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PM Modi led regime determined to make India great nation by**2047: Amit Shah**

Union Home Minister said that action is also being taken against those involved in the retail trade of drugs.

"Strict action is being taken against those cartels operating at all entry points of the country, cartels distributing from entry points to states," he said.

Shah said the time has come to deal a big blow to drug cartels. "I believe that it can happen only when the officers responsible for working against drugs decide to take strong action against them," he said.

According to Shah, in some parts of the world, people have seen the link between a nation's development and the challenge of drug abuse. "Unfortunately, two of the regions from where drugs are supplied globally are very close to us. So this is the time that we fight against it strongly."

The Home Minister said it is very important to save the young generation from drugs to achieve the goal of a fully developed India as the foundation of any great state is its young generation.

He said during the previous UPA government tenure, drugs worth Rs 40,000 crore were seized, whereas under the NDA government, over the past 10 years, drugs worth Rs 1,65,000 crore have been seized, which is a very significant achievement.

"But making numbers in the fight against drugs is not our goal. Our goal is to build an India where the need to create such numbers doesn't even arise. This will be possible through a top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top approach," he said.

Referring to the 'Narcotics-Free India' campaign carried out by the NCB, Shah said it has a decisive role for ANTI.

"Until every district, police of every district and the education officer of every district become sensitive towards this campaign, this campaign cannot be successful," he said.

At the event, Shah also set in motion the process of destroying 1.37 lakh kg of narcotic substances worth Rs 4,794 crore seized in different parts of the country.

He also released the NCB's annual report 2024. The NCB has been actively coordinating with the GST department, state drug controllers, Income Tax authorities and financial institutions to uncover the full extent of the drug diversion network.

Gadkari chairs high-level meeting to review situation

they should not come at the cost of prolonged disruption to vital traffic movement.

"Blacktopping can wait for its turn. But large vehicles, especially 4-axle and 5-axle trucks, cannot be diverted through the Mughal Road. This is the only viable route for them. With a huge number of trucks stranded on the Kashmir side alone, clearing this backlog is crucial," the Chief Minister said.

The CM further said that the fruit season is at its peak, and continued delays in transportation are causing significant losses to growers and traders.

He stressed that while small vehicles could be diverted, NH-44 must remain open for heavy traffic until all stranded vehicles are cleared. He recommended that blacktopping work be undertaken only after the backlog is fully addressed.

Union Minister Gadkari assured the Chief Minister that his concerns would be taken into account.

According to an official handout, Gadkari said the backlog of trucks and other heavy vehicles will be cleared on priority before resuming blacktopping activities.

The Chief Minister also directed the Chief Secretary to ensure lane discipline and regulate traffic on the highway to facilitate smooth clearance.

Sources told news agency that as an interim measure, the government has proposed a traffic management plan allowing heavy vehicles to move in one direction while permitting light vehicles from the opposite side.

When contacted, the General Manager and Regional Officer of NHAI, Jammu, stated that soiling work is being carried out on a 300-metre stretch at Tahard in Udhampur.

"We have to carry out soiling repeatedly because intermittent rains keep affecting the surface," he said, adding that blacktopping will commence once the weather improves.

Minister for Agriculture Production and Horticulture, Javid Dar, said that while traffic flow has improved, full restoration will take time.

"The one-way movement of heavy motor vehicles will help in clearing stranded apple trucks," he said, adding that the government is continuously monitoring the situation.

Inspector General of Police (Traffic), M. Suleman Choudhary, announced that heavy motor vehicles will be allowed to move from Srinagar to Jammu on Wednesday (September 16).

"We are hopeful of clearing the stranded fruit-laden trucks en route to Jammu," he said, adding that 2800 trucks were cleared via the Mughal Road over the past two days.

He said that movement of fruit-laden trucks has been consistently allowed for two consecutive days on the Mughal Road.

