

## Two youth killed...

Chander, and Mohinder Pal, son of Tarsem Lal, both residents of Lawal Chak in Miran Sahib.A police official said the duo was travelling on a motorcycle from Gangyal towards Satwari when an unknown vehicle hit them between 4:15 PM and 4:30 PM at Jeevan Nagar locality.He said both sustained critical injuries and were rushed to Government Medical College Jammu, where doctors declared them dead on arrival. Police have registered a case under relevant sections at Police Station Satwari and initiated further investigation to trace the vehicle involved in the incident.

## India scuppered 2...

emerged -- cyberattacks or cybercrimes. There has been an increase in these, but the government has worked on it, and our cybersecurity has almost stopped all such dangers," Khattar told reporters here.

He was addressing a press conference on the completion of 11 years of the BJP-led Central government."There have been many cyberattacks on the country. As far as the Power department is concerned, around two lakh cyberattacks were attempted, but our cyber department foiled each one of them, and there were no losses," the minister said.Khattar said these attempts were made in "eight to ten days" around the time Operation Sindoor went underway.

Asked whether the attacks were made from within the country or outside it, the minister said these attacks can take place from any corner of the world."It is known worldwide that those against us will do things like these, but ... We have stopped such attacks. Our system is capable and in the future also, we will foil all such attacks," he said."When someone fails for the first time, and second time, he will ultimately get discouraged and stop," he added.

## IPS Officer PD...

(SSP) Leh and was currently posted as SSP Pulwama. The transfer was made under Rule 5(2) of the Indian Police Service (Cadre) Rules, 1954. The decision was taken with the concurrence of the UT Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of Rajasthan.

## GoC Whiteknight Corps...

hinterland bases in Rajouri and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir to assess the security situation in the region.He commended the troops for their professionalism and high standards in handling challenging conditions."GOC, Whiteknight along with GOC Cif(Delta) and GOC Ace of Spades Division, conducted a comprehensive review of operational preparedness during visits to forward posts in Naushera sector and hinterland bases in Bhadrawah", PRO defence said.They also visited the Corps Battle School, where the GOC commended troops for their professionalism, rigorous training, and high standards in counterterrorism operations.

## Heat-wave conditions...

average, officials said on Thursday.Samba and Jammu city recorded 46.3 and 44.5 degrees Celsius respectively, 5.7 notches above the season's average on Wednesday.According to the Meteorological Department, the extreme heat has gripped at least six districts -- Samba, Jammu, Kathua, Ramban, Udhampur, and Reasi -- all reporting temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius.Katra, the base camp for the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, recorded 40.6 degrees Celsius, while Ramban logged 43.5 degrees Celsius, the MeT department said.

Kathua, which serves as the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir, recorded 43.6 degrees Celsius.

Udhampur registered a temperature of 42 degrees Celsius, followed by Poonch with 40 degrees. Reasi recorded 41.8 degrees Celsius.In view of the intense heatwave conditions, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has deployed water sprayers and tankers to counter the extreme heat.The initiative is aimed at providing some respite to people on the roads and mitigate the effects of the heat, officials said.

## LoP Sunil Sharma...

Sharma, called on the Lieutenant Governor, today.An official spokesman said Sunil Sharma sought the Lieutenant Governor's intervention into the issue of Naib Tehsildar aspirants and requested him to make the Working Knowledge of Urdu language non-mandatory for Naib Tehsildar examination.

He highlighted that making working knowledge of one language mandatory, given the UT of J&K's five official languages, violates the constitutional principles of equal opportunity and administrative impartiality, and it creates an unfair barrier, particularly disadvantaging aspirants from the Jammu Division. The senior BJP leaders also requested the Lieutenant Governor to translate government documents and procedures into all the official languages of J&K UT.

## CISF secures two...

times. "Our dedicated personnel operate with the highest standards of professionalism to safeguard this critical institution," the post said.

