



On 77th Republic Day, LG Sinha reiterates govt's commitment to establish peace in J&K



- 'Naya Savera' in Union Territory
- India has drawn redline against terror
- Operation Sindoor continues

LG'S FULL REPUBLIC DAY ADDRESS ON PAGE 5**KNO Desk**

Jammu, Jan 26: Asserting that 'Naya Savera' (new dawn) has broken out in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday reiterated the government's

commitment to establish peace and make region prosperous.

Addressing the main Republic Day function in Jammu, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) paid rich tributes | [More on P6](#)

Come together to make J&K land of equal opportunities for all: LG Sinha

- Highlights achievements in education, health sectors
- Says govt committed to provide housing to all
- Assures welfare of Kashmiri migrant families
- 'UT has 2 lakh Lakhpati Didis, records 82 crore e-transactions'

KNO Desk

Jammu, Jan 26: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called upon people of all generations to come together to make Jammu and Kashmir a land of equal

opportunities for all.

Addressing the main Republic Day event at Jammu, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "I call upon people of all generations to come together and actively support us in building the Jammu and Kashmir of our collective dreams—a Jammu and Kashmir where youth have equal opportunities, where women-led development drives economic growth and social stability, and where unity, peace, and commitment guide us towards a brighter and more prosperous future."

172 ATAL TINKERING LABS ESTABLISHED
LG Sinha said, "A total of 172 Atal | [More on P6](#)

Republic Day parade showcased India's formidable security apparatus: PM Modi



Reflected nation's preparedness, technological capability

Country's security forces pride of nation

Privileged to host Presidents of European Council, Commission

KNO DESK

New Delhi, Jan 26: Asserting that Republic Day parade showcased India's formidable security apparatus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that it reflected the nation's preparedness, technological capability and unwavering commitment to safeguard

its citizens.

In a series of posts on X the Prime Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), wrote: "India celebrated Republic Day with great enthusiasm and pride."

In another post he wrote: "The magnificent parade at Kartavya Path showcased the strength of our democracy, the richness of our heritage and the unity that binds our nation together."

PM Modi, according to a PIB statement said, "The Republic Day parade offered a glimpse into the strengthening capabilities of India's security forces."

He said, "India's security forces are truly the pride of the nation." | [More on P6](#)

Light to moderate rain, snowfall likely across Kashmir

Western Disturbance brings precipitation, gusty winds likely

Road connectivity may be temporarily affected

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jan 26: Light to moderate rain and snowfall are likely at most places across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, with the possibility of moderate to heavy precipitation, thunderstorms and gusty winds at isolated locations, the Meteorological Department said on Monday.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the active spell is expected to

continue through January 27, affecting both plains and higher reaches of the Union Territory.

The department has advised caution, particularly in vulnerable areas, as intermittent heavy rain or snowfall could lead to temporary disruptions.

On January 28, the weather is likely to improve slightly, with light rain or snowfall expected at a few places, mainly over higher elevations.

The Met Department said weather conditions are expected to remain largely dry from January 29 till the evening of January 31, bringing relief after the ongoing spell.

Officials said the recent precipitation is likely to improve snow accumulation in upper reaches but could also impact road connectivity, | [More on P6](#)

On R-Day, Dy CM says J&K people have always stood firm against Pakistan's designs 'Every attempt to weaken J&K or India being defeated by people's unity; hopeful of statehood restoration'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jan 26: Thundering from the podium of Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium on the occasion of 77th Republic Day, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have always stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the rest of the country to defend the nation against Pakistan's attempts to create unrest or weaken India.

He expressed confidence that J&K will regain its statehood soon, reiterating the promise made by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister on the floor of Parliament.



Addressing a large gathering during the official Republic Day function, the Deputy CM thundered that the resilience and patriotism of J&K's people have time and again defeated divisive agendas.

"Whenever Pakistan tried to do something against us or to weaken Jammu and Kashmir or India, the people of Jammu and Kashmir stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the rest of the country. | [More on P6](#)

Pahalgam terror attack victim Syed Aadil honoured posthumously

Family expresses pride in sacrifice, thanks govt for support

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jan 26: Syed Aadil Hussain Shah from Hapatnard in South Kashmir's Anantnag district has been honoured for supreme bravery after sacrificing his life to shield tourists during the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Aadil was killed on April 22 last year while attempting to fight terrorists to protect tourists in Baisaran area of Pahalgam.

He was the primary earner of his family which included his parents, brothers, wife and child.

After his killing, Waqf board J&K provided a job to his brother while LG provided a permanent government position, Class IV (MTS) in the fisheries department to his wife Gulnaz Akhter.

Now, he has been posthumously awarded by the Jammu and Kashmir government on the occasion of Republic day 2026 in the bravery category and he received a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a citation in recognition of his courage.

His family member have expressed | [More on P6](#)

LG unfurls National Flag

**KT News Desk**

Jammu, Jan 26: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha unfurled the National Flag at the UT level function on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, at MA Stadium this morning. He inspected the contingents of the Republic Day Parade and took the ceremonial salute.

The march-past featured a

disciplined display by smart contingents from Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB, IRP (Women & Male), J&K Police, JKAP, UT Disaster Response Force, J&K Fire and Emergency Services, J&K Forest Protection Force, Excise & Taxation Department, Ex-Servicemen, NCC (Boys and Girls), Bharat Scouts and Guides (Girls & Boys) and several school | [More on P6](#)



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha hosted 'At Home' reception on the occasion of 77th Republic Day at Lok Bhavan, Jammu on Monday

J&K Tableau dazzles at R-Day Parade in Delhi Kashmir's culture, handicrafts, iconic houseboats take centre stage on Kartavya Path

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jan 26: The Jammu & Kashmir tableau impressed the nation today at the 77th Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path, highlighting the region's rich culture, handicrafts and iconic houseboats in the heart of India, New Delhi.

The tableau featured traditional Kani shawls, hand-knotted carpets, papier-mache items, carved walnut wood artefacts and folk dances like Rouf, Kud, Pahari, Bhadarwahi and Gojri.

As per the details collected by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),



performers in colourful attire were accompanied by the melodious sounds of santoor,

rabab and flute with bringing Kashmir's heritage to life on the national stage. | [More on P6](#)

DIPR celebrates Republic Day Pays homage to martyrs

**KT News Desk**

Jammu, Jan 26: Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Monday celebrated 77th Republic Day at Media Complex, Rail Head here. Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora,

unfurled the tricolour and paid high tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of nation.

On the occasion, the Director along with the officers and officials of the department paid floral tributes to Anil Kumar Abrol (Field) | [More on P6](#)

J&K Lok Bhavan celebrates Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu UT Day

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jan 26: Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan on Monday celebrated Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu Union Territory Day. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu Union Territory on the occasion.

"I pray that the Union Territory achieve new heights of progress in the years ahead. May peace and prosperity touch the lives of every citizen," the Lieutenant Governor said. It was on this day, January



26th in the year 2020, that the Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu were merged to form the new Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

77TH REPUBLIC DAY

Republic Day celebrated with patriotic fervour across Kashmir

Flag unfurling ceremonies, inspection of Parade, cultural events mark day

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 26: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour across Kashmir valley on Monday with a series of functions held at district level to commemorate the day.

Unfurling of the National Flag, as per an official statement was held amid impressive Parades and mega cultural events at all venues of functions organised at district, sub-division, tehsil and block levels across Kashmir.

AT BUDGAM: The 77th Republic Day- 2026 functions were held with much fanfare and enthusiasm across the District Budgam on Monday. The main function was held at Sports Stadium Budgam, where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-din Bhat unfurled the National Flag and took salute at the march-past. Speaking on the occasion, the DC paid glowing tributes to all freedom fighters for their selfless sacrifices for freedom of the country from Britishers.

The DC also deliberated upon the ongoing development scenario of the district and said that the district Budgam is touching new heights with active participation of people in government initiatives.

The DC also focused on the active and positive role of officers of District Administration Budgam for tireless efforts in ensuring speedy completion of infrastructure projects across the district. He said not only a long pending demand of establishment of State of the Art District Hospital Budgam has become a reality but also long pending under construction PHCs at Pahroo, Gundipora, Mazhama, Kanira, Choon and other health centres were also completed in short span of time and dedicated to general public. He lauded the work infrastructure of the ring-road connecting many districts of the valley. He also appreciated the District Administration for its tremendous work under R&B sector for black topping a network of road connectivity across all far flung areas of the district. He also highlighted ongoing developmental works under Education, Jal Shakti, KPDCCL and successful implementation of public welfare schemes in Budgam.

The march-past was presented by the contingents of JKP, JKAP, CRPF, Home Guard and School Children. On the occasion, various artists and school children presented various colourful cultural programs including Rouf, patriotic songs, folk songs, Bangda, Band-Pather enthralling the audience, present there.

The prize distribution ceremony was also held wherein various officers and officials from different departments were awarded for their



DDC highlighted the historic and democratic significance of Republic Day and reflected on the steady developmental progress achieved in the district over the years. He outlined key initiatives undertaken in sectors such as infrastructure development, education, healthcare and social welfare, and reaffirmed the administration's commitment towards inclusive growth, transparent governance and improved public service delivery.

The programme also featured colourful cultural performances presented by students from various educational institutions, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region through tra-

allied sectors, infrastructure development, and women and youth empowerment.

He elaborated on various development initiatives undertaken for the progress and prosperity of the people and stated that Kulgam has registered significant achievements across multiple priority areas and schemes such as District Capex, MGNREGA, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), HADP, PMAY-G, sports, and other sectors.

He added that Under District Capex, 1,633 works are being completed at a cost of Rs 50.29 crore and under PMAY-G, 5540 houses have been constructed.

Under the centrally sponsored Jal Jeevan Mis-

Mini Secretariat, where the National Flag was unfurled by the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan.

He paid rich tributes to the architects of the Constitution and the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation, and highlighted significant developmental strides across various sectors aimed at the holistic development of the district.

Similar celebrations were organized at Sub-Division D.H. Pora, where SDM Bashir Ul Hassan unfurled the National Flag, as well as at tehsil and block headquarters, schools, colleges, panchayats, police stations, and other institutions.

AT BARAMULLA: On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa unfurled the tri-color and took the salute at DC Office Complex.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Arshad Ahmad Khan; Chief Planning Officer Baramulla, Nissar Ahmad; District Information Officer Baramulla, Iftakhar Naseem and other district officers and officials were present on the occasion.

The DC conveyed his warm greetings to the people of Baramulla on the occasion and paid rich tributes to the innumerable freedom fighters whose courage, sacrifices and relentless struggle laid the foundation of India's independence.

Minga Sherpa noted that Republic Day is a moment of immense pride for every Indian, as it upholds the democratic ideals and constitutional values that guide the nation.

He further underscored the importance of unity, peace and inclusive development, urging citizens to uphold democratic values, work collectively for the progress of the district, and contribute to building a strong and prosperous India.

AT KUPWARA: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated Monday across the frontier district Kupwara with great enthusiasm and fervour.

The main function of Republic Day celebration was held at District Police Lines Kupwara where Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Pandit-pori unfurled the National Flag, inspected the parade and took salute at march-past presented by contingents of JKP, JKAP, CRPF, IRP, Home Guards, FPF, Special Commandos, Police Band, and school children. Besides, in a scintillating spectacle, Tableaus (Jankis) were also presented by different departments during the parade which showcased achievements and welfare Schemes.

Vice Chairperson DDC, Haji Farooq Ahmad

and transparency. He said Kupwara district has seen better healthcare services after the establishment of Government Medical College and upgradation of health facilities in rural areas. He said that work on major projects including construction of National Highway has already begun, besides, work has also started on construction of the Railway line.

The Chairperson said that Rs.109.07 crore were approved under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 in which 3352 works were sanctioned out of which 1000 works stands completed. He said under the Power sector, new receiving stations have been established and existing stations have been upgraded, besides, sufficient buffer stock of transformers have been made available which has improved the overall scenario of power development in the district.

Regarding water supply, he said major schemes have been constructed under the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission to reach the drinking water supply to every household.

Regarding Education, the Chairman said school infrastructure has seen a drastic change in recent years in the district. With the establishment of 398 smart classrooms, sports grounds and other facilities, efforts have been made to provide better infrastructure and quality education to the students.

He highlighted various other developments including macadamization of roads, tourism, agriculture and allied activities.

Earlier, the Chairperson, DC Kupwara, and SSP Kupwara laid floral wreaths on the Martyrs Memorial.

