

In PM Modi's Punjab Speech, References To Drugs And Tahir Hussain

Jalandhar, 17 July: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab as a "Kattar Beimaan" party, accusing it of failing the state on law and order, drugs, corruption and misuse of public money.

Speaking after inaugurating 75 redeveloped railway stations across 20 states under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Jalandhar, PM Modi began by invoking Punjab's history. "This is the land of 'Sher-e-Punjab' Maharaja Ranjit Singh... However, what is happening in Punjab today is no secret. Here, the reality of betrayal is being masked by advertisements," he said.

The Prime Minister said crime and extortion have taken over the state.

"Law and order in Punjab is in shambles today. No one can predict when or where a gang war might break out or from which direction bullets might start flying," he said, adding that even police stations are not safe and "frequently attacked".

He said the worst damage was being done to Punjab's youth. "Most tragic of all, the future of Punjab is being ruined.

Drug peddlers are roaming freely, dragging the youth of Punjab into the quagmire of addiction," he said.

Escalating his attack, PM Modi said honesty and integrity were missing from the party's governance. "Serving the public requires honest intentions and a spirit of integrity. However, the party currently in power in Punjab possesses neither. It is known as a 'Kattar Beimaan Party' (hardcore dishonest party)," he said. He claimed the Centre had sent large sums of money to Punjab over the years, but the funds were being misused.

"The Central Government is making every possible effort to ensure that the people of Punjab benefit from all its schemes. Yet, under the rule of this 'Kattar Beimaan Party', a brazen game of plunder is underway. Over the past 12 years, the Centre has sent funds amounting to lakhs of crores of rupees to Punjab... Punjab government failed to utilise the money properly," he said. "What is more, this looting is being fueled by borrowed funds. Loans are being raised in Punjab's name. While the state's budget is consumed by interest payments on this debt, those run-

ning the government are living it up on that very money," he added.

PM Modi further attacked AAP over a recent Gujarat court verdict against its MLA, which he said was in connection with assaulting government officials and extortion.

"Just a few days ago, a



court in Gujarat sentenced one of their MLAs to 7 years in prison. This sentence was handed down for assaulting government officials and extortion. Extortion and illegal occupation have all become trademarks of their political system," he said.

Targeting AAP leaders for several run-ins with the law, he said, "Many people are currently out on bail in numerous similar

cases. Just look at Punjab: the person appointed as Health Minister had to be dismissed for bribery. One minister is facing serious charges like money laundering. Their MLAs are being caught red-handed accepting bribes. If we keep counting like this, we will find very few people in their government and

ing its true colours. Just 2-3 days ago, a court in Delhi convicted one of their leaders. He (Tahir Hussain) stands accused of inciting riots and murdering an Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer; and look at their brazenness... they are questioning the court's judgment, viewing it through the prism of religion and faith simply because their vote bank is at stake." Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of rail and road infrastructure projects worth over Rs 5,470 crore in Jalandhar.

He inaugurated 75 redeveloped railway stations, including Jalandhar Cantt, under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

The inauguration of 75 Amrit Stations across 20 states marks another significant milestone under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, one of the world's largest station redevelopment programmes. Developed at a cost of about Rs 1,570 crore, these stations have been transformed into modern, passenger-friendly facilities. Redeveloped in the spirit of 'Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi', the stations incorporate elements reflecting local culture, heritage and architecture.

Mehbooba Mufti Jabs Centre Over Sonam Wangchuk Protest, BJP Hits Back

Srinagar, 17 July: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Friday equated Union government with the British colonial rule and hunger strike protest by activist Sonam Wangchuk at Jantar Mantar like sacrifices made by the freedom fighters of India against the British Raj. The BJP has hit back at Mehbooba Mufti and termed her statement as a "publicity stunt and eccentricity". Mufti said that Sonam Wangchuk, who has been on an indefinite hunger strike demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged NEET paper leak, is risking his life to safeguard the future of India's Gen Z which evokes "memories of the freedoms fighters to liberate India from colonial rule".

