tourists/travellers are advised to follow advisory issued by the administration," it added.

LG Inaugurates IGNCA...

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the intelligentsia to work with organisations like IGNCA for promotion of J&K's rich artistic heritage and also preserving and propagating Vedic oral tradition."Our civilisational heritage represents a culture that is all-embracing and based on the concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', the world as one family. This Mantra continues to be of great significance to the world even today," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is witnessing a cultural resurgence. He said, in the future, the IGNCA Centre at Jammu will further strengthen government's efforts for the promotion, development and enrichment of folk traditions. Emphasising the role of enlightened citizens and stakeholders to develop artistic mindset in the new generation, the Lieutenant Governor said the creative potential of the youth will benefit other sectors of the society.

He called for committed efforts for dissemination of works of great thinkers and writers like Yogini Lalleshwari, Nund Rishi, Habba Khatoon, Parmanand, Dattu, Thakur Raghunath Singh, Pandit Hardutt, Gangaram, Padma Sachdev, especially to the younger generation. In this era of rapid change, it is also our collective responsibility to ensure that

"In today's era, the scope of sovereignty is no longer limited to territorial boundaries. If we do not include innovation, technology, the economy, resources, and research and development processes within the definition of sovereignty, we cannot ensure the safety of the country. Even the slightest lapse in securing these areas would harm our sovereignty, and therefore, it is our duty to protect them," Shah addressed the gathering that included the presence of Union Home Secretary, Director of the Intelligence Bureau, former Directors of the Intelligence Bureau, Directors General of Central Police Forces and Central Armed Police Forces, and senior officials from the Intelligence Bureau and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

He further explained that security is no longer just about the protection of borders and citizens; the definition of security should be expanded to include new dimensions."With just one click of a computer, any country's critical and digital infrastructure can be damaged. So, we need to broaden the Intelligence Bureau's concept of security and prepare for the challenges of the future," the Home Minister said. He emphasized increased vigilance regarding the rapid changes happening in areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and cyberspace.

The Minister focussed that simply being alert to anti-national elements causing physical damage is no longer sufficient. In today's context, the meaning of vigilance must evolve. He highlighted that information and data are powerful tools for development, and must be protected by making radical changes to traditional methods, modes, and mechanisms.Shah further mentioned that in the coming days, the responsibility of preparing and equipping the Intelligence Bureau with the necessary technology will fall on young officers.

Noting that India will become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, Shah pointed out that as we progress, competition intensifies, threats increase, and obstructive forces emerge."Building a robust infrastructure to counter these threats, from headquarters to police stations and constables, with a unified sense of purpose is the responsibility of young officers. In line with Prime Minister Modi's vision, to achieve a fully developed India by 2047, we must visualize all potential threats and prepare a comprehensive roadmap to safeguard the nation from them.," he

He remarked that inclusive development, along with peace and stability in the country, is only possible if we reshape our work in accordance with this expanded definition, prepare anew, and remain vigilant. He highlighted that over the past 10 years under the Modi government, significant successes have been achieved in combating terrorism, Naxalism, insurgency, narcotics, and anarchic elements."Since 2014, the Central Government has enhanced and strengthened anti-terrorism capabilities through a "Whole of Government Approach," he further said. He noted that the Modi government has undertaken numerous initiatives to empower agencies and expand their capabilities.

"A major focus has also been placed on improving coordination between states and agencies. The government has strengthened these agencies by providing them with the backing of the law and amending several legislations to enhance their effectiveness," Shah added.Pointing that divisive forces are still "active" in the country today, Shah emphasized that disinformation, misinformation, mal-information, and fake news have such power that they are always ready to disrupt the social fabric of our society with the help of new technology. The Home Minister remarked that a country where social unity does not exist cannot progress in any meaningful way.

He added that the responsibility of addressing these challenges and preparing the entire police force to tackle them now lies with the country's information warriors. Shah noted that attacks on critical infrastructure, cyberattacks, information warfare, psychological warfare, chemical warfare, and the radicalization of youth have emerged as intensified challenges. The Home Minister expressed confidence that, just as the country's said.Such divisive statements, like those dubbing "Hindus as 'malaria and mosquitoes' or abusing Sanatan Dharma, are unacceptable", he said, adding that the government and the people will take note of such remarks.

On allegations of electoral fraud made by the Congress, Verma slammed the opposition party for its inconsistency. "Congress ruled the country for nearly 55 years but failed to deliver the development we have witnessed in the past decade under Prime Minister Modi. Elections are now conducted in a completely free and fair manner."However, Congress only accepts election results as fair when they win. When they lose, they blame EVMs and allege fraud," he said.On Rahul Gandhi's call for a caste census, Verma asked why the Congress which ruled for decades did not conduct it while it was in power.