The CISF, which is usually responsible for the security of central government offices, airports, seaports, Metro facilities, and some industrial units, has now taken over the charge of two high-security jails- the Srinagar Central Jail and Central Jail Jammu, Kotbhalwal.The two sensitive prisons house several terrorists and other criminals. The two jails house an estimated over 1,400 inmates.

While the CISF provides security to the two jails, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) would continue to secure the outer periphery of the jail. "Yes, the responsibility of round-the-clock security of the two jails is with CISF," said an officer. "There are deliberations to take over the security of more jails in J&K."At present, there are 14 functional prisons in Jammu and Kashmir, which include two Central Jails, 10 district Jails, a Special Jail & a Sub Jail. Against a lodgement capacity of 3629 inmates, the Jammu & Kashmir Prisons Department is accommodating more than 5300 inmates. The Srinagar jail had been in the news for the wrong reasons on multiple occasions in the past. The Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) and the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of J&K police last year conducted a joint raid on the Central Jail in connection with a "terror-linked case". Over the last few years, several central institutes in Jammu and Kashmir have sought CISF security due to threat perception.

## London-bound AI...

Unofficial reports said chances of survival of those on board were remote and up to 25 people in the medical complex could also have died.

According to Air India, of the 230 passengers, 169 were Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and one Canadian. The other 12 were two pilots and 10 crew members.The pilot of the twin-engine wide bodied aircraft issued a 'Mayday' distress call, denoting a full emergency, soon after take-off at 1.39 pm, the Air Traffic Control at Ahmedabad said.The search was also on for the aircraft's black box - the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder - for clues to understand what happened in the last crucial moments.The 11-year-old aircraft could be seen from miles away, losing altitude rapidly and combusting in a fiery blaze that sent plumes of thick black smoke spiralling up in the air.

The aircraft climbed just about 600-800 feet before plummeting to the ground almost immediately, aviation sources said.Former Gujarat chief minister and BJP leader Vijay Rupani was among the passengers on the doomed flight to London's Gatwick airport. "The aircraft departed from Ahmedabad at 1339 IST (0809 UTC) from Runway 23. It gave a MAY-DAY Call to ATC, but thereafter no response was given by the aircraft to the calls made by ATC," according to a statement from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Visuals from the wreckage area showed bodies being pulled out and the injured, many with burns, wheeled into the city civil hospital close by.

Eyewitnesses in Ahmedabad said the blaze was so intense that it led to several multi-storey buildings being burnt, trees singed and cars damaged. One image showed the snout of the plane crashing through the top floor of a building that appeared to be a dining area of the hostel of nurses and doctors. Elsewhere too, there were scenes of complete devastation with mangled metal of the wreckage, snarls of tangled wire and smoke rising from burning embers.This is the first crash involving the Boeing Dreamliner, feted for its advanced features. It is also India's second biggest air disaster since 2020 when an Air India Express flight skidded off a wet runway while landing at Kozhikode in Kerala and split into two. Of the 190 people on board, 21, including two pilots, lost their lives. Airport operations in Ahmedabad were temporarily suspended and resumed towards the evening.

The shock of the disaster echoed through political corridors in India and abroad with heads of states and others offering their

condolences."The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X."In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected," he added.President Droupadi Murmu said her thoughts and prayers are with the affected people. "The nation stands with them in this hour of indescribable grief," she said. Britain's King Charles III said he and his wife, Queen Camilla, were "desperately shocked by the terrible events in Ahmedabad this morning".

"Our special prayers and deepest possible sympathy are with the families and friends of all those affected by this appallingly tragic incident across so many nations, as they await news of their loved ones," read his statement issued from Buckingham Palace.Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the scenes emerging of a London-bound plane carrying many British nationals crashing in the Indian city of Ahmedabad are devastating. The ill-fated flight was under the command of Capt Sumeet Sabharwal along with First Officer Clive Kunder. While Sabharwal has 8,200 hours of flying experience, Kunder 1,100 hours, the DGCA said in a statement.