A variety of cultural programmes were presented by the school children and local artists during the function. Information department Kupwara also organized the folk cultural programme.

Later, an award ceremony was held during which awards were given to the best performers in the March Past, Tableaus and cultural programmes. Awards were also given to various Officers and officials of the administration for their good work.

Republic Day celebration functions were also held at D.C Office Complex Kupwara where Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse unfurled the National Flag and took Salute at March Past. Senior Officers and employees of District Administration were also present on the occasion.

The Republic day functions were also held in Handwara, Lolab and Karnahsub-divisions, In Handwara, ADC Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, unfurled the National Flag at District Police Lines Handwara, inspected the parade and took salute at March past. Cultural pro-



meritorious work.

Among others, SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar, DDC members and other senior officers from Civil, Police and Paramilitary departments participated in the program.

The Republic Day functions were also held at Sub Divisions, Block and Tehsil level across the district Budgam.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner also unfurled the National Flag at DC Office Complex and DC residence and extended his Republic Day greetings to all.

AT BANDIPORA: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm, patriotic fervour and mass public participation across Bandipora district Monday. The main function was held at S.K. Stadium, Bandipora.

On the occasion, Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC), Bandipora, Abdul Gani Bhat, unfurled the National Tricolour, inspected the ceremonial parade and took the salute from the marching contingents. The parade comprised contingents from CRPF 3rd Battalion, J&K Police Executive Wing, IRP 21st Battalion, J&K Police Women Battalion, J&K Forest Division Bandipora, Special Police Officers (SPOs), J&K Home Guards, NCC cadets and school students. The event was further enlivened by a spirited performance by the J&K Police Band.

The flag unfurling ceremony was attended by MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat; Principal District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora, Jeema Bashir; Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib; SSP Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar; Vice Chairperson DDC, Kousar Shafeeq; DDC Members; Additional Deputy Commissioner; senior officers of the judiciary, district administration and police, senior citizens and a large gathering of the general public.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairperson

ditional music and folk dances, adding vibrancy and festive spirit to the celebrations.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, unfurled the National Flag at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, and at the Deputy Commissioner's residence.

Meanwhile, Republic Day celebrations were held across the district at sub-divisional, tehsil and block levels.

In Sub-Division Sumbal, the National Flag was unfurled at Irrigation Colony, while similar ceremonies were organised in Gurez and at all district offices, degree colleges and educational institutions, marking the occasion with patriotic zeal and enthusiasm.

AT KULGAM: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour across Kulgam, with the main function held at the District Police Lines (DPL), Kulgam.

The National Flag was unfurled by the Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parrey, who also took the salute at an impressive March Past.

Contingents from the CRPF, J&K Police, IRP, JKP Women Contingent, Police Band, Home Guards, NCC cadets, and students participated in the parade.

The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, SSP Kulgam Anayat Ali Choudhary, DDC members, senior officers from the civil and police administration, and a large gathering of enthusiastic citizens.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairperson highlighted the significance of Republic Day, marking the adoption of the Constitution of India and the nation's transition to a Republic in 1950.

He enumerated the major developmental strides made in the district across key sectors including education, healthcare, agriculture and



sion (JJM), work is in its final stage, with 109 projects completed and 55,624 households provided with tap water connections, added the DDC Chairperson.

He further informed that for outstanding performance across various development indicators, District Kulgam has been conferred the PM Award.

Highlighting social welfare initiatives, he stated 4791 girls have benefited under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme and Rs. 23.95 crore has been provided as Old Age Assistance.

Under employment generation scheme Rs. 25 crore has been extended to youth under self-employment schemes, he stated.

He also highlighted achievements and other flagship schemes and programmes.

On the occasion, colourful cultural programmes presented by students and local artists, including songs and skits, added vibrancy to the celebrations and enthralled the audience.

Awards were presented to officers, officials, students, and other prominent individuals in recognition of their excellence in various fields. Mass singing of Vande Mataram National Song was also held.

Flag unfurling ceremonies were held at multiple locations across the district, including the

Mir; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse; SSP Kupwara, Syed Al-Tahir Gilani; ADDC Kupwara, Mufti Faraed ud Din; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; DDC Members, Police Officers, Army Officers, District officers, officials of all departments, people from different areas, besides students from different educational institutions were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairperson DDC, extended his warm greetings to the people of Kupwara district and highlighted the importance of the Republic Day. He appealed to people to work together for promoting national integration, communal harmony and peace in the district. The Chairperson said that development of all sections of the society especially rural and far flung areas remains the top most priority of the Government and District Administration. He highlighted various measures taken by the District Administration Kupwara for the overall development of the district.

The Chairperson, while appreciating District Administration said that district has recorded appreciable achievements on the socio economic and developmental fronts under the leadership of District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse. He congratulated Deputy Commissioner Kupwara and his team of officers for putting best efforts in public service delivery

grammes were also presented by the school children and awards were given to the achievers.

Similarly, SDM Lolab, Mudassar Ahmad unfurled the National flag at GDC Sogam and took salute on March Past. Cultural variety programmes were also presented by the students. In Karnah sub division, Tehsil Karnah, Mohammad Amin Bhat unfurled the National flag at Mini Secretariat Tangdar and took salute on March Past. Republic Day Celebrations were also held in all Government Offices where Officers unfurled the National Flag and took the salute. Moreover, Republic Day celebrations were also held in all educational institutions and Panchayats across district Kupwara.

AT PULWAMA: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with great patriotic fervour and community spirit at the District Police Lines (DPL), Pulwama, where people from all walks of life gathered to commemorate the historic occasion with enthusiasm and pride. District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson, Syed Abdul Bari Andrabi, graced the event as the Chief Guest. He unfurled the National Flag and took the salute at the march-past, symbolising the district's unwavering commitment to the ideals of the Constitution and the nation.

Continued on
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R-Day 2026

Celebrations reflect unity, development in J&K: Minister Sharma

KT NEWS DESK

Kathua, Jan 26: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology, Science & Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma Monday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, recalling the nation's constitutional values, sacrifices of freedom fighters and the collective resolve to build a strong and inclusive India.

The Minister hoisted the Tricolour and took salute at March past contingents drawn from Police, Paramilitary forces, College and School students, at Sports Stadium Kathua.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that Republic Day is not merely a national holiday but a reminder of the day in 1950 when the Constitution of India came into force after nearly three years of dedicated effort under the leadership of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He noted that January 26 also holds historic significance as the day when the pledge of 'Purna Swaraj' was taken in 1930.

Highlighting the spirit of national unity, Satish Sharma said that the Tricolour symbolizes courage, peace, and prosperity and reflects the shared heartbeat of the nation from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, irrespective of diversity.

The Minister paid rich tributes

to the brave heroes of Jammu and Kashmir including General Zorawar Singh and Brigadier Rajinder Singh, and expressed gratitude to the Army, Police and security forces for safeguarding peace and stability in the region.

Speaking about the progress of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister Sharma said that the past few years have marked a new era of peace, development, and public welfare. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah, the government is committed to ensuring equitable development and improved facilities for every citizen.

The Minister highlighted that farmers are being supported through the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), which has encouraged the cultivation of high-value crops such as strawberries, dragon fruit and lavender, significantly enhancing rural incomes. He added that Kathua district has emerged as a leading agricultural district in Jammu and Kashmir, with mushroom cultivation witnessing major growth and local crafts such as Basohli paintings and Pashmina receiving global recognition through GI tags.

Satish Sharma said that millions of families are benefiting from the strengthened Public Distribution System, ensuring food security across the Union Territory. He also informed that free bus travel facilities



for women and new pilgrimage bus services to destinations including Mata Vaishno Devi, Shahdara Sharief, Haridwar and Amritsar have been introduced to improve accessibility.

Referring to transport reforms, the Minister said that initiatives such as Inland Water Transport and the Water Metro System have been launched to address public transport challenges and enhance mobility.

On housing and urban development, Minsiter Sharma said that under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana 2.0, permanent houses are being provided to previously excluded families, while cities are being developed into cleaner and modern urban centres.

He further said that significant progress has been made in providing safe drinking water, with work completed in 165 villages and tap water

now reaching over 70 per cent rural households. For the first time since Independence, drinking water facilities have reached villages such as Chown, Taddi, Beril, Bagni, Sundhar, Matandi, and Badoli Charpas.

Highlighting industrial growth, the Minister said that major companies are establishing manufacturing units in Kathua, creating employment for thousands of youth. Facilities such as Bamboo and Agarbatti Common Facility Centres (CFCs) and the Kirti Showroom have also been made operational to promote local entrepreneurship.

Emphasizing youth empowerment and sports development, Minister Sharma said that young people are being supported through Project Yuva, while large-scale events, including cricket tournaments and

winter games, are being organized to strengthen sports culture.

He said that Kathua is fast emerging as a model district, with notable progress in education, health, social welfare, and rural development. The Minister also underlined the government's commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure, including the world-class water sports facility at Ranjeet Sagar Dam developed under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP).

The Minister informed that the Hiranagar Mini Stadium, approved for development into an international-standard cricket facility under PMDP, had faced delays, but the government is taking necessary steps to ensure time-bound completion of such vital projects.

The Minister also highlighted the Government's resolute war against drugs, stating that substance abuse poses a serious threat to the youth and social fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that a multi-pronged strategy is being implemented involving strict law enforcement, intelligence-based action against drug networks, rehabilitation of affected individuals and large-scale awareness campaigns.

Satish Sharma emphasized that the administration is working in close coordination with police, civil society, educational institutions, and community leaders to eliminate drug trafficking and

prevent addiction. He reaffirmed that protecting the youth from the menace of drugs remains a top priority of the government and called upon citizens to actively support this mission for a healthier, safer, and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

Concluding his address, Satish Sharma said that development is not limited to physical infrastructure but is about strengthening unity, mutual brotherhood, and collective responsibility. He urged citizens to uphold constitutional values, educate the younger generation, and work together to ensure that no section of society is left behind.

The Minister appealed the people to reaffirm their commitment to nation-building and unity, stating that the Tricolour is not merely a flag but the pride of the nation.

Vibrant cultural performances by school students on patriotic themes enthralled the jam packed Sports Stadium Kathua.

The Minister also felicitated Martyr families, meritorious students and achievers of different fields and extraordinary public service delivery.

Chairman DDC Col (Retd) Mahan Singh, MLA Kathua Dr Bharat Bhushan, Vice Chairman DDC Raghunandan Singh, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, SSP Mohita Sharma, ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma, DDC Member were present on the occasion.

Div Com Kashmir unfurls National Flag



Addressing the gathering, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the significance and historical importance of Republic Day. He paid tribute to the contributions and sacrifices of ancestors and citizens in strengthening democratic values and securing peaceful environment.

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Jan 26: On the eve of 77th Republic Day, an impressive ceremonial programme was organized by Divisional Commissioner's Office to celebrate the festival with patriotism and national fervour.

On the occasion, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, unfurled the National Flag and took the salute from a contingent of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The event was attended by Deputy

Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Assistant Commissioner Central, DDP, CPO Srinagar, OSD to Div Com along with other officers and officials of the Divisional Commissioner's Office.

Addressing the gathering, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the significance and historical importance of Republic Day. He paid tribute to the contributions and sacrifices of ancestors and citizens in strengthening democratic values and securing

peaceful environment.

He reminded officers and officials of their responsibility to remain steadfast in their commitment to serving the nation and its citizens with dedication, integrity, and enthusiasm, while upholding the ideals and value system of service.

The Div Com also extended his greetings and best wishes to the citizens on the occasion of the National Festival and stated that Republic Day is celebrated with true patriotic fervour across the region.

Tricolour flies high at Ghanta Ghar

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Jan 26: The Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower) at Lal Chowk turned into a vibrant portrait of patriotism and celebration on Monday as scores of people, both locals and tourists, gathered to mark the 77th Republic Day in Srinagar.

The tricolour fluttered high, and the atmosphere around the city's most recognisable landmark was filled with patriotic songs, cheers and laughter.

The Clock Tower was surrounded by crowds taking selfies, waving flags and capturing the moment on their phones, as a sign, many said, of a changing Kashmir.

Among those who drew attention was Aarun from Gujarat, his body painted in saffron, white and green. Carrying a large national flag and "a miniature model of the BrahMos missile", he recalled visiting Kashmir every Republic Day since 2022.

"I come here every year to celebrate with my Kashmiri brothers and sisters," Aarun told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). "The feeling of hoisting the Tricolour at Lal Chowk is something special. It is about peace and togetherness."