"The Gandhi family ruled the country for nearly 55 years, often through remote control, yet never felt the need for a caste census. It is Prime Minister Modi who has ensured dignity and respect for OBCs, SCs, and STs. Congress stalled the first report in 1955 and the Mandal Commission, denying OBCs their rightful reservations. Today, OBCs have a constitutional board, and I, as an OBC, serve as a Minister. This shows the change brought by the BJP," he said. Verma participated in the Rozgar Mela organised by the BSF in Jammu, where 636 appointment letters were distributed to new recruits, with Verma personally handing out 26.

"As many as 71,000 appointment letters are being distributed across 45 locations nationwide today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said."Since 2014, India has been advancing rapidly on the path of development, with a notable increase in employment opportunities. Over the past nine years, 10 lakh jobs have been provided by the prime minister. I congratulate all the appointees," he added.

Situation in Bangladesh a matter of concern, govt closely monitoring it: Verma.

SIA cracks down...

Kashmiri Pandit employees, aiming to spread fear and unrest.In February 2024, a series of threatening posts were published on social media by the terror outfits's social media handle, following which an investigation was initiated by SIA Jammu. During the investigation, SIA apprehended Farhaan Muzaffar Mattoo, a resident of Srinagar, for his alleged role in gathering and sharing sensitive information about targeted employees. The probe revealed that Mattoo acted as a conduit, using encrypted communication platforms to pass critical data about migrant employees to handlers based in Pakistan, who then issued threats through the "Kashmir Fight" platform.

The chargesheet also names Sheikh Sajjad Ahmad, alias Sajjad Gul, a Srinagar resident now operating from Pakistan, as the mastermind of this plot. Sajad is accused of coordinating the campaign to intimidate migrant employees and disrupt communal harmony in the UT. The exposing of terror plans to disrupt peace underscores the determination of Jammu and Kashmir Police to protect its citizenry and provide a peaceful environment to them. The chargesheet was filed before the Hon'ble 3rd Additional Sessions Judge, Jammu, today.

CM Omar Abdullah...

management during this challenging time, emphasized the need for effective measures to address power shortages and ensure adequate essential services for residents. During the meeting, Chief Minister discussed a comprehensive strategy to manage peak electricity demand and directed officials to maintain efficiency in ensuring a reliable power supply during the harsh winter season

R-Day 2025: Tableaux...

26, the defence ministry said on Monday. These states and UTs are --Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadar Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, it said.In addition, 11 ministries and department of the Union government have also been selected for the 2025 Republic Day celebrations, the ministry said in a statement.

"Every year states/UTs and Union government ministries/departments showcase their tableaux on Kartavya Path as part of Republic Day Celebration (RDC). For RDC-2025, the theme for tableaux has been decided as 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas'," it said." All the states and UTs, irrespective of their selection, for Kartavya Path, are invited to display their tableaux during Bharat Parv in Red Fort (January 26-31)," it added.Tableaux are one of the important components of Republic Day parade. Due to time allotted for tableaux in the overall duration of parade. shortlisting of tableaux is done by the Expert Committee", the ministry said in a statement.

"While evaluating the tableaux, ideas presented by various states/UTs and ministries, key aspects like conceptual uniqueness and novelty, creative expression with a clear, communicable message, combining subtlety as well as directness, striking balance between 'Virasat' and 'Vikas' in each tableau, exclusion of repetitive ideas, special attention to details like colours, forms, textures, flow, rhythm, proportions and balance, ensuring a well-composed aesthetic experience of grand scale were taken into consideration for selection," it said. Since the beginning of this year, a "consultative process" has been adopted by the Ministry of Defence to decide on various aspects related to tableaux, the statement said.

"A meeting at senior official level was held in April 2024 to deliberate on improvement of tableaux quality. Various suggestions received during meeting have been included in the process. The theme for tableaux was also decided based on suggestions from state/UTs," it added. There is a "well-established system" for selection of tableaux for participation in the Republic Day parade as per which the Ministry of Defence invites proposals for tableaux from all states and UTs and central ministries and departments, the ministry said."The tableaux proposals received from various states/UTs and central ministries/ departments are evaluated in a series of meetings of the Expert Committee, comprising eminent persons in the field of art, culture, painting, sculpture, music, architecture, choreography etc," the statement said."The entire selection process is "robust, fair, transparent, based on merit and free from any bias", it said."The selected tableaux would showcase India's diverse strengths and its constantly evolving cultural inclusiveness marching into glorious future, showcasing 'Swarnim Bharat - Virasat aur Vikas' to the world audience,' the ministry added