

REVOCATION OF ARTICLE 370 MOST FITTING TRIBUTE TO SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE: PM



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the

abrogation of Article 370, which ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, was the most fitting tribute

to the "martyrdom" of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

In a signed article published in newspapers on Mookerjee's birth anniversary, Modi said he always put "India first and Indian values first" by building institutions and nurturing systems that defied the conventional mindset of his time.

He said this spirit was evident when Mookerjee founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh at a time when the Congress Party was omnipresent.

The Bharatiya Jana Sangh was the precursor to

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LG Manoj Sinha outlines progressive vision for the UT of J&K, powered by women leaders

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
SRINAGAR**

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today felicitated 32 talented recipients of the Kashmir Women's Organization (KWO) Fellowship, during a ceremony at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor hailed the fellows as symbols of Jammu Kashmir's ongoing transformation toward a future built on self-confidence, equal opportunities and dignity for all.

He lauded the efforts of Dr. Fida Firdous and all the members of Kashmir Women's Organization for



creating a robust platform

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CM Omar Abdullah chairs 13th IMPARD Executive Council meeting, calls for developing it as a premier training institution

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
SRINAGAR**

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the 13th meeting of the Executive Council of the Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development (IMPARD) at the Civil Secretariat, reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening institutional capacity, administrative excellence and good governance across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting comprehensively reviewed the functioning of IMPARD and deliberated on a wide range of measures aimed at enhancing the institute's role as the premier training and capacity-building institution for J&K's civil services.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to



the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner General Administration Department M Raju, Director General IMPARD Rehana Batul and other senior officers.

At the outset, Director General IMPARD Rehana Batul

presented a detailed overview of the institute's functioning, ongoing initiatives and future roadmap. She placed the agenda items before the Executive Council, which discussed each proposal extensively before taking considered decisions.

As Chairman of the Executive Council, the Chief

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NIA names LeT founder Hafiz Saeed in supplementary chargesheet on Pahalgam terror attack

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
NEW DELHI**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a supplementary chargesheet against Pakistan-based terrorist and founder-chief of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Hafiz Saeed, in connection with the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, an official statement said.

Filed before the NIA Special Court in Jammu, the supplementary chargesheet names Hafiz Saeed in his individual capacity as well as in his role as chief of the banned LeT and its proxy outfit, The Resistance Front (TRF).

The accused has been charged under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The NIA has also invoked charges related to waging war against India and criminal conspiracy allegedly hatched from across the border, the statement said further.

The supplementary chargesheet, filed as a continuation of the original 1,597-page chargesheet, details Pakistan's alleged conspiracy, Hafiz Saeed's role, and the evidence gathered by the agency through scientific

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J&K ACB books 14 in Rs 5.57 crore food grain embezzlement case

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
SRINAGAR**

The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) said on Monday that it has registered an FIR in connection with a Rs 5.57 crore food grain scam.

A statement issued by the ACB said that it has registered an FIR against five officials of the Food, Civil Supplies and

Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department and nine Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers for their alleged involvement in the embezzlement and misappropriation of government food grains in the Karnah area of Kupwara district.

According to the ACB statement, FIR No. 02/2026 was registered at Police

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Under PM Modi's leadership, J&K is leading on the path of development: Nitin Nabin

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

Asserting that the abrogation of Article 370 ensured true freedom for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and fulfilled the dream of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, BJP national president Nitin Nabin, Monday, said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, this region is emerging as one of the country's leading regions on the path of development.

"Under PM Modi's leadership, India is making continu-



ous progress, and Jammu and Kashmir is also emerging as one of the leading regions on the path of development," Nabin said while addressing the commemorative programme marking the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee here at Majestic Grand in Mishriwala on the outskirts of Jammu.

Nabin is on a maiden two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are especially delighted

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FROM PAGE-1

Revocation of.....

the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Born on July 6, 1901, Mookerjee died under detention in Srinagar on June 23, 1953. He had fought for the full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India by seeking the scrapping of Article 370.

Modi said July 6 is a special day for countless people who cherish the ideals of nationalism and selfless service.