"We used to allow traffic only in one direction on the Mughal Road. But to clear the stranded

apple-laden trucks, we permitted traffic from Srinagar to Jammu on this route on Monday and Tuesday," he said.

3 J&K Police Officers Sent On Deputation To Ladakh

order states that the officers will serve on deputation until recalled, with their lien and promotion prospects continuing in J&K's Home Department. They have been directed to report to the Ladakh Home Department immediately

Distance-Mode Engineering**Degree Can't Add Weightage: DB**

disputes over candidates' experience and qualifications.

Billowria, who figured in the merit list, was awarded additional points for an M.Tech degree obtained through distance mode from Vinayaka Missions University. On this basis, he claimed priority over other contenders, including Ramandeep Singh.

The Division Bench referred to the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment in Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporation Ltd. vs. Rabi Shankar Patro, which had invalidated engineering degrees awarded by deemed universities through distance education. The apex court had ruled that such degrees could not confer benefits unless the candidates cleared a special AICTE-devised test — something Billowria had not done. The Division Bench observed: "The degree certificate relied upon by the writ petitioner could not have been taken into consideration by the Board while calculating his overall merit in the selection process."

Once the 6.69 points wrongly given for the invalid M.Tech degree were deducted, Billowria's merit rank fell below that of Ramandeep Singh, who had secured higher marks in the written test.

The Division Bench also dismissed doubts raised over Singh's eligibility, including his experience certificate from Chowdhary Motors and his driving licence endorsements. The Bench noted that the certificate's authenticity had not been disputed by the issuing authority and that Singh's licence had valid endorsements dating back to 2006, well before the cut-off date.

Holding that Singh had superior merit and met the eligibility requirements, the Division Bench upheld the CAT order and dismissed Billowria's petitions. (JNF)

JKSSB to conduct Junior Engineer**(Civil) exam on November 2**

advertised under Notification No. 03 of 2025 dated April 24, 2025.

The earlier scheduled examination was deferred through a notice issued on August 30.

With the new schedule in place, the JKSSB has advised candidates to download their admit cards from October 27, 2025, onwards through the Board's official website www.jkssb.nic.in. Controller of Examinations, Reyaz Ahmad Malik, confirmed the revised date and urged candidates to regularly check the website for updates.

The Junior Engineer (Civil) recruitment examination has drawn significant attention, as the post remains one of the most sought-after technical positions in the Union Territory's public sector. The Board has clarified that no further changes are anticipated in the schedule.

CM Omar Abdullah to lead J&K delegation**at Global Tourism Fair in Paris**

delegation also includes Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, and Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta.

According to the official order, the expenditure for the visit will be met by the Tourism Department.

Officials said the participation in IFTM Top Resa will help Jammu and Kashmir highlight its natural beauty, cultural heritage, adventure tourism, and hospitality sector.

"With Europe being a major source market for international tourists, this is a timely opportunity to project J&K as a safe and attractive destination," a senior Tourism Department officer noted.

CM Omar Abdullah is expected to hold a series of meetings with tour operators, travel agencies, and potential investors during the Paris event. He is also likely to emphasize the government's renewed focus on infrastructure development, connectivity, and eco-friendly tourism projects in the Valley and other parts of the Union Territory.

Industry experts believe that J&K's participation in such global forums can play a crucial role in reviving foreign tourist arrivals, which had witnessed a dip in recent years due to security concerns.

AIP leaders detained during protest**over NH blockade in Sgr's Press Enclave**

However, several AIP protesters were detained during the protest.

The details shared by AIP revealed that those held include MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshedd, Chairman PAC Ishiyay Qadri, Party Spokesperson Firdouse Baba, senior leaders Ajaz Ahmad Lone, Professor Naseer Rather, DDC Khurshedd Ahmad Dar, Spokesperson North Kashmir Adv. Shah Nawaz Mir, former BDC Chairmen Showkat Ahmad Pandit and Bashir Ahmad, Adv. Muzaffar, and Sheikh Bariq. Meanwhile, AIP's Chief Spokesperson Inam Un

Nabi, in a statement, criticised the detentions, alleging that the government was "trying to silence those raising genuine concerns of growers," and said the party would continue its campaign until the highway is cleared for apple trucks.