Immediately after departure from Runway 23, the aircraft fell on the ground outside the airport perimeter, it said."On Jun 12, 2025, Air India B787 Aircraft VT-ANB while operating flight AI-171 from (Ahmedabad to Gatwick) has crashed immediately after takeoff from Ahmedabad," the statement said, adding that they were 242 persons on board, including two pilots and 10 cabin crew.Several eyewitnesses on the busy, everyday afternoon described the horror of what they had seen."The plane was flying very low and it crashed into the residential quarters of doctors and nursing staff of civil hospital and BJ Medical college," Haresh Shah told.

"There are several five floor buildings which are residential quarters of doctors and nursing staff. Many people in those apartments were injured as along with the plane the buildings also caught fire," he said.Another said several cars and vehicles parked in the premises also caught fire.Expressing his profound sorrow, Air India chairperson N Chandrasekaran said an emergency centre has been activated and support teams set up for families seeking information."Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with the families and loved ones of all those affected by this devastating event. At this moment, our primary focus is on supporting all the affected people and their families.

"We are doing everything in our power to assist the emergency response teams at the site and to provide all necessary support and care to those impacted. Further updates will be shared as we receive more verified information," he said in a post on X.Aircraft maker Boeing said in a statement that it is in contact with Air India and stands ready to offer any support to the Tata-owned airline.Thursday's tragedy is the second major air disaster in Gujarat's principal city.On October 19, 1988, an Indian Airlines plane crashed in its final approach to the Ahmedabad airport, killing 130 people.

## Prez Murmu, Modi...

India plane carrying 242 people in Ahmedabad."The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words," Modi said."In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected," he said in a post on X.The Ahmedabad-London Air India plane carrying 242 passengers and crew crashed into a medical college complex in Ahmedabad minutes after takeoff on Thursday, killing almost everyone. Former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani was among the dead.

President Murmu termed the crash a heart-rending disaster, saying the nation stands with the affected people in this hour of indescribable grief.Dhankhar said the crash has left the nation dealing with a devastating human tragedy, as he mourned the death of people.In this moment of grief, the nation stands united in solidarity with them, he said.Union Home Minister Amit Shah reached Ahmedabad to take stock of the situation."Pained beyond words by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. Disaster response forces have been quickly rushed to the crash site. Spoke with the Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Home Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi, and Commissioner of Police Ahmedabad to assess the situation," Shah said in a post on X before embarking from Delhi.

BJP president and Union minister J P Nadda said the news of many people being killed in the plane crash is extremely sad.He said he spoke to Gujarat BJP president and Union minister C R Paatil and the state Health Minister Rushikesh Patel and took information about health facilities and relief work."I appeal to all BJP workers to engage in relief and rescue operations and provide all possible help to the affected families," Nadda said.Expressing shock and grief, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said it is heart-wrenching to see the horrific visuals of the crash.He also expressed condolences to families of those who died in the crash and urged party workers to provide all support to the victims and their loved ones.

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, in a statement, said, "I am deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. My thoughts are with the families of the passengers and the crew. The visuals are most heart-wrenching.""The entire country is overtaken by grief and is praying," she added.Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said the crash is heartbreaking."The pain and anxiety the families of the passengers and crew must be feeling is unimaginable. My thoughts are with each one of them in this incredibly difficult moment.

"Urgent rescue and relief efforts by the administration are critical - every life matters, every second counts. Congress workers must do everything they can to help on the ground," he said in a post on X.AICC general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said the Congress is shocked by the devastating tragedy."Our prayers continue for the passengers and the crew. It is a moment of utmost grief," he added.Another Congress leader KC Venugopal said the tragedy has shocked the nation and no words are enough to describe the pain."All PCCs and affiliated organisations are instructed to cancel all organisation-related events tomorrow as a mark of respect to the victims of this tragedy," he said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed "profound shock" over the crash."Stunned and profoundly shocked to know of the most tragic Air India plane crash at Ahmedabad today," Banerjee said in a post on X."It is the most sad news for all of us, even while we anxiously wait for survivors' details and pray for the survival of all..." she said.Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said he was deeply shocked by the horrifying crash. "My thoughts are with everyone affected and the families of those on board. Hoping every possible effort is underway for rescue and relief."Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said he was in deep sorrow over the crash.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said it is very saddening that the Air India plane crashed as he sent prayers for all passengers. He also demanded authorities give immediate clarification into the plane crash in which several casualties are feared dead.Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini called the plane crash in Ahmedabad "sad and painful" while National Conference president Farooq Abdullah demanded a thorough investigation into the incident."There should be a thorough investigation. I think these are new planes, and they should see what really happened. I have not heard that these planes have faced any such difficulties," he said.