"We commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, whose life remains a timeless example of courage and unwavering commitment to Maa Bharti," he wrote in the article.

The prime minister said few leaders in modern India embodied the seamless confluence of intellect, public service and moral conviction as profoundly as Mookerjee.

He said Mookerjee was born into circumstances that could have assured him a protected and comfortable life, as his father, Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, was among the foremost educationists and intellectuals of his age. While destiny placed before him a path of privilege, his conscience led him towards one of sacrifice and national service, Modi said.

Mookerjee was convinced that he could not remain a mute spectator to the turbulence of his times, be it fighting colonialism, communalism, humanitarian challenges and more, Modi said.

Along this journey, Mookerjee endured profound personal tragedies, including the loss of an infant child and, later, his wife, the prime minister said.

These tragedies only deepened Mookerjee's resolve and strengthened his unwavering commitment to serve. If there was one ideal that defined Mookerjee's public life above all else, it was the indivisibility of India, he said.

"He stood firm during the upheaval of Partition to ensure that West Bengal remained an integral part of India. A few years later, that very conviction drew him to Jammu and Kashmir. Imprisonment did not deter him, and isolation did not diminish him," he wrote.

The prime minister said Mookerjee's life came to an abrupt end in detention, far from the countless people whose cause he had made his own.

Modi said there are moments in history when an individual's final sacrifice transcends politics and enters the realm of national memory, recalling that Acharya Vinoba Bhave had said Mookerjee sacrificed himself for a cause in which he had faith.

"Years later, the revocation of Articles 370 and 35(A) in 2019 was the most fitting tribute to his martyrdom," Modi said.

Articles 370 and 35(A) were abrogated by the Modi government on August 5, 2019.

The prime minister said Mookerjee always put "India First" and Indian values first, and he did it by building institutions and nurturing systems that defied conventional mindsets of those times.

Mookerjee became the youngest Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, and in his unique style, he brought positive changes that were patriotic and futuristic, he said.

Addressing a conference of educators, he said, Mookerjee put it wonderfully when he said, "It is incorrect to look upon educational institutions as factories to produce potential clerks and low-paid staff".

LG Manoj.....

where the Nari Shakti from the region could move forward confidently, embracing their talent, ideas, and identities and play a meaningful role in building a bright future for Jammu Kashmir.

"In a short span, Kashmir Women's Organization has earned the distinction of becoming a powerful hub of hope, trust, and positive change. This fellowship program is a tangible realization of collaborative and shared responsibility.

By challenging deeply entrenched stereotypes, these fellows have redefined what is possible. They have paved a new path for future generations and their contributions would serve as a foundation of inspiration, confidence, and guidance for years to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to historical icons such as Rani Didda, Kota Rani, Lal Ded, Habba Khatoon, Mata Rupa Bhawani, who had shaped the consciousness of Jammu Kashmir and contributed to its development. He highlighted that the women of J&K have always scaled the highest peaks of Nari Shakti.

"We have many such remarkable examples before us, and I wish for the women of Jammu Kashmir to lead the region's development," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for empowering the women of Jammu Kashmir by granting them their due rights and eliminating discrimination.

He outlined a progressive vision for the Union Territory, powered by women leaders.

"Women's empowerment is key to a Viksit J&K; their progress ensures the progress of society. I envision a Jammu Kashmir where women lead in academia, industry, social organizations and governance, shaping policies, driving entrepreneurship, and enriching our culture through art and literature.

I envision a Jammu Kashmir where every young girl grows up believing that her dreams are valuable, her voice is powerful, and her future holds limitless possibilities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor exuded confidence that the fellowship program of Kashmir Women's Organization will propagate the core principle that women deserve equal, dignified participation across all social, cultural, economic and political spheres.

"We must remain steadfast in our resolve to accord due respect to our Nari Shakti, while creating an environment that fosters their capabilities and progress.

When women progress, society progresses; when women lead, the nation scales new heights; and when women realize their dreams, the entire world becomes more just, more compassionate, and more prosperous," the Lieutenant Governor said.