Several tourists also joined him in expressing admiration for the city's spirit. Ritika Sharma, a visitor from Delhi, said the experience was heartwarming.

"I had only seen Lal Chowk in news reports, but today I saw people smiling, singing, and celebrating together. It felt emotional to witness this kind of unity," she said.

Locals said the growing footfall and open celebrations marked a shift in the city's mood.

Riyaz Ahmad, a local, said this year's crowd was among the most peaceful and cheerful in recent memory.

"It is good to see people from outside coming here without hesitation," he said. "The Clock Tower has seen many phases, but today it stands for peace and normal life."

Another student from Srinagar, who joined the celebrations, said attending the event was a way to reconnect with hope. "I came here with my friends just to feel part of something bigger," he said.

Officials said adequate security arrangements were in place around Lal Chowk and adjoining areas, and the celebrations concluded peacefully—(KNO)

Visitor uses replica, flag to showcase defence strength, peace message

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Jan 26: A miniature model of the BrahMos missile became one of the most talked-about sights at Lal Chowk on Monday as Republic Day celebrations unfolded at the city's iconic Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower).

The replica, carried by a tourist from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, drew attention from locals and visitors who paused to take photographs and ask about its significance.

The tourist, who identified himself as Arun, had painted his body in the colours of the Tricolour and waved the National Flag amid chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" throughout the day.

He said the BrahMos

model symbolised not only India's technological strength but also the country's resolve in responding to threats.

Arun told KNO that he wanted to convey a message of peace and unity from Kashmir's historic centre. "This model represents India's defence capabilities, our strength and self-reliance," he said.

"I brought it here to show that strength goes hand-in-hand with peace and brotherhood."

Notably, the BrahMos missile is one of India's most advanced precision-strike weapon systems and was prominently showcased this week in the Republic Day parade in New Delhi as part of a themed display linked

to Operation Sindoor — the military response launched by India last year following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists.

Many onlookers at Lal Chowk said the symbolic display added new meaning to the day's festivities.

Ritika Sharma, a visitor from Delhi, said: "Seeing the Tricolour and the BrahMos model here makes Republic Day feel powerful. It is a reminder of what India stands for, both strength and peace."

The Republic Day programme elsewhere in India also featured themed displays on defence systems and Operation Sindoor, showcasing the nation's strategic capabilities—(KNO)

Patriotic zeal at Srinagar HC

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Jan 26: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Srinagar Wing Monday with immense enthusiasm and full patriotic zeal and fervour.

The event commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who took salute at the March Past followed by playing of the National Anthem and patriotic tunes by the Band.

The event was also graced by the august presence of Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice

Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani and Justice Shahzad Azeem, Judges of the High Court.

Among other distinguished attendees were Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar along with the team of judicial officers, Khurshed-ul-Islam, Registrar Judicial Srinagar Wing, Jehangir Ahmad Bakshi, Joint Registrar (Judicial)/Incharge Protocol, Presidents of Bar Associations, officers of police and civil administration, law officers and all the officers and officials of the Srinagar Wing of the High Court.

The event concluded with distribution of sweets among the police and CRPF officials.



ARC Jammu hoists National Flag

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Jan 26: Additional Resident Commissioner (ARC), Jammu and Kashmir government, Anil Sharma Monday unfurled the National flag on the eve of 77th

Republic Day at Jammu and Kashmir House here.

A contingent of J&K Armed Police presented the guard of honour on the occasion. The ceremonial function was attended by all the officers and officials of Jammu and Kashmir posted at New Delhi. A colourful cultural

programme showcasing rich heritage of Jammu and Kashmir was also presented, adding vibrancy to the celebration. On the occasion, the officials who had rendered exemplary services in the field of administration were also felicitated.

Later, the Additional Resident Commissioner interacted

with the officers and officials of J&K House and extended his greetings on the occasion of Republic Day.

A similar function was also organized at J&K House, Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi, marking the national celebration with equal enthusiasm and patriotic fervour.

Information Deptt extends condolences with cultural officer Kashmir

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Jan 26: The officers and officials of the Joint Directorate Information Kashmir have expressed deep grief and sorrow over the sad demise of the uncle of Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain on Monday. Expressing solidarity, the Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz

Bukhari, Deputy Director Information Kashmir, Mohammad Rafiq, along with other officers and officials of the department, extended their deepest condolences to Burhan Hussain and his bereaved family.

They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

WARIS FAYAZ

Baramulla, Jan 26: Minister Javed Dar on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir is 90 per cent back on track post-snowfall, with roads and power restored, while the rest of the pending restoration works will be completed by tomorrow.

Praising the snowfall as a blessing from the Almighty, Dar said it has ended dry water source issues and averted summer tap shortages. Acknowledging complaints



over road clearance and power disruptions, he compared J&K's response to developed

nations, where operations pause briefly before full deployment.

"90 per cent of major priority 1 and 2 roads have been cleared and electricity is 90 per cent restored," he said.

Dar detailed Mission Yuva's target to support 1.37 lakh fresh entrepreneurs over the next four years, generating over 4.5 lakh employment opportunities. "These are not government jobs but self-started businesses that will employ others," he clarified. On upcoming budget session, the

minister said preparations are complete for Chief Minister's announcements on horticulture, agriculture, family welfare, school education and skill development.

Earlier, the minister unfurled the national flag at Baramulla amid a large gathering of 7,000-7,500 people braving the winter chill. The event was attended by DIG North Kashmir Maqsood-ul-Zaman, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla (DC) Minga Sherpa, SSP Baramulla Gurinderpal Singh and other senior officials—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

President's Inspiring Message About India's Future

President Droupadi Murmu's Republic Day-eve address was a powerful articulation of a confident, rising India, projecting a vision that deftly balances strength with serenity. By declaring India a "messenger of peace in a conflict-ridden world", she rooted the nation's global role in its ancient civilisational ethos, while firmly linking this peaceful advocacy to undeniable defensive prowess, exemplified by Operation Sindoor. This dual emphasis is crucial.

It positions India not as a passive pacifist, but as a responsible power that champions dialogue from a foundation of indomitable strength and self-reliance in defence. The speech rightly reserved its most resonant applause for the transformative rise of 'Nari Shakti'. By highlighting women's leadership from Panchayats to space, and celebrating historic sporting triumphs, the President framed gender equality not just as a moral imperative but as the very engine of national progress.

This focus moves the discourse beyond tokenism to tangible empowerment, envisioning a 'Viksit Bharat' built on the principle of inclusive growth. Equally significant was the spotlight on democratic deepening and technological democratisation. The translation of the Constitution into all 22 scheduled languages is a masterstroke for fostering genuine constitutional patriotism. Coupled with the staggering statistic that over half the world's digital transactions

now happen in India, it paints a picture of a nation closing the gap between state and citizen through innovation and accessibility. The President's call for shedding colonial vestiges and embracing 'Atmanirbharta' in spirit, economy, and culture provides a cohesive national objective. It ties together the push for a robust digital economy, world-class infrastructure, and cultural confidence into a single, ambitious mission. This address was more than a ceremonial overview; it was a strategic roadmap. It celebrated achievements without complacency, acknowledging the journey ahead in poverty alleviation and holistic development. By weaving together threads of defence, diplomacy, gender justice, technological leapfrogging, and cultural pride, President Murmu presented a holistic and inspiring portrait of India's trajectory. It is a vision that deserves not just praise, but a collective national endeavour to realise.

One District One Product (ODOP) A journey from local streets to global shelves

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

Introduction: Where Local Craft Sparked a National Revolution

In the heart of Uttar Pradesh lies Moradabad, a city where generations of artisans have shaped molten metal into fine brassware. For decades, these artisans honed their skills in family run workshops, often unknown to the world beyond their towns.

2018 marked the beginning of a new chapter. As part of an innovative state led experiment, Moradabad's brassware was selected to be the district's signature product under a bold new initiative: One District One Product (ODOP).

The idea was simple, yet revolutionary - identify one unique product in every district of the state, provide it with branding, market access, institutional support, and visibility, and empower the community behind it. Today, these crafts are showcased at international trade exhibitions. Local pride swelled, incomes rose, and a district that once toiled in economic obscurity became a model of self-reliant prosperity.

Moradabad was not an exception; it became the first chapter in a much larger story. As on December 2025, ODOP has been adopted at the national level and scaled to over 770 districts, touching the lives of millions of entrepreneurs, artisans, and farmers. What started in Uttar Pradesh is now India's most celebrated initiative in local economic transformation.

ODOP Fuelling Growth and Development

- Balanced Regional Development
- Empowerment of Artisans and Producers
- Export Promotion
- Preservation of Heritage
- Economic Impact
- Job Creation
- Global Recognition

ODOP seeks to promote balanced regional development by identifying and branding a unique product from each district, while strengthening market access for artisans and local producers through coordinated institutional support. The initiative has delivered tangible economic impact by strengthening incomes, expanding market access, and creating livelihood opportunities across district-level value chains. Through branding, exhibitions, and global platforms, ODOP has enhanced global recognition of Indian products, while supporting sustainable practices



and cultural exchange.

Districts as Growth Engines

The ODOP initiative, spearheaded by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), aims to unlock each district's unique economic potential, drive balanced regional growth, and equip local artisans and entrepreneurs to compete in national and global markets.

By aligning cultural heritage with India's broader development priorities, it transforms traditional skills into a sustainable economic engine.

The initiative aims to:

Promote Balanced Regional Growth

Unlock the economic strengths of every district to reduce regional disparities and ensure inclusive development.

Enable Jobs & Rural Entrepreneurship

Create livelihoods by empowering farmers, artisans, weavers, and local producers, advancing the goals of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Align with National Manufacturing Missions

Integrate with initiatives like Make in India, Vocal for Local, and Districts as Export Hub to boost domestic capabilities and global competitiveness.

Increasing Market Access

Expansion of market linkages through digital platforms, including a dedicated ODOP storefront on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), and State-level e-commerce platforms to boost sales and outreach.

Institutional Governance and Product Selection Framework under ODOP

The success of ODOP lies in its flexible yet structured governance model. It is implemented through the collaborative efforts of

central ministries, state governments, and district administrations.

Under the ODOP initiative, products are selected by States and Union Territories based on the existing ecosystem on the ground and the final list is communicated to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Over 1,200 ODOP products have been listed on the DPIIT's digital portal, covering sectors from textiles and food to handicrafts and minerals.

Through e-commerce initiatives like the Government e-Marketplace (GeM)-ODOP Bazaar, India's finest ODOP products are being showcased to wider markets, empowering artisans and expanding market access.

Uttar Pradesh: A Model for the Nation

Uttar Pradesh, the pioneering state behind the ODOP initiative, has experienced significant economic transformation under the programme. At the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025, ODOP gained unprecedented national and global visibility, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighting how the initiative has enabled district-specific products from UP to reach international markets. The ODOP Pavilion, at UPITS 2025, featured 466 stalls generating business leads and deals worth 20.77 crore.

Similarly, during Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, ODOP emerged as a flagship platform for traditional craftsmanship. A dedicated 6,000 sq. metre exhibition zone brought together artisans from across the country, displaying signature crafts including Banarasi brocade, Kushinagar carpets, Firozabad glassware, Varanasi wooden toys, metal handicrafts, and a wide collection of

75 GI-tagged products from Uttar Pradesh, including 34 from the Kashi region.

IMPACT IN UTTAR PRADESH

The Exports have increased by 76%, significantly rising from 88,967 Cr in 2017-18 to 1.71 Lakh Cr in 2023-24)

Projects worth 6,000 Crore have been sanctioned under ODOP Margin Money scheme.

More than 1.25 Crore ODOP artisans have been trained and provided with modern ODOP toolkits under the ODOP Skill Development & Toolkit Distribution Scheme.

PM Ekta Malls: Iconic Gateways to India's Artisanal Heritage

PM Ekta Malls (Unity Malls) are envisaged as dedicated retail and display hubs for promoting and selling ODOP, GI and handicraft products. Each mall is planned to provide earmarked space for every State and Union Territory to showcase its products, enabling wider market access, stronger visibility, and improved consumer reach for district-level specialities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrates India's diversity with dedicated spaces for all States/UTs and district showcases under one roof.

Provides 5,000 crore interest-free support, including at least 100 crore per state, to empower artisans and entrepreneurs.

Rapid rollout with 29 Unity Malls approved across 27 states.

Features iconic architecture with national branding, multilingual signage, and modern amenities like experience zones, theatres, and food courts.