CPI general secretary D Raja said he was deeply shocked by the tragic crash in Ahmedabad and sent his heartfelt condolences to those who lost their loved ones.There was no official count of those killed even hours after the Boeing 787 Dreamliner (AI171) crashed in the city civil hospital and BJ Medical College near the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport and burst into a ball of fire.According to Air India, of the 230 passengers, 169 were Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and one Canadian. The other 12 were two pilots and 10 crew members.

## Modi govt committed...

effect. Describing the 11 years of the Modi government as "very important" in the country's history, he said what failed to happen in the 60 years prior to that was achieved by the present dispensation cutting across sectors.Addressing a press conference in Nagpur on the completion of 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, he expressed confidence that the country's logistics cost will come down to 9 per cent by the end of this year, which will boost exports and help businesses and industries to grow.

When asked about the issue of women's quota, Gadkari said, "It is our commitment to provide 33 per cent reservation to women and we have also taken a decision to that effect."In September 2023, President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the women's reservation bill - Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam - which seeks to provide 33 per cent reserva-

tion to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.There are reports that the Modi government is likely to roll out 33 per cent reservation for women ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Talking about the achievements of the Modi government, Gadkari said the development of the country and the progress of villages, farmers, labourers and all sections of society in the past 11 years under the leadership of PM Modi is before everyone to see."These 11 years are very important in the history of our country. The work which could not happen in 60 years of the Congress rule happened very effectively in all sectors in these last 11 years," Gadkari said.Highlighting the works carried out by the government, he said it prioritised development of power, transport, water and communication sectors.

He cited a study conducted by IIM Bangalore, IIT Kanpur and IIT Chennai on road infrastructure development in the country, which stated that the logistics cost of the country which was 16 per cent earlier, has come down by 4 to 6 per cent to 10 per cent.He called it a good achievement and said it will help in the growth of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)."The logistics cost of our country was 16 per cent, while that of China was 8 per cent and America and European countries 12 per cent. As per the study, the logistics cost of the country has come down by 4 to 6 per cent, which means it decreased to 10 per cent from 16 per cent due to the work carried out in the road sector," he said.

"Three to four years back, I had talked about bringing our logistics cost to a single digit and I believe that by December end (this year), the logistics cost will be 9 per cent which will boost our exports more and increase our business and industries," the minister said.Describing port connectivity as a very important factor and a growth engine for the country's development as imports and exports are linked to it, he said 111 port connectivity projects of Rs 75,000 crore and 2,700 km of length were currently either underway, completed and being planned.

The faster the movement in ports the lesser the cost of transport, he said."Our turnaround time for transportation has reduced by 30 to 40 per cent. Similarly, new satellites and dry ports have come up in the country, which has helped bring down the logistics cost," he said.Gadkari also said that his ministry carried out infrastructure development works of Rs 5 lakh crore in Maharashtra in the last 11 years.The Vadhaven port (being developed in Palghar district) will become the second largest container port in the world with proposed construction of an eight-lane road worth Rs 4,000 crore, he said.

"The government brought changes in every sector in the country under the leadership of PM Modi and India will keep progressing in the years to come as well," he said.Gadkari also lauded the government for implementing various schemes, including the Jan Dhan Yojana. Har Ghar Jal Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, for the benefit of the poor in the country.When asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's letter to PM Modi in which he criticised the government for not talking about the present but selling dreams of 2047, Gadkari said, "The government is not showing dreams but talking about the works it has done..."In a lighter vein, the BJP leader said, "Why do you take Rahul ji seriously? Lots of people write letters to the PM. Don't you write?"