NIA names.....

investigation and extensive ground verification.

In its earlier chargesheet filed on December 15, 2025, the NIA had named Pakistani terror handler Sajid Jatt, three terrorists killed during Operation Mahadev in July 2025, and two arrested accused.

The agency had also chargesheeted the banned LeT/TRF as a legal entity for its alleged role in planning, facilitating and executing the attack.

The April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, involved religion-based targeted killings by Pakistan-backed terrorists. Twenty-five tourists and a local civilian were killed in the assault.

The case was initially registered as FIR No. 25/2025 at Pahalgam Police Station in Anantnag district. Following a preliminary probe by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Ministry of Home Affairs transferred the investigation to the NIA.

The agency said investigations in case RC-02/2025/NIA/JMU are continuing to unravel the larger conspiracy and Pakistan's alleged role in sponsoring terrorism on Indian soil.

CM Omar.....

Minister engaged in deliberations on important institutional matters, including recruitment of faculty members, finalisation of new recruitment rules, review and strengthening of training programmes, and support needed for organisation's long-term growth and sustainability.

The Council also examined various employee-related issues, including welfare measures, deputation of faculty members to fill up key positions at IMPA in the short term, implementation of career advancement, service matters, compassionate appointments, engagement of consultants and examination of other proposals through the designated sub-committee. The EC observed that these measures shall strengthen the institutional framework and ensure greater operational efficiency.

Emphasising the pivotal role of IMPARD in nurturing a professional and accountable civil service, the Chief Minister stressed the need for continuous institutional reforms, high-quality training and innovation in public administration. He underscored that a modern governance framework requires well-trained, motivated and future-ready public servants capable of responding effectively to emerging challenges and citizens' expectations.

The Chief Minister called for regular upgradation of training modules in line with evolving governance practices, greater adoption of technology-enabled learning and stronger knowledge partnerships to ensure that government officials remain equipped with the skills required for efficient public service delivery.

J&K ACB.....

Station ACB Baramulla under Section 13(1)(a) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended), and Sections

61(2) and 316(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, after obtaining prior approval from the competent authority.

The case stems from a communication received from the Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Kashmir, seeking criminal action against the officials and FPS dealers after departmental inspections and physical verification allegedly revealed massive shortages of government food grains.

The statement said a joint surprise check at government sale centres and Fair Price Shops initially detected a shortage of 4,175.89 quintals. According to the ACB, the alleged misappropriation caused a loss of Rs 5,57,18,657.25 to the government exchequer through a criminal conspiracy involving public servants and private beneficiaries who dishonestly misappropriated government food grains entrusted to them for unlawful pecuniary gain.

The ACB said the FIR has been registered against five FCS&CA officials and nine FPS dealers. Among those named are Umar Bashir alias Raja Umer, then Assistant Storekeeper, and Ashiq Hussain Mir, then Assistant Storekeeper, along with 12 other accused comprising public servants and Fair Price Shop dealers.

Immediately after the registration of the case, searches were launched at multiple locations and other legal proceedings were initiated in accordance with the law.

Under PM.....

that as we celebrate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, both the Indian Tricolour and the BJP's saffron flag are flying proudly in his birthplace, West Bengal," he said.

Referring to the changes in Jammu and Kashmir, Nabin said there was a time when people were afraid to hoist the Tricolour at Lal Chowk in Srinagar.

"No one had the courage to do so. But after Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014, Lal Chowk now proudly flies the Tricolour. That is the change that has taken place," he said.

He said Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee had envisioned a nation with "one Constitution, one Prime Minister and one flag", adding that Prime Minister Modi had fulfilled that vision.

"I have come to urge the youth to protect the soil of Jammu and Kashmir and fulfil the vision of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee," he said, adding that young people should learn from him and draw inspiration from the struggles he endured throughout his life.

"If anyone worked to safeguard Bengal, it was our leader Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Otherwise, the Congress would have allowed West Bengal to become part of Bangladesh," he alleged.

Taking a swipe at the Congress, Nabin said that had the BJP not come to power at the Centre, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir would still have been known for stone-pelting instead of bringing laurels to the region by winning the Ranji Trophy.