Doctors on PG Courses Without Joining**Duty Not Entitled to Salary: HC**

government to pay them salary and allowances for the duration of their studies, relying on Article 44-A of the J&K Civil Service Regulations, 1956.

The High Court, however, held that Article 44-A applies only when employees are deputed for short-term training courses related to their existing job profiles, not for higher studies like postgraduate degrees that last beyond eight weeks. The court said the doctors were never deputed by their employer and had remained absent from duty of their own choice.

Calling it a case of "abandonment of service/ unauthorized absence," the Bench observed that seeking salary for such a period was "untenable." The judges also made it clear that past practices of granting similar benefits cannot override the law, remarking that "two wrongs do not make one right."

The court further urged the government to frame a clear mechanism for doctors and employees who intend to pursue higher studies during service. It stressed the need for a formal procedure of obtaining permission and availing study leave to avoid such disputes in the future. Significantly, while rejecting the claim for salary, the Bench noted that the government had shown leniency by not initiating disciplinary proceedings and by permitting the doctors to rejoin service after completing their PG courses. (JNF)

CM chairs review meeting on development of emerging tourist destinations in J&K

MD JKTC Shreya Singhal, Director Tourism Jammu, representatives from BISAG-N, and other concerned officials, both in person and through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister emphasized the need to initiate site-specific Tourism Development for the identified destinations with focus on Master Plan for each destination. He highlighted the importance of creating dedicated solid and liquid waste management systems to ensure environmentally sustainable tourism. He also underlined the need to have Project Management Unit in place with adequate staff to strengthen institutional mechanism. He called upon Tourism Department to furnish the proposals for cabinet approval in earnest.

The Chief Minister further stressed the importance of establishing multi-tiered coordination among tourism authorities, local bodies, line departments and between J&K Government and Government of India to ensure smooth execution of projects as per time lines.

On the occasion, a presentation was given on the tourism potential of emerging destinations and the employment opportunities they could generate for local youth.

The Chief Minister urged the concerned departments to ensure that while developing emerging destinations, a careful balance is maintained between Economy, Ecology, and Equity (the 3E principle).

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched the Tourism App which would help tourists and all interested to explore J&K tourism destinations, facilities available and host of other relevant information.

TADA court rejects bail plea of two accused in Mirwaiz Mouvi**Farooq's assassination case**

evaded arrest for over 33 years before being apprehended in May 2023.

The two had moved bail applications on major towns, the J&H Amrit initiative, PMAY-U 2.0, and sanitation projects under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) also came up for discussion.

BSF Recovers Arms And Ammunition, Including AK Rifle In Budhwar Jammu

further sanitization of area has been launched to rule out any presence of other suspicious material.

CS reviews implementation of flagship schemes of key departments

of water bodies were reviewed. Progress on preparation of GIS-based master plans for major towns, the Jal HI Amrit initiative, PMAY-U 2.0, and sanitation projects under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) also came up for discussion.

With respect to the Rural Development Department (RDD) the review covered livelihood generation under Rural Livelihood Mission, with special focus on converting potential groups into 'Lakshpati Didis'. Progress under SBM-G (Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen) was also discussed, including Solid & Liquid Waste Management, Grey Water Management, construction of HHHLs and Community Sanitary Complexes, Plastic Waste Management, Faecal Sludge Management, and establishment of Gobardhan Units.

In the School Education Department scheme

implementation of PM SHRI scheme was reviewed, under which 396 schools are to be transformed with the establishment of Aal Tinkering Labs, STEM and Robotics Labs, ICT facilities, smart classrooms, and the introduction of vocational education.