## Abrogation of Article...

history, a miscarriage of the Constitution, and a miscarriage of justice," Singh told reporters.

He termed the abrogation of constitutional provisions as a social reform and said, "This is also a social reform. In this country of 140 crore people, there was a place where daughters had no right to their parent's property if they married outside the state."He further said that to have property rights, women had to marry within the state. "Doing away with this was a socio-economic reform," he added.Referring to West Pakistan refugees, Gorkhas, and Valmikis residing in Jammu and Kashmir as having been treated as unwanted citizens, he said, "People who came from Pakistan and settled in J&K had no rights. We gave them equality on the socio-economic front. This is also a socio-economic reform."

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 11 years in office represent a decade of decisive, development-driven governance. "I have been fortunate to see this model of governance from very close. I took oath as Minister in the government years ago," he said."You can see a factual and impactful glimpse into the country's rapid growth across all sectors over the past 11 years," he said. "Be it roads, railways, airports, healthcare, education, defence, electricity, water supply, or space research - the progress has been truly unprecedented."

He highlighted the numerous welfare schemes initiated by the Modi government during this period, which have directly benefited the poor, marginalised and vulnerable sections of society.India has entered a new era of citizen-centric governance, where transparency, accountability, and development are at the core of public policy, he added. The vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) is no longer a distant dream but a reality in the making, he said.

Citing Operation Sindoor, other leaders highlighted India's growing defence capabilities and said that under the Congress-led governments, India's defence preparedness was often compromised, allowing adversaries like Pakistan to exploit vulnerabilities.However, with Prime Minister Modi at the helm, the country has witnessed a paradigm shift in its strategic posture, significantly enhancing national security and border management, they said.

## Govt to revive...

"Before, whenever we had to undertake some work, we had to discuss that with them (Pakistan) and could not do anything without their consent."There was a project (Tulbul) under Wular Lake which was conceived in 1981. But, they did not give their consent and it was shelved. Now, when there is no need (for consent), we will restart the project and a DPR will be prepared soon," Khattar said here.

He was addressing a press conference on the completion of 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.

Asked if the government would start working on new hydro-electric projects following the suspension of the IWT, the Union minister said, "Yes, definitely.""Whatever they have to do, let them do that. We have given them a response and if they do anything again, they will get a response on the same pattern," he said when asked about Pakistan warning of building any projects.The Tulbul project, which envisaged constructing a 439-ft-long and 40-ft-wide barrage with a storage capacity of 0.30 million-acre-feet (MAF) below the Wular Lake near Nangli in north Kashmir's Bandipora district to stabilise Jhelum's water level, was abandoned midway in 1987 after strong objections from Pakistan.

## In talks with Centre...

Taking to X, the chief minister wondered if work would be resumed now that India has put the IWT in abeyance.Abdullah's post, however, got mired in a controversy after his rival and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti accused him of making "irresponsible" and "dangerously provocative" statements.

The work on the Tulbul Navigation Barrage was started in the early 1980s, but had to be abandoned under pressure from Pakistan, citing the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).At the review meeting, Abdullah said it was related to centrally sponsored projects and schemes under the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs -- both departments that he handles."Overall, progress in both areas has been fairly satisfactory. We also discussed areas where we have expectations from the Centre. In some places, there were minor shortcomings, and we have received suggestions on how to correct them. We will implement those," he said.

To a question on the Power Department facing losses, the chief minister said it is still in debt because there is a difference in the price at which the government purchases and supplies power. "We are supplying power to everyone on a concession basis. Be it a domestic consumer or commercial consumer or industrial consumer, everyone takes power at concession rates. But it will get better gradually," he said.

## CM Omar Abdullah...

Mohan Sharma, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Secretary Revenue Kumar Rajiv Ranjan and other senior officials and heads of concerned departments.

During the review, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of ensuring immediate approval of plans, authorization of funds and execution of development projects thereby strengthening the institutional capacity, and creating impactful outcomes.He underscored the need for close monitoring, effective coordination, and optimum use of resources to deliver public services efficiently and meet people's aspirations.