Operates through a Public-Private Partnership model with state ownership and professional management.

Elevates ODOP and local crafts into national cultural hubs and global market destinations.

These flagship hubs are not only marketplaces but temples of craftsmanship, places where the dreams of rural artisans take flight, where every product tells a story of heritage, and the vision of a self-reliant, culturally confident India finds a tangible, vibrant expression.

Global Outreach of ODOP

ODOP is also helping India's districts emerge as powerful contributors to the global economy by showcasing unique, high-quality, and sustainable products on international platforms.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ODOP Wall serves as a curated display

Key Takeaways

- ODOP empowers local artisans, reviving traditional skills and creating livelihoods.

- The initiative has scaled nationwide, transforming over 770 districts into economic hubs.

- Started in Uttar Pradesh, it is now India's most celebrated initiative in local economic transformation.

- E-commerce onboarding initiatives such as the Government e-Marketplace (GeM)-ODOP Bazaar showcase and feature some of India's finest ODOP offerings.

of district-specific indigenous products at platforms such as SARAS Aajeevika Stores, aimed at enhancing market access and visibility for rural artisans and women Self-Help Groups

Key highlights:

80+ Indian Missions have promoted products abroad through exhibitions, showcases, ODOP walls or diplomatic gifting.

In order to popularize ODOP products internationally, they were included as part of gifting during G-20 meetings.

Three international stores are selling ODOP products (02 in Singapore- in Mustafa Centre and in Kashmir Heritage and One in Kuwait-Hakimi Centre) to strengthen sustained overseas market presence.

Conclusion: District's story shining on the world stage

The story of ODOP is the story of India, of crafts that survived on resilience, artisans who kept traditions alive, and a nation that finally placed them on the global stage. From Moradabad's glowing brass to the shelves of PM Ekta Malls and international gift hampers, ODOP has transformed local skill into national pride and global opportunity. No longer just about "one district, one product," it now represents millions of aspirations finding recognition far beyond their villages. As new markets open and PM Ekta Malls rise, India's local streets are stepping confidently onto the world's stage, and every artisan is closer to seeing their craft shine as it always deserved.

Trump Has Abandoned The World

President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from 66 international organizations is ostensibly aimed at cutting waste, but the inclusion of agencies supporting girls and women underscores the move's arbitrariness and vindictiveness. It will have dire consequences for people around the world.

Gordon Brown

On January 27, US President Donald Trump's second withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement will finally take effect. This follows his announcement on January 7 that the United States would leave an additional 66 international organizations, including 31 United Nations entities and 35 non-UN bodies, now deemed unacceptable to the administration.

Never has a national leader so comprehensively severed ties with the international community in a single month. Nor has a leader blatantly declared, "I don't need international law," as Trump did in an interview with the New York Times a few weeks ago. He went on to assert that he alone would be the arbiter of when such constraints apply to the US, and that his power would be limited only by his "own morality."

Greenland has rightly become a focus of concern over US threats to seize it. But this overlooks the fact that lives are already being lost because of America's brutality. Over the past year, the Trump administration has slashed funding for global humanitarian assistance and health programs, which, according to the Center for Global Development, will likely result in roughly one million additional deaths per year. A study by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health and other organizations found that US and European aid cuts could together cause up to 22.6 million additional deaths - including 5.4 million children under the age of five - in developing countries by 2030. Given that recent developments imply further deep cuts in international support, these figures will surely need



to be revised upward.

Of course, we were already aware that the administration would target global institutions like UNESCO, the World Health Organization, the UN Refugee Agency, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). But now we know that America will become the first country to abandon the very framework for reaching agreements on climate change, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which it will leave one year from now.

At the same time, no one should doubt that the remit of Trump's new Board of Peace will have major implications. This attempt to provide an alternative to the UN's peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts, which have persistently been underfunded, represents a momentous shift in longstanding US policy.

The attack on agencies committed to the international rule of law from which America has long benefited - including the International Law Commission, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, the

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law - augurs badly for the legality of future US actions. It also seems far removed from the official explanation that the goal is to cut waste and counter the "woke" agenda.

Leaving the agencies that support women's equality and the protection of girls' and women's rights can hardly be justified by labeling them "ideological programs" at odds with US sovereignty, as the official statement does. One has to ask how an agency like UN Women can be considered "unnecessary" and "wasteful" when it has helped more than 80 countries deliver gender-responsive budgets, and when its sister agency, UNFPA, supports maternal health.

And the decision to withdraw from entities within the UN system that are focused on supporting girls and women who are victims of civil wars, climate change, and other crises veers into vindictiveness. These include Education Cannot Wait (which I used to chair), a fund that provides access to education to millions of refugee and displaced children; the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC); and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (SRSG-VAC). If these organizations are not adequately funded, some of the world's most vulnerable women and girls will be at a heightened risk of violence and maternal mortality.

"It is no longer acceptable to be sending these institutions the blood, sweat, and treasure of the American people, with little to nothing to show for it," explained US

Secretary of State Marco Rubio. But to claim that American citizens are the ones suffering at the hands of agencies focused on alleviating girls' and women's suffering in low-income countries is wholly disingenuous. It suggests that the Declaration of Independence's recognition of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" as inalienable rights still applies only to men.

These agencies - OSRSG-SVC and UN Women - fund shelters, offer legal aid, and give psychosocial support to vulnerable women. They work to end child marriage and forced genital mutilation. In many of the world's conflict zones, displaced women will now lose access to safe spaces, at a time when reports show that conflict-related sexual violence increased by 25% from 2023 to 2024.

Viewing child protection as crucial to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, SRSG-VAC works alongside the WHO to improve health outcomes for women and children. Similarly, UNFPA and the WHO fund initiatives that aim to reduce the transmission of HIV, a leading cause of death among women and girls of reproductive age.

This assault on rights extends beyond protecting women's safety and health. The education of girls will take one of the biggest and most severe hits. The number of girls out of school - already at 122 million worldwide - will rise, triggering cascading effects. For example, Education Cannot Wait collaborates with UNICEF to ensure schooling for girls in fragile states not only to provide them with more opportunities to thrive, but also to prevent early forced marriage.

The Trump administration wrongly assumes that Americans and foreign nationals support the dismantling of international organizations. But the vast majority of people want countries to work together to address shared problems. In a recent public-opinion survey conducted across 34 countries, covering every region, more than 90% of respondents said that international cooperation was essential for global health, human-rights protection, and conflict prevention. Only 5-6% of the respondents, and no more than 7% in any one region, believe - as the Trump administration seems to - that such collaboration is "generally a waste of time and resources."

Moreover, contrary to reports of growing skepticism about multilateralism, respondents often reported more trust in international organizations than in their own governments. Trust in the WHO stands at 60% globally (rising to 85% in Sub-Saharan Africa), while trust in the UN is at 58%.

The results would almost surely be similar if respondents were asked about the value of international organizations promoting girls' and women's opportunities, which are the foundation of a better world. Abandoning girls and women, particularly in crisis contexts, is not financial prudence; the economic costs will be borne for years, if not decades and generations. It is a spectacular moral failure, and it shames us all.

Gordon Brown, a former prime minister of the United Kingdom, is World Health Organization Ambassador for Global Health Financing.

Source: Project Syndicate

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

LG’s full address on 77th Republic Day

‘New dawn in J&K’: LG Manoj Sinha highlights gains on economy, jobs, tourism & infrastructure

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Warm greetings on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day. This is a day to remember with gratitude the countless freedom fighters whose dedication, struggle, and sacrifices paved the way for our independence and the birth of our Republic. This sacred festival reminds us of the enduring values enshrined in the Indian Constitution, which form the very foundation of our democracy. It is a moment to renew our collective commitment to the democratic ideals.

1. Let us bow with deep respect before the freedom fighters and martyrs who laid down their lives so that the nation might live with honour and pride. I pay heartfelt tribute to the valiant soldiers of the Indian Army, the paramilitary forces, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police, whose unwavering commitment and supreme sacrifices stand guard over our unity, integrity, and security. Their indomitable courage and spirit of service ignite our collective resolve to build a stronger, safer, and more prosperous India.

2. I express my sincere gratitude to all members of the armed forces, police, paramilitary units, and civil administration who upheld the nation's pride through their duty, dedication, and bravery during Operation Sindoor. Following the brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Operation Sindoor emerged as a defining moment in India's national security doctrine. India made it unequivocally clear that any terrorist attack on its soil would be treated as an act of war. Operation Sindoor was not merely a military action; it was a declaration of India's strategic resolve. We struck at the heart of the enemy, dismantled their terror infrastructure, exposed the hollowness of nuclear threats, and reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to protecting national sovereignty. Through this operation, India conveyed to the world that every act of terrorism and every attempt to support it will be met with a decisive response.

3. India has firmly drawn a new red line. The success of Operation Sindoor has instilled renewed confidence among citizens that our brave soldiers remain vigilant and fully committed to their protection. At the same time, it has sent a clear signal to the international community that

India's actions are rational, restrained, and rooted in its legitimate right to self-defence. Whether terrorist networks operate across the border or within it, they will be completely neutralized.

4. Operation Sindoor continues, with every hostile move being closely monitored. As part of non-kinetic measures, India has terminated the Indus Water Treaty, delivering a strong message that bloodshed and cooperation cannot coexist. India's water resources will now be utilized for India's development.

5. I pay my heartfelt tributes to all civilians who lost their lives in the Pahalgam terrorist attack. I also commend the personnel of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF, and the Indian Army who, through Operation Mahadev, eliminated the three Pakistani terrorists involved in the attack and delivered justice for the dignity of our mothers and sisters. I further appreciate the Jammu and Kashmir Police for uncovering a nationwide terror network last November and preventing several attacks in time. They are India's true heroes, and I am proud of them. With deep respect and gratitude, I honour the martyrs of the Jammu and

Kashmir Police, paramilitary forces, and the Army. The entire nation remains indebted to them and their families, and their sacrifices will never be forgotten. I also offer my heartfelt condolences to the police and civil administration personnel who lost their lives in the unfortunate accidental explosion in Nowgam. The debt owed to those who secured peace and progress in Jammu and Kashmir with their blood can never be repaid. On this solemn occasion, we must pledge to remember their sacrifice and fulfil their dream of a peaceful, fearless, and developed Jammu & Kashmir.

6. Dear brothers and sisters, a new dawn has arrived in Jammu and Kashmir. Employment is being provided not to those associated with terrorism, but to families who have suffered because of it. Decades of suppressed pain and tears are finally receiving dignity and justice. I assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir that every case linked to terrorism will be thoroughly examined, fresh investigations will be conducted, and the guilty will face the strictest punishment.

7. I also pay tribute to the citizens who lost their lives in last year's unfortunate natural disaster. Along with government assistance, corporate entities and voluntary organizations from across the country extended support to ensure swift relief to affected families. Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Government of India is fully committed to their complete rehabilitation.

8. Jammu and Kashmir's economy is estimated to register a growth rate of 11 percent at current prices, driven by sustained government initiatives and strategic policy interventions. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the Union Territory is estimated at 2,62,458 crore for 2024–25, up from 2,36,059 crore in 2023–24. This positive trajectory underscores the effectiveness of ongoing economic development strategies, infrastructure expansion, and business-friendly policies.

9. The tourism sector occupies a pivotal position in the economy of Jammu and Kashmir



and was granted the status of an industry in 2020 to attract greater investment. Known as the “Paradise on Earth,” J&K recorded 1.61 crore tourist visits in

2025 (up to November). While this figure is lower than last year's 2.36 crore visits, considering the adverse impact of the Pahalgam incident in April 2025 and subsequent floods, the sustained and focused efforts of the Government have yielded encouraging and resilient outcomes.

10. The Government is making sustained efforts to develop world-class tourist destinations, with financial support from the Ministry of Tourism and external funding agencies. With a vision to explore and unlock new tourism potential, nine new tourist destinations have been identified, and projects are being prepared to develop these sites in accordance with international standards.

11. The Kashmir Marathon is being developed as a flagship initiative for sports tourism and destination branding, projecting Kashmir as a global hub for sports and wellness tourism. The participation of Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah further reinforced confidence, unity, and projected Kashmir's image as a safe, open, and welcoming destination. The maiden edition of the Jammu Marathon has been formally launched and is scheduled for March 2026.