"Before 2014, the youth of Kashmir were often associated with stone-pelting. Today, I feel proud when they win Ranji Trophy matches and bring honour to the whole of Jammu and Kashmir. This is the vision of Prime Minister Modi, who has consistently encouraged and promoted sports," he said.

Akhnoor Police.....

information about suspected illegal activities.

Police said an alleged sex racket was uncovered during the operation. Subsequently, FIR No. 164/2026 was registered at Police Station Akhnoor under the relevant provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

The three persons arrested in connection with the case have been identified as Ravi Gupta,, a resident of Ward No. 2, Akhnoor, who is stated by police to be the owner of the premises; Sarishta Devi, a resident of Chowki Choura, Akhnoor; and Sahil Sharma, a resident of Akhnoor.

According to police, all three accused have been taken into custody in connection with FIR No. 164/2026. Investigators are continuing the probe to identify any other persons allegedly involved, determine the full extent of the suspected illegal activities, and take further legal action in accordance with law.

Akhnoor Police stated that it remains committed to curbing immoral trafficking and organized crime. Citizens have been urged to provide credible information regarding such illegal activities, with police assuring that appropriate action will be taken in accordance with law.

As the investigation is ongoing, the allegations against the accused are yet to be tested before a court of law.

Sovereignty Under Siege: Beijing Expands Maritime Presence East of Taiwan as US Strengthens Regional Military Posture

SYSTEM OBSERVER

The strategic contest in the western Pacific continues to intensify as China and the United States pursue contrasting approaches around Taiwan. While Beijing has expanded the operational reach of its Coast Guard in waters east of Taiwan, Washington has increased its military presence across the region through large-scale exercises and continued arms support to Taipei.

Chinese Coast Guard Patrols
Chinese Coast Guard vessels were reported operating about 54 nautical miles east of Hualien on Saturday, marking the second such deployment in recent weeks. Beijing described the operation as a routine law enforcement patrol aimed at safeguarding what it considers China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights.

Chinese authorities have indicated that such patrols could become a regular feature rather than isolated deployments. According to official statements, the mission was conducted to reinforce China's maritime jurisdiction and protect its claimed interests in the surrounding waters.

Beijing has linked the increased maritime activity to recent developments involving Japan and the Philippines. Both countries announced plans to begin formal negotiations on a maritime boundary covering areas that China says fall within its Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf. In response, China's Ministry of Natural Resources stated on July 2 that any bilateral maritime delimitation conducted without Beijing's participation lacks legal validity under China's interpretation of



international law.

Chinese officials maintain that the Coast Guard operations represent law enforcement activities within waters over which China claims jurisdiction, rather than a military escalation.

Expanding US Military Presence
At the same time, the United States has continued strengthening its military posture across the Indo-Pacific. Around 10,000 US personnel have participated in large-scale exercises involving the

Philippines and Japan's southern island chain. The drills included amphibious and island defence operations designed to enhance regional readiness.

Taiwan has also continued receiving US military equipment, including M1A2T Abrams main battle tanks delivered under previously approved defence agreements. Beijing has repeatedly criticised such arms transfers, arguing they contradict Washington's stated One China policy and encourage

closer military cooperation with Taipei.

Competing Claims and International Response

Taiwan strongly rejects Beijing's position, with its Coast Guard and Mainland Affairs Council describing the Chinese patrols as unlawful and asserting that the waters east of the island fall under Taiwan's jurisdiction. Taipei has stated that it will continue monitoring and responding to Chinese vessels operating in the area.

The developments have also drawn attention from several Western governments, including the United States and European partners, which have expressed concern over what they describe as China's gradual expansion of control in disputed maritime areas. Beijing rejects these allegations, insisting that its actions are lawful and aimed at protecting its sovereignty.

Japan and the Philippines have similarly defended their planned maritime boundary negotiations as a bilateral matter conducted in accordance with international law.