Taking a swipe at the central governing for refusing to engage with the Cockerach Janta Party protesters at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, the PDP chief said that British may have left but "colonial mindset seems to endure". "The British may have left but the colonial mindset seems to endure. How else can one explain the indifference of a democratically elected government that remains so callous that it refuses to engage with the youth at Jantar Mantar the very generation that will shape India's future?" Mufti said.

BJP leader Ranbir Singh Pathania says the statement only explains Mufti's "absolute ignorance and eccentricity". "It's pity that PDP is making such statements. This reflects her absolute ignorance and eccentricity. It appears to be a publicity stunt by Mufti to get some media attention," the BJP leader said.

Earlier, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that he's genuinely concerned about the health of Sonam Wangchuk and demanded central government to persuade him to end fast and initiate a dialogue with protesting youth. He said that that Sonam Wangchuk has been on a hunger strike for 19 days and has lost 9 kgs.

Abdullah said that the government has made no effort to initiate a dialogue or persuade him to end his fast. The J&K Chief Minister pointed out that after a hunger strike by Anna Hazare during the UPA government, Manmohan Singh had deputed ministers to engage with Hazare and convince him to end his protest.

"Jinnah Worshipers": Yogi Adityanath's Swipe At Congress, Samajwadi Party

Shamli, 17 July: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday urged kanwariyas to maintain discipline as he warned against anti-social elements who try to create disturbances.

Adityanath was in Shamli district for the inauguration and foundation-laying ceremony for 89 development projects worth over Rs 581 crore. "Today, no one stops the Kanwar Yatra. It is progressing peacefully and with enthusiasm. The government stands with the kanwariyas, and the administration and security forces are serving them," he said.

Appealing to the Kanwar pilgrims to maintain discipline, he said, "We are descendants of Lord Ram, belong to the land of Lord Krishna and are devotees of Lord Shiva. We must uphold Ram's 'maryada', Krishna's values and Shiva's simplicity. There should be no unruly behaviour over trivial issues."

"Some anti-social elements try to provoke violence and tarnish the image of the Kanwar Yatra. If anyone tries to create trouble or disturb the atmosphere, such persons should be isolated immediately. We must not allow anyone to compromise the sanctity and dignity of this pilgrimage," Adityanath said.

He said the state government would continue to provide

every possible support to ensure the safety, convenience and smooth conduct of the Kanwar Yatra. During the Kanwar Yatra, which starts on July 30 and concludes on August 11, devotees of Lord Shiva will collect holy water from the Ganga in Haridwar and a few other places, carry it back on foot and offer it to Lord Shiva in their local temples across Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and other states.

Referring to the Congress and Samajwadi Party as "(Mohammed Ali) Jinnah worshippers", Adityanath accused the opposition parties of demographic change in the state.

"That is why the exodus from Kandhla and Kairana took place. In contrast, we are the worshippers of farmers. Whenever these Jinnah followers get a chance, they will divide you. They will divide you along the lines of caste and region. They will spread anarchy and compromise the safety of daughters and the business community," he said. Adityanath also claimed that a "job syndicate" allegedly deprived deserving youths of government employment before 2017 (when he became CM).

He said the 'Syndicate of Saifai', a reference to the native village of SP chief Akhilesh

Yadav, has been dismantled and recruitment was now being carried out transparently, he said.

"Now, when government jobs are advertised in Uttar Pradesh, the Syndicate of Saifai, which once snatched employment rights of the youth, can no longer do so. Today, every family and every section of society gets an opportunity to secure



government jobs," he said.

The chief minister also alleged that before the BJP came to power in the state in 2017, people faced action for expressing their religious beliefs.

"Before 2017, people were lathi-charged and even fired upon for raising the slogan 'Jai Shri Ram'. Kanwar Yatras were stopped, routes were blocked, and Ramlila processions were not allowed," he said. Claiming that the situation had changed,

Adityanath said the BJP-led NDA government was working for farmers and the youth.