At the outset, ACS Estates informed the meeting that the Department reported a 94.93% expenditure (Rs 2452.34 lacs) for CAPEX 2024-25 against funds released (Rs 2583.19 lacs). Out of 217 total works, 182 have been completed.For 2025-26, the department has a CAPEX budget ceiling of Rs 10000 lacs. This budget includes Rs 3304.69 lacs for ongo-

ing works, Rs 863.00 lacs for water/electricity for Sempora flats, Rs 2541.00 lacs for shifting REVEX to CAPEX, and Rs 3291.31 lacs for new works and budget announcements.Major ongoing projects like the 400 Flats at Pampore and flats in Sarwal, Ahata Amar Singh, and Lower Muthi in Jammu are progressing, with some expected to be completed by October 2025.

The meeting was informed about key budget announcements for 2025-26 which include construction of 300 new 2-BHK/3-BHK units, twin towers at Canal Road, Jammu and additional blocks at Civil Secretariats in Jammu and Srinagar. Other new works proposed for 2025-26 include road macadamization, new flats in Jawahar Nagar, CCTV installation, and power supply upgrades in various government complexes.Secretary Revenue Kumar Rajiv Ranjan gave a detailed presentation outlining the department's CAPEX progress and plans for 2025-26. Out of the approved Rs 79 crore, Rs 69 crore has already been uploaded on the BEAMS portal. The department has proposed 133 new projects, including 18 SDM offices with an outlay of Rs 4.5 crore, 21 Tehsil offices with Rs 6.3 crore outlay, 50 Niabats with Rs 3 crore, and 40 additional rooms with lavatories worth Rs 2 crore. The department continues to push forward in its landmark digitization efforts, having completed 100% scanning of revenue records.

He informed that over 94.36% of cadastral maps have been digitized (quality checks are ongoing), and 89.97% of villages have been geo-referenced. Additionally, 99.9% of Record of Rights (RoR) have been digitized with spatial and non-spatial data integrated under the Land Records Information System (LRIS).The Chief Minister was apprised of key digital initiatives, including the "Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani" platform launched in October 2021, which has enabled real-time access to land records while saving Rs 19.83 crore through in-house digitization.

The meeting was informed that the second phase of the LRIS involves transliteration of Urdu land records into 22 Indian languages. Digitized land passbooks are now available in Urdu, Hindi, and English. Other major initiatives include the J&K Revenue Court Case Monitoring System (JKRCCMS), issuance of SVAMITVA property cards, computerized registrations, creation of dynamic RoRs, digitized crop surveys, and establishment of modern record rooms. He informed that the department aims to implement real-time RoR updates, integrate Jamabandis with the NGDRS and mutation systems, and introduce map-based dynamic RoRs to enhance transparency and accountability in land governance.

Similarly, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal presented a comprehensive overview of the department's CAPEX implementation and future plans. The department is coordinating its initiatives across various agencies which include directorates of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, JKTDC, SKICC, JKCCC, 21 tourism development authorities, and several golf courses. As part of its 2024-25 CAPEX plan, Rs 388.20 crore was approved, with Rs 247.66 crore (66.08%) already spent. Out of 1,551 total works, 871 have been completed so far, marking a 56% completion rate.

For 2025-26, the department has planned 1,071 total works with a financial outlay of Rs 191.87 crore, including funds for Shri Amarnathji Yatra.The meeting was also informed that a total of 312 new projects worth Rs 75.5 crore have been reviewed, while another 109 projects valued at Rs 18.07 crore are pending finalization. The Chief Minister was informed that an amount of Rs 10 crore has been reserved for high-priority or technically viable works proposed by elected representatives. Action has already been initiated on several budget announcements, including Rs 10 crore for the preparation of tourism master plans, Rs 27 crore earmarked for sewerage and solid waste management projects in Gulmarg, Rs 6 crore for developing water sports infrastructure at major lakes, Rs 15 crore for winter sports facilities, and Rs 20 crore for exploring new tourism destinations.