A Continuing Strategic Contest

The latest developments highlight the deep divide over sovereignty, maritime jurisdiction and regional security in the Taiwan Strait and surrounding waters. Beijing views its Coast Guard operations as legitimate enforcement of sovereign rights, while Taiwan and several Western nations regard them as an attempt to alter the status quo.

As diplomatic differences remain unresolved, competing legal interpretations and expanding military deployments continue to shape one of the world's most sensitive geopolitical flashpoints.

LeT restructures command hierarchy, Hafiz Saeed's son Talha said to take operational charge

SYSTEM OBSERVER

Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is reportedly carrying out a major restructuring of its command hierarchy, with Talha Saeed, son of the group's founder Hafiz Saeed, expected to assume responsibility for day-to-day operational affairs, according to security sources. Hafiz Saeed is expected to continue as the ideological head and mentor of the organisation while stepping back from routine operational management.

According to security inputs, the restructuring is aimed at strengthening LeT's organisational network across Pakistan through the creation of three regional commands covering Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). Each command is expected to maintain its own cadre base to improve coordination, logistics, and operational control.

The reported overhaul comes amid growing security challenges faced by Pakistan, particularly from the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Security sources claim that LeT cadres have already been deployed in support of Pakistani security forces during operations against both insurgent groups. The proposed regional structure is believed to formalise and expand that role.

Sources further allege that LeT is attempting to infiltrate opera-

LeT RESTRUCTURES COMMAND HIERARCHY; HAFIZ SAEED'S SON TALHA SAID TO TAKE OPERATIONAL CHARGE

Major overhaul in terror outfit's leadership structure, sources say

- Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) undertakes major restructuring of command hierarchy.
- Talha Saeed, son of Hafiz Saeed, to take operational charge.
- Move aimed at consolidating control and ensuring continuity of operations, sources say.
- Hafiz Saeed retains position of 'Emir' or supreme head.
- Restructuring comes amid increased scrutiny and crackdown on LeT activities.

HAFIZ SAEED
EMIR / SUPREME HEAD

TALHA SAEED
OPERATIONAL COMMANDER

RESTRUCTURED COMMAND HIERARCHY

- OPERATIONS WING**
Under Talha Saeed
- TRAINING WING**
Reorganized
- FINANCE WING**
Reorganized
- OUTREACH & PROPAGANDA**
Reorganized

LeT: BANNED TERROR OUTFIT
UNDER UN, US, INDIA BAN

tives into the BLA and TTP to enhance intelligence collection and monitor the activities, movement, and operational planning of the two organisations.

Under the reported restructuring, LeT's responsibilities are expected to differ across regions. In Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, cadres are likely to assist Pakistani security forces in counter-insurgency operations against the BLA and TTP. In Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir, however, the group is

expected to continue activities associated with its traditional operational profile, including planning fidayeen attacks, using improvised explosive devices (IEDs), intimidating local populations, suppressing dissent, and allegedly attempting to attribute major incidents to India.

Security sources further state that all India-focused operations, including activities relating to Jammu and Kashmir, will remain under a separate centralised command controlled directly by LeT's

senior leadership. This command structure is expected to function independently of the newly created regional divisions.

Security analysts believe the reported reorganisation reflects LeT's effort to adapt to Pakistan's evolving internal security environment while maintaining its longstanding anti-India operational focus.

The report is based on inputs from security sources. The claims have not been independently verified by System Observer.

Pakistani forces open fire on peaceful rally as massive Anti-Islamabad uprising grips PoJK

RAWALAKOT

Tensions have escalated dramatically across Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) following a massive protest call by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) for Sunday, directly defying the heavy-handed state apparatus. Jammu and Kashmir

The rights group, leading a widespread agitation against administrative failures, has thrown down a direct challenge to Islamabad's severe crackdown, demanding the immediate release of its unlawfully arrested leaders and activists.

In a massive escalation of this ongoing civil uprising against Pakistani rule, a grand public gathering of nearly 40,000 people, comprising children, women, elderly, and youth, has hit the streets at the Sardar Ghulam Hussain Khan Sports Stadium in Abbaspor, according to the JAAC.