"Today, we can proudly say that the vision Chaudhary Charan Singh had for farmers and young people is being realised by the BJP and NDA government. On the one hand, farmers are being empowered, while on the other, employment and job



opportunities are being created for the youth," he said.

Highlighting the state's law and order situation, the chief minister said security was being provided not only to citizens but also to investors, helping attract investment and promote development. Adityanath said Shamli, Thana Bhawan, and Kairana have undergone a transformation in the past 10 years.

"The district had become a symbol of terror and fear. People

investigation into the alleged theft of temple donations.

The SIT has fully recovered CCTV footage from June 29 and July 2, which was to be investigated, police said earlier. The SIT had recovered CCTV footage from June 22 and June 25, which has already been analysed as part of the probe. On July 14, a committee constituted to examine the alleged theft of donations at the Badrinath Temple visited Badrinath Dham and reviewed the process of how donations are handled and transported and arrangements within the counting room.

Meanwhile, SIT probing the Badrinath donation theft case questioned the Temple Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sohan Singh Rangad and his Personal Assistant, Atul Dimri, to probe gaps in oversight. Simultaneously, investigators embedded them-

selves in the temple's CCTV control room, systematically reviewing operational logs and tracking how daily donations were handled.

Chauhan is scheduled to be produced before a court on Saturday, July 18, for further investigation. Providing an update on the raids, SIT Investigation Officer Mahadev Uniyal said, "Saffron and some other materials have been recovered. Foreign currencies have also been found. Accused is not cooperating, as far as cash is concerned."

Chauhan was apprehended earlier the same day after nearly four hours of interrogation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT). CCTV footage reportedly shows Chauhan collecting cash bundles and placing them in his pocket on June 22, June 25, and June 29, leading to his summons for questioning by the SIT.

Unreserved Examination Special Train to Run Between Dumka & Ranchi

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 17 July: To clear the extra rush of passengers/examinees of JFWC Examination, Railway has decided to run one pair un-reserved special train between Dumka & Ranchi.

08619 Ranchi – Dumka Unreserved Examination special will leave Ranchi at 20:20 hrs. on 19.7.2026 to reach Dumka at 05:30 hrs. on the next

day and 08620 Dumka – Ranchi Unreserved Examination Special will leave Dumka at 07:45 hrs. on 20.7.2026 to reach Ranchi at 17:45 hrs. on the same day.

The train will stop at Jama, Basukinath, Deoghar, Jasidih, Madhupur, Vidyasagar, Jamtara, Chittaranjan, Barakar and Kumardubi stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction in both directions enroute.

New Additional General Manager of South Eastern Railway

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 17 July: Shri Manish Jain has taken over the charge of Additional General Manager, South Eastern Railway on 17th July, 2026. Prior to taking over the charge of Additional General Manager of South Eastern Railway, Sri Jain was the Principal Chief Safety Officer, Metro Railway, Kolkata. Sri Manish Jain is an officer of Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers, 1990 Batch.

Shri Jain has worked in different capacities i.e. Chief Rolling Stock Engineer (Coaching), Eastern Railway, Divisional Railway Manager/Howrah, Eastern Railway, Executive Director/Mechanical Engineering (Freight), Railway Board, Executive Director/Mechanical Engineering (Traction), Railway Board, Chief General Manager/IRCON, Group General Manager/Technical, CONCOR, Director/National Rail Museum, New Delhi and several other important posts over Indian Railways.

Shri Manish Jain has vast knowl-



edge and working experience in railway engineering and operational issues. He has undergone various training programmes in India & abroad including USA and Canada. Shri Jain has keen interest in sports, movies and music.

City Based Himadri Speciality Chemical Ltd Q1 PAT up 27% to 228 crore, Announces Heavy Cape

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, 17 July: Himadri Speciality Chemical Ltd reported results for the quarter ended 30 June 2026.