She informed that plans are also underway to revive idle tourism assets, improve wayside amenities, and monetize under-utilized properties. Targets for 2025-26 include the preparation of master plans for key destinations, strengthening of tourism infrastructure, enhanced destination development, and aggressive promotional campaigns to attract visitors.Likewise, Secretary Culture presented an elaborate plan aimed at heritage restoration, infrastructure modernization, digitization, and promotion of regional arts and languages. The department has completed 16 out of 106 heritage restoration projects, with another 46 targeted for completion by March 2026. A major focus is on the revival of the historic Mubarak Mandi Complex in Jammu, with Rs 30.02 crore allocated for the purpose. Under Phase III of the Heritage Revival Scheme, an additional 123 projects have been identified across various districts.

The department is finalizing its draft Cultural Policy, which will soon be put in public domain for consultation. Simultaneously, efforts are underway to modernize the SPS Museum; while repairs and improvements are already completed, a revised DPR worth Rs 19.80 crore has been submitted for making the museum fully functional. Revival of the Tehzeeb Mahal project in Srinagar is also being actively pursued at its original site. On the digitization front, the department is upgrading its web portal to facilitate AI-assisted archiving of manuscripts and vital records.

To preserve and promote regional art forms, the department has been organizing structured cultural programs. It also aims to re-launch the publication of "Sheeraza" in Sheena and Bhadrawahi languages after re-advertising spots for editors and composers due to a poor initial response. Under the proposed Rs 132 crore budget for 2025-26, allocations have been made for the directorates of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Libraries & Research, and the J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. New projects include setting up library-cum-reading rooms and restoration of temples, forts, and shrines. During the last fiscal year, Rs 131.50 crore was allocated and Rs 27.20 crore was spent, with 10 out of 156 projects completed by March 31, 2025. Several heritage revival projects under Phase-I were successfully completed during 2024-25.Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while commending the detailed planning and progress in the departments, called for swift and effective execution to ensure that projects translate into measurable improvements on the ground.The Chief Minister assured that his government remains committed to strengthening governance, modernizing public infrastructure, and accelerating inclusive development across all sectors.

## Amarnath Yatra 2025...

Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and other states will be setting up community kitchens en route to the Cave Shrine. They said that out of the total, 25 langars will be organised in Baltal and Domel, 13 langars at the holy cave, 8 at Sheshnag, 5 at Pissutop, 12 at Panchtarni, 7 at Chandanwari, 9 at Nunwan and 5 at Zojibal.Five langars will also be set up at the Jammu base camp Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar and about 50 on Jammu-Pathankot and Jammu-Srinagar national highways.Shri Amarnath Shrine Board has also finalised the food menu for the langar organisations and asked them to avoid oily items. The Shrine Board has also encouraged the pilgrims to eat nutritious and healthy food. The holy cave of Shri Amarnath is located in Pahalgam of Anantnag district and is a major pilgrimage site for Hindus.It is located at an altitude of about 13,600 feet above sea level.Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday also inspected the maintenance, upgradation and widening of the Yatra track en route and took a first-hand appraisal of the measures taken by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board and Border Road Organisation (BRO) to ensure the safe and hassle-free pilgrimage of the devotees.Sinha also performed the Pratham Puja at the Holy Cave, marking the ceremonial beginning of the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra.The Lieutenant Governor urged all the devotees of Baba Barfani to visit in large numbers for the Holy Yatra and prayed for the progress of J&K and the nation.

## Farooq Abdullah grieves...

number of which is not yet officially released.Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari said the plane crash was heartbreaking."This is an unspeakable tragedy. May the departed souls rest in eternal peace, and may the Almighty grant their loved ones strength, comfort, and patience in this time of immense sorrow," he said.

## Record booking in...

both locals and tourists.Crossing the architectural marvel, situated at a height of 359 meters above the river, the world's highest railway arch bridge, the Chenab bridge, and the first cable-stayed Anji rail bridge, both parts of the USBRL project, the Vande Bharat travels through a scenic route, passing through tunnels and various valleys, offering panoramic views of the Himalayan region.