The peaceful demonstration for fundamental rights has rapidly transformed into a massive public rally, directly challenging the heavy-handed rule of the Pakistani establishment.

Exposing the violent tactics used by the Pakistani security apparatus to suppress this peaceful dissent, the JAAC reported that forces opened unprovoked fire and intense shelling on a civilian gathering at the AMB location in Dudial.

The brutal state response has resulted in several severe injuries, with multiple peaceful demonstrators currently reported to be in critical condition.

Despite these violent crackdowns, the resistance movement continues to swell across the occupied territory.

Large caravans of citizens, including children, women, and the elderly, are continuously arriving from various areas at a major protest sit-in in Dera Ismail Khan, where a massive crowd is chanting revolutionary slogans against state oppression.

Further highlighting the expanding demographic reach of the movement, the JAAC noted that the daughters of Rawalakot and Chak are actively leading peaceful street protests for their basic rights, completely defying the intimidation tactics of Pakistani authorities.

This anti-Pakistan public outrage has also triggered major international blowback for Islamabad. Responding to the call of the Jammu Kashmir Joint People's Action Committee, the Kashmiri diaspora staged a full-fledged demonstration in Auckland, New Zealand.

According to the civil rights coalition, overseas protesters strongly condemned the high-profile arrest of core committee member Shaukat Nawaz Mir, demanding his immediate release alongside all other arbitrarily detained activists, while chanting slogans of "Long Live Kashmir" and "Long Live the People" against the ongoing systemic repression.

The sweeping nature of this regional anger directly follows the high-profile detention of Shaukat Nawaz Mir, which has triggered a major spike in tensions across the occupied territory and drawn a fierce ultimatum from the JAAC.

In a post on X, the JAAC expressed deep resentment over the high-profile detention of its leadership, stating, "Ghulam is under their control. Shah is in captivity..." while

calling for immediate public action under the hashtag #ReleaseShoukatNawazMir.

Exposing the acute shortages, systemic cruelty, and desperate humanitarian crisis under Pakistani rule that fueled this uprising, video footage of Sardar Aman Khan, a core member of the Jammu Kashmir JAAC, has gone viral on social media.

Addressing a charged crowd in a widely shared clip, the timing of which is not mentioned, Khan explicitly pleaded, "To those in Mendhar, Poonch, Rajouri, Doda... we appeal to the people there. On this side, there is a shortage of rations, a shortage of medicines, and we need your help. We need your help."

Exposing the sheer desperation of the local population to escape Pakistani control, the JAAC leader called for an end to the borders and reached out across the divide, stating, "We want the end of the ceasefire line and we need your support. My appeal to the people, to the people on the other side, is that they should come forward. And as I said, the paths... if we have kept the door open for political dialogue..."

Slamming the high-handedness of Pakistani authorities, who have routinely used brute force to suppress civil rights movements in the occupied territory, Khan warned that the local population would no longer succumb to Islamabad's threats.

"If we have kept the path open, and if someone thinks that by hearing our 'weak knees', that we are trapped somewhere, then they are mistaken. No one is trapped. We will show you the paths, God willing. After this, you will see all the paths, we will show them to you, God willing. We will show you the way after that, where the paths lie," he told the cheering crowd.

In another viral video, Khan, in a direct challenge to the security apparatus, asked a gathering of protesters, "Should we step towards the ceasefire line or not? Tell me loudly, should we step forward or not?" to which the crowd loudly roared, "Yes!"

Turning to journalists and commentators, Khan shouted, "Writers, write this down! See this! And people, tell me more loudly, should we step towards the ceasefire line or not?" eliciting another thunderous "Yes!" from the public.

Issuing an explicit warning to the Pakistani regime over its violent crackdowns on peaceful dissent, the core JAAC member made it clear that the region is ready to retaliate against state-sponsored tyranny.

"That is why we say to them that on this Kashmiri spirit and political stance, if the response is bullets, then we also have options. Don't complain tomorrow, don't express regret tomorrow that you felt bad," Khan asserted.