The progress of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Poshan 2.0, and Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) was deliberated over for their implementation through the Social Welfare Department.

The Chief Secretary reviewed implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) and its components, progress under PM-ABHIM, and the ongoing works for completion of AIMS Awantipora through the Health & Medical Education Department.

The Revenue Department schemes included SVAMITVA for generation of property cards, digitization of land records, geo-referencing of cadastral maps, and computerization of the registration process were assessed.

Schemes of Skill Development Department (SDD) the progress of PM Vishwakarma, and the National Scheme for ITI Upgradation was reviewed. The Chief Secretary directed the sanctioning and disbursement of loan cases under PM Vishwakarma to be scaled up to one lakh beneficiaries from the current 13,756 applications.

The implementation of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme was discussed. The scheme focuses on MSME formalization, establishment of MSME Health Clinics, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development programmes, and related initiatives.

Underscoring the importance of outcome-oriented governance, the Chief Secretary impressed upon officers to ensure regular monitoring, smooth execution, and timely completion of these schemes. He stressed that the original objectives of these flagship programmes must be realized on the ground to deliver maximum benefit to citizens.

Kashmir apple growers report rising losses as**'transport costs triple', prices fall**

at Sopore's Asia's second-largest fruit mandi. Tantry Tajamal, a seasoned grower from Sopore, said, "The market has also collapsed due to the glut. Delicious apples, which fetched Rs 1,000-1,300 per box earlier, are now selling for just Rs 500-800. American apples, which were usually exported to Bangladesh, are lying idle in mandis, and much of it is rotting."

Low shelf-life varieties such as Galla and Kiser have been hit hardest, with growers estimating that their shelf life has been reduced by half due to chemical ripening and prolonged storage. Reyaz Ahmed, a grower from Rafiabadd, said poor packaging is worsening the crisis. "The silicon-coated cardboard boxes trap heat when stacked for days, accelerating ripening and spoilage. That is why so much of our produce is getting ruined before it even leaves the valley," he explained.

The losses are mounting by the day.

The Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers-cum-Dealers Union has already estimated losses at over Rs 1,200 crore, but growers at Sopore mandi fear the damage could be far worse.

"The loss is going to touch around Rs 5,000 crore, as nearly four lakh apple boxes are lying here in Sopore mandi due to non-transportation. It could be the biggest loss the industry has ever faced," the growers at Sopore Mandi said, appealing to the government for urgent intervention.

"Let them ensure unhindered movement along the national highway," the growers added. "We feel everyone is responsible for the crisis, be it the LG administration, local government, or even the associations."

They said the blockade has also forced many orchardists to halt harvesting, as there is no transport available to lift the produce.

The growers and traders earlier accused the government of destroying the apple economy by restricting heavy vehicles and failing to manage traffic. "If immediate measures are not taken, lakhs of metric tons of apples will rot and the industry will collapse," said the protesting fruit growers at Shopian mandi.

With the apple season at its peak, growers fear the crisis could push many orchardists into bankruptcy if the authorities don't intervene urgently.

Parl Committee on Commerce visits**Pahalagam to discuss revival of tourism post-terror attack**

with the people of Kashmir. That is why we are on the ground today—to see the reality for ourselves. Based on our observations, a time-bound policy will be framed to restore confidence among tourists and revive the economy as early as possible," she added. Reiterating the delegation's solidarity with the people of the valley, the delegation chairperson assured that every effort is being made to bring back normalcy and encourage tourists to visit Kashmir. "We are optimistic and confident that with collective efforts, the negative impact on commerce and tourism can be overcome. We are people's representatives, and we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this difficult time," she said.

The meeting in Pahalagam saw participation from local hoteliers, travel agents, traders, and representatives of the tourism industry, who highlighted the urgent need for confidence-building measures, improved infrastructure, and safety assurances to revive tourist inflow in the valley.