12. The 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram has grown beyond a mere celebration and transformed into a people's movement, rekindling in every heart a renewed spirit of love, sacrifice, service, and devotion to the motherland. In the very first phase, achieving the top national distinction, we have created a new chapter in history. Places that once echoed with voices of division are today alive with the colours of the Tricolour, as homes proudly display the flag and citizens march together in Tiranga yatras. With unwavering commitment to the nation-building, every citizen is now actively engaged in strengthening the values enshrined in our Constitution.

13. Dear brothers and sisters, through the Mission YUVA Programme, we are empowering the aspirations of our youth by providing skill development, comprehensive mentorship, and financial support to promote entrepreneurship. This flagship initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to harnessing the immense potential of young minds as a catalyst for economic growth, social stability, and nation-building in the Union Territory.

14. Mission YUVA adopts a holistic approach, encompassing capacity building, credit enablement, career counselling, robust job-matching portal, and market linkages through the ONDC buyer app. Under its capacity-building component, a hybrid entrepreneurship development course has been introduced, through which over 5,000 youth have successfully completed training, strengthening the foundation for sustainable self-employment and enterprise creation.

15. Mission YUVA aims to provide comprehensive career guidance, industry-relevant skilling, and effective job placement for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the mission, 1.35 lakh entrepreneurial units are targeted to be created, and 4.5 lakh youth are envisaged to be provided employment. Within its very first year of implementation, over 1.51 lakh youth have registered on the platform. Of these, 61,941 youth have applied under various credit-linked schemes, and more than 12,000 cases have already been sanctioned by banks, involving loans exceeding 800 crore. This encouraging response reflects the growing entrepreneurial spirit of our youth

and the Government's commitment to creating sustainable livelihoods across Jammu and Kashmir.

16. Merit-based recruitment has been ensured for 7,650 Government positions during 2025, while the recruitment process for an additional 23,800 posts is currently underway, reinforcing transparency and fairness in public employment.

17. During 2025, 910 compassionate appointments have been provided, enabling families to lead dignified lives following the untimely loss of primary breadwinners. This includes 464 cases of Next of Kins (NoKs) of terror-affected families, including victims of the Kathua incident, Operation Sindoor, and the Nowgam incident, ensuring timely relief and employment

support to families affected by violence and tragedy.

18. Dear brothers and sisters, Kashmir has now been connected with the rest of India through train services, fulfilling a long-cherished dream. A full-fledged Railway Division for Jammu has also been sanctioned. Expansion and modernization of Jammu Tawi Railway Station and Jammu Airport are progressing steadily, significantly strengthening regional connectivity.

19. The first-ever Food Corporation of India (FCI) food-grain freight train connecting Kashmir with the national freight network has been operationalized, realizing another long-standing aspiration. Freight train movement will benefit citizens, businesses, and infrastructure projects by ensuring year-round logistics unaffected by adverse weather, reducing pressure on NH-44, and accelerating economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

20. The road network has witnessed substantial improvement through the execution of various programmes and schemes. With an overall investment of 61,528 crore, construction and up-gradation of one Expressway (Delhi-Amritsar-Katra), five National Highways, and two Ring Roads for Jammu and Srinagar cities are in progress. Three tunnels, including the Sonamarg Tunnel, have been completed, while eight tunnels, including the Zojila Tunnel, are at advanced stages of completion. These initiatives have significantly enhanced connectivity and reduced travel time, particularly on the Srinagar-Jammu corridor. The Narbal-Shopian-Surankote road,

with a spur to Magam-Gulmarg (196.50 km), has recently been declared a National Highway.

21. To further strengthen connectivity, the Government of India has sanctioned 19 new National Highway projects during 2025–26, at an estimated cost of 10,637 crore. These include key projects such as the Pir Ki Gali Tunnel, Sadhna Tunnel, four-lane flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora Junction, and the four-lane Magam Flyover on the Narbal-Gulmarg section.

22. On this occasion, I express my gratitude to the Government of India for resolving the long-pending issue of connecting left-out habitations under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). With the launch of PMGSY-IV, 2,400 unconnected rural habitations in Jammu and Kashmir will now be connected. In Phase-I, 316 projects, with an estimated cost of 4,224 crore, have been sanctioned for construction and up-gradation of 1,781 km of road length. Given the strategic and geographical importance of Jammu and Kashmir, this initiative will provide vital connectivity to thousands of families.

23. To address connectivity needs in strategic and far-flung areas, 152 road projects, covering 1,148 km at a cost exceeding 2,600 crore, have been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for approval.

24. Our focused efforts in the power sector are yielding unprecedented results. Four major hydropower projects—Pakal Dul, Ratle, Kiru, and Kwar with a combined capacity of 3,014 MW, are under rapid execution. The long-stalled 1,856 MW Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project has also been revived after years of stagnation. Over the past five years, a record 5,708 MVA has been added to the distribution sector and 4,239 MVA to the transmission sector. Installation of smart prepaid meters is underway in mission mode, with 10.44 lakh meters already installed, and 100% coverage targeted by 2026–27. As a result, losses have been reduced by 9%, while revenue has increased by 16%.

25. The PM Surya Ghar – Muft Bijli Yojana is being implemented across the Union Territory with the objective of solarising households and government buildings. Till date, 6,716

government buildings have been solarised, creating a cumulative installed capacity of 64.61 MW, while 16,816 rooftop solar systems have been installed in individual households. This initiative has resulted in a substantial reduction in recurring electricity expenditure, enhanced reliability of power supply, and reduced dependence on conventional energy sources. I urge all citizens to actively support the administration in the solarisation of households and in minimising their electricity expenses.

26. In fulfilment of the commitment to provide clean tap water to every household, under the Jal Jeevan Mission, more than 15.62 lakh

rural households (81 percent) have been successfully provided with piped water connections. Additionally, Har Ghar Jal (HCJ) certification has been achieved in 867 villages, marking significant progress towards universal water coverage.

27. The Shahpur Kandi Dam Project has made significant progress. Since 22nd September 2025, regulated gravity flow of water has commenced, with the canal presently conveying approximately 150 cusecs. Trial operations of the project are

ongoing, along with the implementation of necessary mitigation measures.

28. Over the past few years, the agriculture and allied sectors have undergone a significant structural transformation, driven by targeted policy interventions under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and allied initiatives. The focus has shifted from subsistence-oriented practices to a diversified, market-linked, and income-centric agricultural economy, resulting in measurable gains across crops, livestock, horticulture, and allied activities.

29. Crop diversification has gained strong momentum across the Union Territory. The cultivated area has expanded by 6.22 percent, increasing from 12.71 lakh hectares to 13.50 lakh hectares. Simultaneously, a major thrust on strengthening the seed ecosystem has led to an improvement in the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) from 12 percent to 22 percent, enhancing productivity and crop resilience.

30. The Yellow Revolution has emerged as a significant new source of income for farmers in Kashmir. Under this initiative, the area under

oilseeds has expanded substantially from 1.4 lakh hectares to 2.1 lakh hectares, resulting in a doubling of oilseed production. Honey production has also witnessed remarkable growth, increasing from 2,200 MT to over 3,895 MT over the last three years, positioning Jammu & Kashmir among the leading honey-producing regions in the country.

31. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has been implemented across all 20 districts, with 2.01 lakh farmers registered during Kharif 2025, ensuring effective crop risk mitigation. The process of extending coverage to horticulture crops has also been initiated. For Rabi 2025–26, the Government plans to cover approximately 40,000 hectares, supported by extensive awareness and enrolment drives to ensure continuity of risk coverage against climatic and other uncertainties.

32. The Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) are empowering farmers by enhancing productivity and laying a strong foundation for sustainable agricultural growth. More than 7 lakh farmers are now part of this ecosystem, benefiting from access to government services, welfare schemes, and expert advisories.

33. Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage capacity has been enhanced to 2.92 lakh MT, supported by substantial investment, with an additional 15,000 MT of capacity being added during the current year, taking the total to 3.07 lakh MT. To ensure remunerative prices for farm produce, 17 mandis have been integrated with the e-NAM platform, strengthening market access and price discovery. A total of 55,355 farmers, traders, FPOs, and other stakeholders have been registered. Trade worth 1,680.34 crore, involving 28.26 lakh quintals of agriculture and horticulture produce, has been conducted through e-NAM to date.

34. In order to preserve and promote the region's rich agricultural heritage, GI tags have been secured for seven agricultural products—Kashmir Saffron, Jammu Basmati, Bhaderwah Rajma, Sulai Honey (Ramban), Kalari (Ramnagar), Anardana (Ramban), and Mushkbudji rice, while 20 additional products are at various stages of approval. Further strengthening conservation efforts, SKUAST, Jammu has established a state-of-the-art Ex-Situ Gene Bank, becoming the third institution in India with such a facility, dedicated to conserve valuable genetic resources such as seeds and plant tissues.

35. The dairy and livestock sector in Jammu & Kashmir has recorded robust and sustained growth. Annual milk production has reached 28.75 lakh metric tonnes, driven by systematic breed improvement, expanded artificial insemination coverage, and improved animal management practices. Mutton production increased from 318.64 lakh kilograms in 2020–21 to 376.06 lakh kilograms in 2024–25, reflecting a growth of nearly 18 percent over five years. Wool production also rose from 68.45 lakh kilograms to 79.90 lakh kilograms during the same period, registering growth of over 16 percent.

36. With the objective of digitally linking Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with District Central Cooperative Banks, and to enhance transparency in agricultural credit delivery, 537 PACS have been successfully onboarded onto a digital platform. This marks a major transition from manual record-keeping to efficient and seamless digital operations.

37. An industrial transformation is underway in Jammu & Kashmir. Since 2020, 2,227 industrial units in the organised sector, involving an investment of 15,940 crore and generating

employment for 73,827 persons, have commenced production. Additionally, 1,028 units with a proposed investment of 27,613 crore have initiated groundwork, of which 396 units, with an investment of 9,949 crore, are

expected to commence production by March 2026. Claims worth 805 crore have been approved under the New Central Sector Scheme. Further, 1,316 J&K-based startups have been registered on the DPIIT (Startup India) portal, including 471 women-led startups, reflecting growing entrepreneurial momentum and national recognition.

38. During 2025–26, a total of 6,050 self-employment enterprises has been established, with margin money assistance of 125.24 crore disbursed up to November 2025, thereby significantly strengthening livelihood opportunities.

39. To provide a distinct global identity to the handicraft products of Jammu & Kashmir, GI tagging has been approved for 18 crafts, while the registration process for 17 additional products is underway. Simultaneously, sustained efforts to reduce compliance burdens for businesses and citizens have yielded positive outcomes, with Jammu & Kashmir securing the 5th rank among

all States and UTs under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP).

40. Artisans and weavers are being actively encouraged to leverage the Weavers Mudra Scheme to strengthen livelihoods and preserve the cultural heritage of the region. Over the past two years, more than 1,600 cooperatives have benefited under the Financial Support for Artisan and Weaver Cooperatives Scheme, reinforcing institutional support for traditional crafts.

41. The Handloom and Handicrafts sector provides direct and indirect employment to nearly 4.45 lakh individuals, primarily from economically weaker sections. About 7,000 cooperative societies have been registered in Jammu & Kashmir. During 2025–26, 188 cooperatives have availed financial assistance amounting to 0.70 crore. Under the MUDRA Scheme, credit of 1.32 crore has been disbursed to 91 weavers up to November, 2025.

42. Four artisans from Jammu & Kashmir received National Honours, including the Shilp Guru Award and National Awards for Handicrafts, instituted by the Ministry of Textiles, Government

of India. The awards were conferred on 9th of December, 2025 at New Delhi in the august presence of the Hon'ble President of India. Among these, two artisans received National Awards—one for mastery in Sozni embroidery and another for outstanding contribution to handmade carpets.

43. Path-breaking reforms have been undertaken in the education sector to ensure effective, efficient, and comprehensive implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP). These collective efforts are expected to lay a strong foundation for a knowledge-driven economy. The younger generation is being equipped with next-generation skills through initiatives such as College on Wheels, entrepreneurship programmes, promotion of startup culture, and engineering kitchens.

44. More than 15,550 schools have introduced pre-primary education. To inculcate scientific temper and skill orientation, 1.41 lakh students from Classes IX to XII have been enrolled in vocational courses. Under the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana, approval has been accorded for the upgradation of

396 schools in the first phase. The Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) has been established and made operational to enable data-driven decision-making and improve learning outcomes. The Government is also planning to launch JK e-Pathshala, a dedicated TV channel to broadcast free, curriculum-based educational content in local languages, accessible to students across the UT.