Concluding his fiery address, Khan exposed the oppressive reality of living under Pakistani governance, declaring that locals would match Pakistan's cruelty measure for measure.

"We are not people according to your temperament. If you offer loyalty, we'll offer loyalty; if you offer cruelty, we'll offer cruelty. We are humans just like you. Whatever you do, we will do the same, God willing. There is nothing more to say than that. Well, friends, with that, overseas Kashmiris..."

In a separate video message released yesterday, Khan further

detailed the broader regional dimensions of the ongoing civilian movement under the current administrative overreach.

In the video message, Khan stated, "Through this message, I am addressing the people of the Kashmir Valley, specifically the people of Srinagar, the people of Baramulla, and all the surrounding districts. To the people of Poonch and the people of Mendhar. We are addressing the people of Rajouri, Jammu, Ladakh, Kargil, Gilgit-Baltistan, and the people across the entire state."

"As you are all aware, it has been nearly a month now that Kashmir (PoJK) has been under such influence and oppression. For demanding their basic rights, the cruelty, injustice, massacre, and military aggression committed against the people here have reached their peak." Jammu and Kashmir

"In this extremely difficult phase, our food supply routes are closed, our medicine routes are closed. Even on the act of breathing, the rulers and forces here are in such a rage, questioning why the people here are even breathing."

"In this time of hardship, we appeal to all the people, to those across the border, and especially to the people of Poonch, Mendhar, Rajouri, Jammu, the Valley, Ladakh, and Kargil. We have organised a protest on July 5, and we need the support of all of you. Certainly, you must come out, speak up for our rights, and raise your voice against this cruelty and injustice," he said.

To structurally manage this groundswell of public anger into an unprecedented public turnout against Pakistani rule, the JAAC issued a massive call for peaceful demonstrations across the region, aiming to gather half a million participants to demand fundamental rights.

Using its official handle on X, the committee laid out the demographic logic behind the massive uprising, listing the estimated population by district: "Estimated Population of PoJK by District: Muzaffarabad: 712,839; Neelum: 227,343; Jhelum Valley: 262,602; Bagh: 448,701; Haveli: 175,328; Poonch: 552,997; Sudhanoti: 316,456; Kotli: 809,712; Mirpur: 439,929; Bhimber: 442,968."

The JAAC further noted the collective strength of the heavily policed and disenfranchised local population, stating that the "Total Estimated Population: 4,388,875 (approximately 4.39 million)."

Making a detailed statistical case for a significant show of force, the committee declared, "If, on this day, July 5, 2026, at least 50,000 people come out from each of these 10 districts, the total number could reach 500,000 people."

Emphasising a strategic commitment to non-violence in the face of routinely brutal state responses to dissent, the JAAC urged the public, saying, "Come out peacefully for your rights. Hold a white flag, demonstrate discipline, and maintain peace."

The civil rights coalition stated that this massive, peaceful show of unity is designed to bypass heavy-handed censorship in PoJK and directly grab the attention of the global community to isolate the Pakistani regime's suppressive tactics.

"Send this message to the world that we are only demanding our rights, and our protest is completely

peaceful," the JAAC asserted, indicating a concerted effort to create an undeniable international incident.

This planned mobilization answers a series of heavy-handed actions by Pakistani authorities. On June 30, the JAAC sharply criticised Islamabad after a political delegation led by opposition leaders was reportedly stopped from entering PoJK, describing the move as further evidence of the state's suppression of democratic rights and political dissent.

Activists state that Pakistani forces are currently using drones for surveillance of the people's sit-in protests, prompting local leaders to call for a complete boycott of the local elections scheduled for July 27.

Prominent PoJK activist Amjad Ayub Mirza has raised grave concerns over the aggravating tensions, noting that the day normally used by Islamabad to falsely project regional solidarity has completely turned into a global platform for dissent.

"The situation in Pakistani-occupied Jammu and Kashmir is getting worse by the hour. After the arrest of the leader of Joint Awami Action Committee Shaukat Nawaz Mir, so far more than 600 workers and activists of the committee have been arrested..."