Financial Highlights:

- Record Revenue Rs. 1,432 Cr

- Record EBITDA Rs. 313 Cr
- Record PAT Rs. 228 Cr

Commenting on the results and performance, Mr. Anurag Choudhary, CMD & CEO of Himadri Speciality Chemical Ltd said:

"We are pleased to report our highest-ever quarterly Revenue, EBITDA and PAT, underscoring a strong, resilient and sustainable financial performance. For the quarter, on a consolidated basis, Revenue stood at

Rs. 1,432 Crores, EBITDA stood at Rs. 313 Crores, translating into an EBITDA margin of 22%, with Profit After Tax at Rs. 228 Crores, reflecting a PAT margin of 16%. Despite the geopolitical backdrop, the performance was improved by product mix across our core business and continued ramp-up in speciality materials. It reflects sustained execution of our diversification strategy, our shift up the value chain toward higher-margin, technology-intensive products, and the growing traction of our global partnerships in advanced materials. We remain focused on scaling momentum as we progress towards our long-term vision of becoming a diversified, future-ready, global advanced materials and application driven solution company.

Why Skyroot's Vikram-1 Launch Could Be A Turning Point For India

New Delhi, 17 July: India's space story is on the cusp of a historic milestone. For decades, access to space was the exclusive domain of national space agencies backed by governments and vast public resources. If all goes well on July 18 at 11.30 am, Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace hopes to join a small and elite group of global companies that have successfully developed and launched orbital rockets.

If all goes according to plan, Skyroot's Vikram-1 rocket will become the first privately developed Indian rocket to attempt an orbital mission, marking a defining moment not just for the company but also for India's rapidly emerging private space sector.

As Vikram-1 towers on the launch pad at Sriharikota, Skyroot Aerospace CEO and co-founder Pawan Chandana reflected on a journey that began with a handful of engineers and a bold dream. "Years of effort by amazing people brought us here. We are soon going to lift off India's first private orbital rocket, Vikram-1, named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai," Chandana told.

Named after the father of India's space programme, Vikram Sarabhai, the Vikram-1 vehicle represents the next step in Skyroot's ambitions after the company's successful Vikram-S suborbital mission in November 2022. That launch, called Prarambh, made Skyroot the first private Indian company to launch a rocket and demonstrated that India's startup ecosystem could build credible launch vehicles.

"Vikram-1 has the capacity to eventually put 300 kilograms into low Earth orbit. It will be the first test flight or developmental flight of an orbital rocket from the private sector from India. It is also one of the very few companies which have attempted it

globally as well," Chandana said.

While dozens of companies around the world advertise launch ambitions, very few have actually developed, tested and routinely operated orbital rockets. Reaching orbit remains one of the most difficult engineering achievements undertaken by humankind. Space scientist and former ISRO engineer Dr. Guru Prasad, currently Director of the Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru, puts the achievement into perspective.

"About 40 have been listed but the ones that matter are the private companies in the US, Boeing Corporation and Lockheed Martin of US together selling Atlas launch vehicle, SpaceX and now Blue Origin of Jeff Bezos, and Northrop Grumman. In Russia Glavkosmos, in India NSIL as well as start ups Agnikul Kosmos and Skyroot Aerospace, both yet to prove orbit capability, in Europe Ariane-space, in Japan Mitsubishi, CALT of China and a handful of private companies there and US-New Zealand company Rocket Lab. In Toto, about a dozen companies in USA, Russia, China, Europe, India and Japan and US-New Zealand, both in the government and private sector really matter. Fully in the private sector less than a handful, so Skyroot Aerospace is pioneer of sorts."

For Skyroot, reaching orbit would place the company in a rare category of aerospace firms that have mastered one of the most complex technological challenges ever attempted. Chandana is quick to acknowledge the magnitude of the task. "It is literally the rocket science. There are hundreds of systems, all very complex individually. All need to come together at the same time, work synchronously and work perfectly in a few minutes of flight to orbit."