45. A total of 172 Atal Tinkering Labs have already been established, with 500 more under implementation under the Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog. In addition, 1,420 Computer-Aided Learning (CAL) Centres and 1,588 ICT labs have been established, while 1,512 ICT labs and 4,000 smart classrooms are under various stages of establishment. Records of 34.50 lakh students of Classes X, XI, and XII have been uploaded on DigiLocker by JKBOSE as part of the digital transformation initiative. To address gender gaps in literacy, special emphasis is being laid on girls' education. Residential facilities with free boarding, lodging, and stipends are being provided to over 5,000 girl students of Classes VI to VIII in 89 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs).

46. The University of Jammu and the University of Kashmir have been accredited with A++ grade by NAAC. Additionally, 74 Government Degree Colleges have received NAAC accreditation, and sustained efforts are underway to ensure accreditation of all colleges to enhance quality in higher education. Emphasis is also being laid on research and innovation. The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI) at the University of Kashmir has secured a mega Indo-US research grant under the SPARC Scheme. Similarly, the University of Jammu Research Fund (UoJRF) has been established to strengthen research activities across disciplines.

Speak with me:
Bharat Mata ki Jai! Bharat Mata ki Jai! Bharat Mata ki Jai!
Vande Mataram! Vande Mataram! Vande Mataram!
Thank You! Ji Hind!
Read full article on <https://kashmirthunder.in>

On 77th Republic Day

to martyrs and victims of terrorism, natural calamities, and tragic incidents.

He said a "Naya Savera" (new dawn) has broken out in Jammu and Kashmir, with strong measures taken to eliminate terrorism and provide comprehensive support to families affected by terror-related violence.

He announced that all pending terrorism-related killing cases will be re-examined to ensure justice.

Saluting the courage and bravery of security forces, LG Sinha said, "Operation Sindoor sent a clear message to the world that terrorism will not be tolerated under any circumstances."

He praised the armed forces for eliminating Pakistani terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack and paid homage to its victims, as well as those who lost their lives in the unfortunate Nowgam blast.

PAYS TRIBUTES TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS, MARTYRS

He said, "This is a day to remember with gratitude the countless freedom fighters whose dedication, struggle, and sacrifices paved the way for our independence and the birth of our Republic. This sacred festival reminds us of the enduring values enshrined in the Indian Constitution, which form the very foundation of our democracy. It is a moment to renew our collective commitment to the democratic ideals."

He said, "Let us bow with deep respect before the freedom fighters and martyrs who laid down their lives so that the nation might live with honour and pride. I pay heartfelt tribute to the valiant soldiers of the Indian Army, the paramilitary forces, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police, whose unwavering commitment and supreme sacrifices stand guard over our unity, integrity, and security. Their indomitable courage and spirit of service ignite our collective resolve to build a stronger, safer, and more prosperous India."

Come together

Tinkering labs have already been established, with 500 more under implementation under the Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog. In addition, 1,420 Computer-Aided Learning (CAL) Centres and 1,588 ICT labs have been established, while 1,512 ICT labs and 4,000 smart classrooms are under various stages of establishment. Records of 34,50 lakh students of Classes X, XI, and XII have been uploaded on DigiLocker by JKBOSE as part of the digital transformation initiative. To address gender gaps in literacy, special emphasis is being laid on girls' education. Residential facilities with free boarding, lodging, and stipends are being provided to over 5,000 girl students of Classes VI to VIII in 89 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs)."

JAMMU, KASHMIR UNIVERSITIES GET NAAC ACCREDITATION

LG Sinha said, "The University of Jammu and the University of Kashmir have been accredited with A++ grade by NAAC. Additionally, 74 Government Degree Colleges have received NAAC accreditation, and sustained efforts are underway to ensure accreditation of all colleges to enhance quality in higher education. Emphasis is also being laid on research and innovation. The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI) at the University of Kashmir has secured a mega Indo-US research grant under the SPARC Scheme. Similarly, the University of Jammu Research Fund (UoJRF) has been established to strengthen research activities across disciplines."

SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURAL UPGRADATION IN HEALTH SECTOR

LG Sinha said, "Significant infrastructural upgradation in the health sector has led to unprecedented improvements in public healthcare delivery. More than 4,000 health infrastructure facilities have been developed, including 15 Medical Colleges, two AIIMS, and two State Cancer Institutes.

During the current year, 548 medical seats have been added, comprising 340 MBBS, 128 PG, 34 PG (Ayurveda), and 46 DNB seats.

23 48. A 160-bedded state-of-the-art additional block at the Bone & Joint Hospital, Srinagar, aimed at strengthening orthopaedic and trauma care services across the region, has been completed and operationalised since July, 2025. Further, two new Cath Labs at GMC, Anantnag and GMC, Jammu have been dedicated to the public. The process has also been initiated for establishing Cath Labs at GMC, Rajouri and GMC, Baramulla."

He said, "Under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), 17 Critical Care Blocks (two 100-bedded and twelve 50-bedded) are under construction to manage life-threatening emergencies and infectious disease outbreaks. Upon completion, these facilities will add 950 critical care beds to the existing capacity. Additionally, 20 Integrated District Public Health Laboratories are under construction to strengthen diagnostic services at the district level."

SEHAT APP LAUNCHED TO ENHANCE HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

LG Sinha said, "The SEHAT App has been launched to enhance healthcare delivery by integrating services, providers, and patients on a single digital platform. More than 16 lakh users have registered and are availing services such as blood banks, diagnostic centres, dialysis services, emergency care, health insurance, physiotherapy, and access to both public and private healthcare facilities."

GOVT COMMITTED TO ENSURE ADEQUATE HOUSING

He said, "The Government is committed to ensure adequate housing with access to basic amenities for every poor family. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin, 3,21 lakh houses have been completed, while construction of the remaining 14,000 houses is in progress. Land is also being provided to landless beneficiaries under the scheme."

LG Sinha said, "Planned development of residential infrastructure in satellite cities is progressing, with new townships and mass

housing colonies being developed at Kot Bhalwal, Chatterhama, and Gund Aksa. Under the Smart City Mission, 277 projects have been completed. Under AMRUT 2.0, 90 projects worth over 1,000 crore have been approved, of which 17 have been completed and 67 are under execution, aimed at improving sanitation, water supply, and rejuvenation of water bodies."

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO TRANSFORM URBAN AREAS INTO GARBAGE-FREE CITIES

He said, "Under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, focused efforts are underway to transform urban areas into Garbage-Free Cities through improved sanitation and waste management systems. Seventy-eight Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have been certified Open Defecation Free (ODF). A total of 49 Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and 50 composite pits have been completed, while construction of 16 additional MRFs and 14 composite pits is in progress. Further, two Compressed Biogas (CBG) projects have been taken up for Jammu and Srinagar—work in Jammu is underway, and the DPR for Srinagar has been prepared."

J&K YOUTH ACHIEVING REMARKABLE SUCCESS IN SPORTS

He said, "Beyond excellence in innovation and academics, the youth of Jammu & Kashmir are also achieving remarkable success in sports. Para-archers Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar have created history through their extraordinary perseverance and dedication, inspiring an entire generation to aspire for excellence and scale new heights."

He said, "The youth of Jammu and Kashmir are being provided ample opportunities to participate in a wide range of sports disciplines. Jammu & Kashmir successfully conducted the 5th edition of its flagship Winter Sports Programme, reinforcing its position as India's premier winter sports destination. These events not only enhanced competitive standards but also boosted sports tourism and generated livelihood opportunities."

MAIDEN KHELO INDIA WATER SPORTS FESTIVAL

"In a historic milestone, the Union Territory hosted the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival, unlocking the immense potential of its lakes and rivers and giving fresh momentum to rowing, kayaking, and other water-based disciplines. More than 500 athletes from 28 States/UTs participated in the event. The hosting of the 3rd Asian Pencak Silat Championship, with participation of about 300 athletes from over 12 countries, marked a historic moment and showcased J&K's organisational excellence and growing international sporting footprint."

He said, "The Kashmir Super League emerged as a landmark sporting event, recording over 10 million digital views and attracting more than 35,000 spectators during its grand finale."

LG Sinha said, "Modern sports infrastructure is being developed to ensure a bright future for young athletes. So far, 2 Centres of Excellence and 92 Khelo India Centres have been established across all 20 Districts of the Union Territory."

J&K ADMIN COMMITTED TO RESETTLEMENT, WELFARE OF KASHMIRI MIGRANT FAMILIES

He said, "The Jammu and Kashmir Administration remains fully committed to the resettlement and welfare of Kashmiri migrant families. A total of 6,000 flats has been sanctioned for Kashmiri migrant employees working in the Valley, against which 3,736 flats have been completed and 3,250 allotted to eligible migrant families. The remaining flats are scheduled for completion by March, 2026. Efforts have also been made to extend the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat – SEHAT health insurance scheme to migrant families, with more than 1,200 families registered so far."

Tribal community effectively mainstreamed

He said, "After a long wait, the tribal community in Jammu and Kashmir has been effectively mainstreamed. An amount of 8.18 crore has been disbursed to more than 1.5 lakh Scheduled Tribe students under pre and post-matric scholarship schemes since April, 2025."

The state-of-the-art Tribal Research Institute (TRI) Complex at Khimber, Srinagar, is functioning as a dedicated think tank for research, training, and capacity building in tribal development.

He said, "Janjatiya Gaurav Divas was celebrated at Mendhar in Poonch District—a frontier border district of India on 15th of November, 2025, to commemorate the 151st birth anniversary of the revered tribal freedom fighter Shri Birsa Munda. Over 3,000 participants attended the event, reflecting the rich tribal art, culture, and heritage of the Union Territory."

28 GUJJAR & BAKERWAL/SCHEDULED TRIBE HOSTELS OPERATIONAL IN J&K

He said, "At present, 28 Gujjar & Bakerwal/Scheduled Tribe hostels are operational in the Union Territory, accommodating 2,895 students and providing free boarding, lodging, and education to BPL students from Class VI onwards.

Additionally, 26 new hostels are under construction across various districts, of which 10 are nearing completion and are expected to become functional during 2025–26."

NEW FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

He said, "A new flagship initiative has been launched to achieve saturation-level service delivery through key interventions covering health, education, livelihood, and infrastructure. A total of 393 villages across 112 blocks in 20 Districts have been identified for implementation. An amount of 47.98 crore has been approved for the year 2025–26 under this scheme."

LG Sinha said, "I firmly believe that ensuring the upliftment and development of the last person standing in the last queue is the true measure of inclusive progress."

ROBUST SCRUTINY OF ALL PENSION SCHEMES ENSURED

He said, "Robust scrutiny of all pension schemes for senior citizens has been ensured.

For the welfare of persons with disabilities, several initiatives have been undertaken to make them self-reliant and active contributors to the development journey."

LG Sinha said, "Utmost priority has been accorded to the nutrition of children and women, with data of 8.43 lakh beneficiaries uploaded

on the Nutrition Tracker for continuous health monitoring. Initiatives such as "Laadli Beti" and the State Marriage Assistance Scheme are restoring dignity, honour, and respect for women in society.

During the financial year 2025–26, more than 10 lakh beneficiaries have received financial assistance under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), covering old-age persons, widows, and persons with disabilities."

LG Sinha said, "Sustained efforts to empower rural women have brought about transformative changes in their lives. Around 8 lakh women are associated with more than 94,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs)."

2 LAKH LAKHPATI DIDIS IN J&K

He said, "Jammu & Kashmir has successfully created 2 lakh Lakhpati Didis, achieving 86% of the target, enabling them to become self-reliant through micro-enterprises. Additionally, 50 Lakhpati Didis have achieved annual income exceeding 10 lakh, emerging as Millionaire Didis. Various training and capacity-building programmes have been organised for over 3,000 Agriculture Community Resource Persons to provide last-mile support to women farmers associated with SHGs. Under the Rural Livelihood Mission, 3,000 micro-startups have been supported in the past year. Advanced training has also been imparted to 5,000 women entrepreneurs from SHGs to help them scale up their businesses."

He said, "The digital revolution has imparted fresh momentum to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and has significantly strengthened transparent, accountable, and corruption-free governance in the Union Territory. More than 1,500 public services are now available online. To ensure timely service delivery, 391 services have been integrated with the auto-appeal system."

J&K RECORDED 82 CRORE E-TRANSACTIONS

"During the previous year, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 82 crore e-transactions, averaging over 22 lakh electronic transactions per day. Additionally, 128 government services have been integrated with DigiLocker. Aadhaar seeding has been completed for all beneficiaries of welfare schemes, enabling seamless Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into beneficiaries' bank accounts. During the current financial year, an amount of 9,000 crore has been directly transferred to the accounts of 80 lakh beneficiaries under 77 DBT-based schemes.

The Government has also formulated a comprehensive Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy, focusing on key sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, mobility, education, and law enforcement."

He said, "Jammu and Kashmir is among the fastest-growing States/Union Territories in the country. GST revenue collections have shown steady growth, increasing from 8,064 crore in 2023–24 to 8,586 crore in 2024–25. Revenue from electric power tariffs has also witnessed a substantial increase of 16 per cent during 2024–25."

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT (SASCI) SCHEME EXTENDED TO J&K

LG Sinha said, "The Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme, which provides interest-free loans for capital expenditure, has been extended to Jammu and Kashmir from the current financial year. Under this scheme, 1,431 crore has been sanctioned for 222 projects, along with 210 crore as the matching share for 12 Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The first installment of 1,083 crore, representing 66 percent of the sanctioned amount, has already been received."

He said, "With the support of the Union Territory Government, Jammu and Kashmir Bank has undertaken significant reforms aimed at professionalising management, ensuring merit-based selection of senior leadership, and strengthening its capital base. These measures have resulted in a remarkable turnaround, with net NPAs declining from 4.89 per cent to 0.85 percent, and capital adequacy improving from 12.46 per cent to 14.99 per cent between March, 2019 and September, 2025."

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO EXTEND BENEFITS OF PM SHRAM YOGI MAANDHAN YOJANA TO ALL

He said, "To secure the future of workers in the unorganised sector, over 36.15 lakh labourers have been registered on the e-Shram portal. Efforts are underway to extend the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana to all eligible workers, with more than 78,000 workers already registered. In addition, over 1.27 lakh eligible farmers have been enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana."

He said, "I have full faith in the immense potential of our youth. We are committed to creating a conducive environment that enables them to realise their long-term goals and aspirations. The pace of inclusive development in Jammu and Kashmir is unprecedented, and we are determined to strengthen it further through a strong partnership with the people. One of the most serious challenges confronting us today is drug abuse among the youth, and we must collectively address this menace. For sustainable development, our society must remain united, courageous, and disciplined in confronting those who promote, justify, or condone terrorism. We must decisively dismantle the terror ecosystem and isolate elements that employ double standards to justify acts of violence."

He said, "I assure every citizen that this Government, with firm resolve, will continue to create and pursue meaningful opportunities for all, enabling every individual to shape their own destiny and realise new aspirations. I call upon people of all generations to come together and actively support us in building the Jammu and Kashmir of our collective dreams—a Jammu and Kashmir where youth have equal opportunities, where women-led development drives economic growth and social stability, and where unity, peace, and commitment guide us towards a brighter and more prosperous future." (KNO)

Republic Day parade

The Prime Minister shared glimpses highlighting their impressive presence during the parade.

He said that a vivid display of India's cultural mosaic unfolded at Kartavya Path during the Republic Day celebrations.

PM Modi noted that the parade celebrated India's cultural diversity through vibrant performances and tableaux, reflecting the rich and diverse heritage of the nation.

"India was privileged to host the President of the European Council, António Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, during the Republic Day celebrations," PM Modi said.

He said that their presence underscored the growing strength of the India–European Union partnership and India's commitment to shared values.

PM Modi said that the visit would add momentum to the deepening engagement and cooperation between India and Europe across diverse sectors. (KNO)

Pledge to build

us take a resolve under the leadership of Modi ji to further strengthen the constitutional values and build a Viksit Bharat," he added. (KNO)

On R-Day, Dy CM

They have always sacrificed for this flag," the Deputy CM said, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), drawing loud applause from the crowd.

Choudhary said the history of Jammu and Kashmir was one of loyalty, sacrifice and unity. "Whether during militancy or war, the people of this region have always supported the security forces and upheld the national flag," he said. "We will stand proudly with the Indian Army."

He said the Prime Minister has assured restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. "I am hopeful that J&K will soon regain its statehood, as envisioned by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

The Dy CM recalled that the Supreme Court had also expressed confidence that Jammu and Kashmir would regain its full statehood status, adding that the government led by Chief Minister Umar Abdullah was working toward that goal.

"The state that was ours, Maharaja Hari Singh's, the state Sheikh Abdullah joined with India, will get its lost status back," he said.

Development and governance agenda Highlighting the administration's development priorities, the Deputy CM said that under the Smart City Project, 200 new red buses have been introduced to improve public transport facilities in Srinagar and Jammu.

He said the government stands by its promise to regularise daily-wage workers. "We have promised that daily-wagers will be given permanent status and the government stands by this commitment," he said.

Choudhary said the Omar Abdullah-led government is adopting a digital transformation model for efficient and transparent governance. "Our government is embracing a digital revolution to ensure accountability and speedy delivery of services," he added.

On infrastructure, he said the focus remains on improving road connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir. "Several bridges which remained incomplete for decades have now been completed. Our aim is to strengthen every link that connects the people," he said.

Economy, culture and local industry

Calling traditional crafts the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy, Choudhary said, "Basoli paintings, Kani shawls and our handicrafts are our heritage. Our artisans are playing a crucial role in reviving and preserving this legacy."

He assured sustained government support to the artisans' community and small-scale industries that define the region's identity.

On financial matters, the Deputy CM said the transition from statehood to Union Territory had affected fund allocation. "After being downgraded from a state to a UT, we are not receiving funds at the level we used to. However, considering the unique challenges of Jammu and Kashmir, we are hopeful that the Centre will release additional funds," he said.

Expressing hope about the upcoming budget, he noted, "People should remain hopeful, as the coming budget will be people-friendly and focused on grassroots needs."

Water, waste and women empowerment

The Deputy Chief Minister said that special machinery is being installed to ensure clean drinking water across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir. He revealed that a new waste management plant is being set up in South Kashmir to address waste-related challenges in rural areas.

"Clean water and waste management are critical for healthy communities. We are setting up modern systems in both sectors," he said.

Choudhary said the government's focus on women's empowerment, stressing that no state could progress unless women were active participants in development. "Our aim is to empower women socially and economically, and they are the backbone of progress," he added.

Unity, security and statehood sentiment In another segment of his speech, the Deputy CM turned to the themes of unity, brotherhood and national integrity.

"Jammu and Kashmir is peaceful today; its tourism industry is flourishing, which is our livelihood," he said, praying that the next Republic Day brings even greater peace and prosperity.

Choudhary stressed that the unity among communities in Jammu and Kashmir is unbreakable. "Our brotherhood of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians has always been, will remain and will last for centuries. No matter what anyone tries to do to divide Jammu and Kashmir, it cannot be broken," he said to loud applause.

The Deputy CM ended on a patriotic note: "Our spirits are always high. This is our pledge, this is our oath."

Remarks at Balidan Stambh, Lal Chowk

Earlier, speaking to reporters at the Balidan Stambh in Lal Chowk, the Deputy Chief Minister extended Republic Day greetings to people across Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

"On every corner of Jammu and Kashmir and

on every corner of India, congratulations to all the people of every religion, every caste and every community," he said. "On behalf of the Omar Abdullah-led government and myself, I extend my greetings."

He added, "The coming year should bring greater peace and prosperity. We pray that when January 26, 2027, comes, it brings more happiness than what we have today." (KNO)

Light to moderate

especially along mountain passes. Travellers and residents have been advised to stay updated with official advisories and avoid unnecessary movement in adverse weather conditions.

Meanwhile, authorities said they are monitoring the situation and are prepared to respond to any weather-related exigencies.

According to independent weather observer Faizan Arif of Kashmir Weather, the system is not very strong but is active enough to cause moderate to locally heavy snowfall at higher elevations.

"For the plains, snowfall chances do exist since precipitation is expected to begin during the night hours. However, the probability of significant snow accumulation across most plains remains low," he said.

The accumulation in plains will largely depend on whether dry snow sets in overnight. If temperatures hover around 3–4°C, snow accumulation is expected to be limited or unlikely. At present, the probability of snowfall for plains stands at around 50 per cent, while chances of decent accumulation are 30–40 per cent.

North and central Kashmir plains have an estimated 30–40 per cent chance of receiving dry snow. Areas closer to the Pir Panjal range, including Shopian and Kulgam, are likely to witness better snowfall and accumulations, with chances around 60–70 per cent.

Other areas such as Chenab Valley, Poonch district, and the Qazigund–Banihal stretch are also expected to receive snowfall with this system, while remaining regions are likely to experience rain.

Arif added that a few places may see gusty winds, but strong or prolonged wind conditions are not anticipated with this Western Disturbance. (KNO)

LG unfurls

contingents, Brass & Pipe Bands of Army, BSF, J&K Police and Band Troops (Girl & Boys) of different Schools.

The celebration showcased the developmental and cultural spirit of Jammu & Kashmir through vibrant tableaux. Key themes included Operation Sindoor, Mission Yuva, Road Safety, Nasha Mukti J&K, Shram ko Samman, Saral Kar, Sashakt Bharat and Food Safety.

The crowd was enthralled by the impressive Motorcycle Acrobatic display by the JKP's Dare-Devils and a diverse cultural pageantry representing the UT's rich heritage.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor visited the Police Martyrs Memorial and Balidan Stambh. He laid wreaths and paid tribute to the brave-hearts of the Police, Army, and CAPFs who made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation.

Pahalgam terror

deep gratitude to the government for the support extended to them, saying they were proud of his courage and sacrifice.

"Whatever was written by Almighty Allah has happened but he died while saving others. We feel proud of our son as he died while saving innocents." They said.

The April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam sent shockwaves across Jammu and Kashmir. Gunmen opened fire on a group of tourists and locals, killing 26 people and injuring several others. Among those killed was Syed Aadil Hussain, who tried to snatch the rifle of terrorists during the chaos.

The tourist sector in J&K suffered a major blow due to the attack which is low returning to normal slowly. (KNO)

J&K Tableau dazzles

While the display brought national recognition, it also highlighted the challenges facing Kashmir's houseboats, a symbol of the Valley's culture and tourism.

Once numbering in thousands across Dal Lake, Nigeen Lake, the Jhelum River and Chuntikul, houseboats are now reduced to around 750, with Dunga boats down to just over 50 and cargo boats almost disappeared.

Speaking about the decline, Tariq Ahmad, a houseboat owner from Dal Lake, said, "We are proud our culture is recognised, but our boats are disappearing. Without support, this heritage could vanish completely."

Manzoor Chairman, president of the Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association, added, "From 2,000 houseboats in the 1980s to over 750 today, we are losing a part of our identity. Government support is urgently needed for restoration and maintenance."

He said they are deeply thankful to the Government of India for showcasing the houseboat on the 77th Republic Day function.

"It truly gives us renewed hope that the heritage, culture and centuries-old legacy associated with the houseboats will be preserved by the Government for future generations," he added.

Another houseboat owner also urged collective efforts to protect these iconic boats and preserve the Valley's unique floating heritage.

As the nation applauds the J&K tableau, houseboat owners and activists hope this recognition will lead to real action to save Kashmir's lakes and boats for future generations. (KNO)

DIPR celebrates

Publicity Officer), Harbans Singh (Projector Operator) and Anchal Singh (Projector Operator) who attained martyrdom, while performing their duties on this day in 1995.

Joint Director Information, Jammu, Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Deputy Director PR/AV, Deputy Director (PR), Jammu, Accounts Officer, Information Officers, Administrative Officer and other officials of the department were also present on the occasion.

India showcases 'Sindoor' valour, cultural hues at 77th R-Day celebrations

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 26: India ushered in its 77th Republic Day on Monday with a grand display of its cultural diversity, economic growth, and military prowess that included missiles, warplanes, newly-raised units and lethal weapon systems used during Operation Sindoor.

President of the European Council, Antonio Costa, and President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, graced the celebrations as chief guests, marking a significant diplomatic moment alongside the military display.

Although the overarching theme of the event was 150 years of 'Vande Mataram', the Indian military's Operation Sindoor too found prominence at the parade on the Kartavya Path, the centrepiece boulevard of the national capital.

The parade commenced with the President Droupadi Murmu taking the salute shortly after she, Costa and von der Leyen, flanked by the Indian president's bodyguards, arrived at the Kartavya Path in a traditional buggy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, several other Union ministers, the country's top military brass, foreign diplomats, and senior officials were among the spectators.

The major weapon systems displayed included BrahMos and Akash weapon systems, rocket launcher 'Suryastra', Main Battle Tank Arjun and an array of indigenously-built military platforms and hardware.

Around 100 artistes heralded the parade, on the theme 'Vividata Mein Ekta (Unity in Diversity)' that featured a grand presentation of musical instruments, demonstrating the nation's unity and rich cultural diversity.

The parade then began with President Murmu taking the salute. The parade was led by Parade Commander Lt General Bhavish Kumar, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area, a second-generation officer.

A tri-services tableau showcasing replicas of major weapon systems deployed by



the Indian military during Operation Sindoor in early May was a major attraction.

A glass-cased integrated operational centre, depicting the conduct of Operation Sindoor with the use of weapons systems such as BrahMos and S-400 missiles rolled down Kartavya Path.

For the first time, the parade showcased a phased 'Battle Array Format' of the Indian Army, including its aerial component. The recce element consisted of the 61 Cavalry in active combat uniform.

It was followed by a high mobility reconnaissance vehicle. Providing aerial support was the indigenous Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter and its armed version, Rudra, in Prahar formation, demonstrating battlefield shaping.

The combat elements then followed with T-90 Bhisma and Main Battle Tank Arjun rolling past the saluting dais with aerial support from Apache AH-64E and Prachand light combat helicopters.

Other mechanised columns included BMP-II Infantry Combat Vehicle, along with Nag missile system (Tracked) Mk-2.

A military contingent from the EU,

carrying the military staff flag and flags of Operations Atalanta and Aspidex, the naval operations of the grouping, also featured at the parade. It was the EU's first participation in such an event outside of Europe.

Among the major weapon systems showcased at the parade were Suryastra Universal Rocket Launcher System (URLS), Brahmos Supersonic cruise missiles and Akash missile systems.

The Indian Navy contingent comprised 144 young personnel, led by Lt Karan Nagyal as contingent commander, and Lt Pawan Kumar Gandhi, Lt Priti Kumari and Lt Varun Dreveriya as platoon commanders.

It was followed by the Naval tableau that presented a vivid depiction of the theme 'Strong Navy for a Strong Nation'. It depicted a stitched ship from the fifth century CE, now christened INSV Kaundinya, Gurab-class ships of the Maratha Navy, and frontline indigenous platforms, including the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and INS Udayagiri.

The tableau featured a depiction of the

circumnavigation route followed by INSV Tarini as part of the Navika Sagar Parikrama-II expedition.

In addition to naval personnel, young cadets from the Sea Cadets Corps, a non-governmental organisation that imparts basic nautical skills to youth in Mumbai, marched alongside the tableau.

The Indian Air Force contingent comprised four officers and 144 airmen. The contingent commander was Squadron Leader Jagdish Kumar with Squadron Leader Nikita Choudhery, Flt Lt Prakhhar Chandrakar and Flt Lt Dinesh as supernumerary officers.

Syncing with the marching contingent was a thrilling fly-past by two Rafale jets, two MiG-29s, two Su-30s and one Jaguar aircraft in 'Spearhead' formation, symbolising the 'Sindoor Formation'.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) showcased its hypersonic glide missile LR-ASHM. It is capable of engaging static and moving targets and is designed to carry various payloads.

The missile has a first-of-its-kind indigenous avionics system and high-accuracy sensor packages.

A total of 30 tableaux -- 17 of states and Union Territories and 13 of various ministries and departments rolled down the Kartavya Path. The tableaux showcased a unique mix of 150 years of the national song Vande Mataram and the nation's rapid progress.

A joint 'DareDevils' team of motorcycle riders drawn from the Central Reserve Police Force and the Sashastra Seema Bal enthralled the audience with their manoeuvres.

The aerial fly-past, one of the most eagerly-awaited events of the parade, witnessed the participation of a total of 29 aircraft, including 16 fighter jets, four transport aircraft and nine helicopters.

These include Rafale, Su-30 MKI, MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft, complemented by strategic assets - C-130 and C-295, as well as the Indian Navy's P-8i aircraft. The formations include Arjan, Vajraang, Varuna and Vijay.

77th Republic Day: PM Modi's deep maroon, golden motif turban steals show



PTI

New Delhi, Jan 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi sported a deep-maroon coloured turban with a golden peacock feather motif for the 77th Republic Day celebrations, adding a dash of ceremonial elegance to the attire.

The turban with intricate embroidery had a long-flowing maroon-green tail. The headgear was tightly tied over with multi-coloured hues on the side.

Modi paired the turban with a dark navy blue-white kurta-payjama with a light-blue half-jacket.

Flamboyant and colourful turbans have been a regular feature in the prime minister's Independence Day and Republic Day looks.

In 2024, Modi chose a multi-coloured "bandhani" print safa for his Republic Day look.

Bandhani is a type of tie-dye textile popular in Gujarat and Rajasthan. The fabric is decorated by plucking the cloth with fingernails into many tiny bindings that form a figurative design.

In 2023, Modi wore a multi-coloured Rajasthani turban and complemented it with a pair of trousers and a kurta. Later that year, on the 77th Independence Day, he opted for a vibrant Rajasthani-style turban, with multiple colours and a lengthy tail.

In 2019, Modi sported a

multi-coloured turban as he delivered his sixth Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort, after returning to power for a second term with a thumping majority.

For his maiden Independence Day as prime minister in 2014, he had opted for a bright red Jodhpuri "bandhej" turban. In 2015, Modi chose a yellow turban covered with multi-coloured criss-cross lines, and a tie-and-dye turban in hues of pink and yellow in 2016.

The prime minister's turban for 2017 was a mix of bright red and yellow with crisscrossed golden lines all over. He donned a saffron turban for his appearance at the Red Fort in 2018.

From a bright red "bandhani" turban from Kutch to a mustard Rajasthani "safa", Modi's eye-catching turbans have been a highlight of his Republic Day appearances too.

In 2022, Modi chose a unique traditional cap from Uttarakhand for the Republic Day celebrations. The cap also had a Brahma Kamal-inspired brooch. Brahma Kamal is Uttarakhand's state flower, which the prime minister uses on every visit to Kedarnath.

In 2021, Modi wore a "Halari Pagdi", a bright red "bandhej" (a type of tie-dye textile) headgear with yellow dots during the celebratory parade -- a gift from the royal family of Jamnagar in Gujarat.

Big boost for trade as India-EU FTA negotiations conclude

IANS

New Delhi, Jan 26: Negotiations for the long-awaited India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have been successfully concluded, and the deal will be officially announced on Tuesday, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday.

Describing the agreement as balanced and forward-looking, Agrawal noted that it would strengthen economic integration between India and the EU and significantly boost trade and investment flows.

The FTA is expected to come into force sometime next year after the legal review of the text, a process that could take around five to six months, following which the formal signing will take place.

Often referred to as the 'Mother of All Deals', the India-EU FTA is being seen as a major step in expanding India's global trade footprint.

He believe the agreement could help soften the impact of high US tariffs by opening up wider opportunities in the European market, especially for Indian exports such as textiles and jewellery.

One of the most significant outcomes of the pact is the opening up of India's automobile sector to European car manufacturers.

Import duties on European vehicles are expected to be sharply reduced from the current 110 per cent to around 40 per cent -- making cars from companies like Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and BMW more affordable in the Indian market.

The auto sector has traditionally been one of the most protected areas of the Indian economy and is largely dominated by Japan's Suzuki Motor and Indian brands Mahindra and Tata, which together control nearly two-thirds of the market.

At present, European companies hold only about 4 per cent of India's annual car market of 4.4 million units.

The EU already plays a key role in India's trade landscape. It accounts for around 17 per cent of India's total exports, while exports to India make up about 9 per cent of the EU's overseas shipments.

In the financial year 2024-25, India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU stood at \$136.53 billion, with exports worth \$75.85 billion and imports at \$60.68 billion. This made the EU India's largest trading partner in goods. Trade in services between the two sides reached \$83.10 billion in 2024.

Home ministry's tableau showcased historic legal reforms that erased colonial vestiges under PM Modi: Amit Shah

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 26: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that his ministry's tableau at the Republic-Day parade at Kartavya Path here showcased the three new criminal laws, embodying the historic legal reforms that erased colonial vestiges under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and flagged off India's journey from a punishment-oriented to a justice-oriented legal system.

In a post on X, Shah said the tableau aptly displayed the new e-Sakshya, e-Summons, Nyaya Shruti, NAFIS and ICJS systems.

It sensitised citizens to the primacy of the fast, accurate and people-centric justice system in a "new India", he said.

"Tableau of three new criminal laws presented by MHA



at Republic Day Parade today embodied the historic legal reforms erasing colonial vestiges under Modi Ji, flagging off India's journey from a punishment oriented to a justice oriented legal system," the home minister said.

The tableau showcased the country's criminal law

overhaul in a century, adopting a faster, tech-driven and citizen-centric justice system.

The tableau was themed on the three new laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam -- introduced by the Ministry

of Home Affairs (MHA) in 2024, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

The tableau, depicting the new Parliament building with the three new legislations in the form of books on top, highlighted the nationwide operationalisation of the laws and the country's transition to a modern, technology-driven, time-bound and citizen-centric justice system, the ministry had earlier said in a statement. "The multilingual representation of the new law books underscores the government's commitment to accessibility, inclusiveness, and transparency, ensuring that the reformed legal framework is understandable and accessible to citizens across the country," it had said.

Tri-services tableau celebrates India's victory in Op Sindoor, IAF floats salute veterans, heroes

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 26: A tri-services tableau depicting replicas of major weapon systems, including Rafale and Sukhoi Su-30MKI jets and the formidable S-400 system, deployed by the Indian military during Operation Sindoor last May, was showcased during the Republic Day celebrations in Delhi on Monday.

Besides, a glass-cased set up carried on a trailer, portrayed an integrated operational centre, depicting the conduct of the decisive military action with the use of potent weapons systems such as BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.

The model presented a symbolic image for India's proposed ambitious 'Sudarshan Chakra' for equipping the country's vital installations with an air defence system to ensure complete aerial protection.

Mission Sudarshan Chakra was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2025. It is named after Lord Krishna's weapon.

The rear portion of the trailer



depicted BrahMos missiles striking an adversary's target, while the hemispherical glass case had some military personnel and civilians inside it, symbolising the sense of protection.

A large hand clad in military olive, with a raised forefinger, emerging out of the glass case and holding a 'Sudarshan Chakra' was also depicted in the set up, a symbolic reference to Lord

Krishna's protective weapon.

India showcased its frontline military assets including BrahMos and Akash missiles, rocket launcher system 'Suryastra', Main Battle Tank Arjun and newly-raised Shaktiban Regiment at the Republic Day parade.

The ceremonial event at the Kartavya Path also celebrated the success of Operation Sindoor with a special

arrowhead formation during the fly-past and through display of a special tri-services tableau marking the synergy among the Army, Navy and the Air Force during May 7-10 conflict with Pakistan.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, carrying out air strikes on terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10.

The tri-services tableau by the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) showcases India's victory in Operation Sindoor and the jointness the three wings of the armed forces displayed during the decisive action.

The DMA tableau was divided into two parts.

One side feature lethal military weapons that proved crucial during the operation. The other side depicted the destruction of the infrastructure on the side of the adversary.

"We want to convey the message of our victory achieved through joint efforts. It was an 88-hour operation," a military official told PTI on January 22.

Thirty tableaux -- 17 from various states and Union Territories, and 13 from ministries and services -- rolled down the Kartavya Path during the ceremonial event whose dominant theme this year was 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'.

The Air Headquarters presented a tableau, themed "Sangram se Rashtira Nirman Tak" ('From Battle to Nation Building'), honouring the contribution of the veterans while they were in service and later post retirement.

The front portion of the tableau featured the Amar Jawan Jyoti, 3D models of historic war machines, which include the T-55 and Vijayant tank, MiG-21, Mirage-2000 and Jaguar aircraft, INS Mysore and INS Rajput, and representations from the 1965, 1971 wars and 1999 Kargil Operation Vijay.

The rear portion highlighted the role of veterans in national development, focusing on their voluntary efforts in flood relief, medical services, education and the 'Make in India' initiative.

A tableau was also presented by the Navy Headquarters that presented a vivid depiction of the theme 'Strong Navy for a Strong Nation'.

Tributes, Triumphs, And Tradition: Jammu & Kashmir Celebrates Republic Day With Grandeur

Pics: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT) & DIPR, J&K