"...On 5th of July, that was usually celebrated or observed as Kashmir Solidarity Day, in the name of the people of Kashmir Valley, is now being observed against Pakistan. Not only in PoJK, but also there are thousands of people who are going to turn up in London on July 5 and protest against brutalities committed by Pakistan in Pakistani-occupied J&K," Mirza said. Tourist Destinations

This domestic public outcry coincides with severe global pushback against Islamabad's handling of local dissent. On July 2, the National Anti-Terrorism Front India staged a fierce protest outside the United Nations office, demanding immediate global intervention to address the escalating humanitarian crisis, reported killings, and systemic rights abuses.

Concurrently, global watchdog group Amnesty International strongly condemned Pakistan's heavy-handed tactics ahead of the upcoming regional elections.

Amnesty accused authorities of deploying violent measures to suppress peaceful political dissent and violate fundamental human rights, unlawfully designating the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) as a "proscribed organisation."

Amnesty fiercely criticised the ban on the civil rights coalition, labelling it a disproportionate attack on freedom of association and peaceful political activism as international pressure continues to mount against Islamabad.

Meanwhile, protests highlighting the state's severe clampdown have also surfaced internationally.

In Bradford, UK, during a cultural event attended by the Consul General of Pakistan in Bradford, Zahid Ahmed Khan, political activist from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), Mahmood Kashmiri, sharply criticised Pakistan over human rights violations in the region.

Interrupting the event, he raised his voice against the Pakistan Army, demanding it leave PoJK and end what he described as repression in the region. (Agencies)

Five cattle thieves arrested after police encounter in UP's Bulandshahr



BULANDSHAHR

Five people were arrested for allegedly attempting to steal buffaloes in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Sunday. Apart from those arrested, one accused is absconding, while another is undergoing treatment after sustaining injuries in retaliatory firing by the police.

Speaking to reporters, Circle Officer Deepak Kumar of Sikandrabad said: "On July 4, Gulaothi Police Station received information from an informer that some cattle thieves were planning to load buffaloes into a vehicle near the cattle market. Acting on the tip-off, the local police and SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team, which was already patrolling the

area, reached the spot."

"Seeing themselves surrounded, the suspects opened fire at the police. In retaliatory action, one accused sustained a bullet injury to his left leg. Apart from him, five other persons were arrested, while another accused managed to escape after opening fire. A search operation is underway to apprehend him. The injured accused was shifted to a primary health centre, where he is undergoing treatment," he said.

According to the police official, the primary interrogation has revealed that the arrested accused have a criminal record. "Previously, two other cases of cattle theft had been registered against them in different police stations. They have been indulging in such activities in

other districts as well," Deepak Kumar said.

He further said that more than a dozen cattle theft cases have been lodged against the injured accused.

The police have recovered an illegal firearm, a live cartridge, a pickup van and two buffaloes from the accused. Further investigation in the case is underway.

In a similar case, a fierce encounter had broken out between the police and a gang of notorious cattle thieves in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district in May, officials said.

Police officials said a substantial amount of cash, along with illegal firearms and ammunition, was recovered from the accused after the encounter.

According to police, personnel from the Jait Police Station were carrying out checking operations on suspicious vehicles and individuals linked to cattle smuggling in the area when they came across a suspected gang of cattle thieves.

Officials said that after noticing the police team, the accused initially attempted to flee from the spot. However, when they realised that they had been surrounded, they allegedly opened fire directly at the police personnel. The police team then retaliated in self-defence, leading to an exchange of gunfire during which three accused sustained bullet injuries in their legs and fell to the ground, officials said.

NTA urges NEET UG 2026 candidates to update bank details by July 7 for refund

NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Monday issued an important update regarding the NEET UG 2026 fee refund process, stating that only 8,29,510 candidates have so far updated or confirmed their bank account details on the official portal.

The agency cautioned that eligible candidates who fail to complete the process within the stipulated timeline may miss out on receiving their refunds.

According to the NTA, the deadline for updating or confirming bank account details for the NEET UG 2026 refund is July 7, 2026, until 11:50 p.m.

"Refunds have already started for candidates who have confirmed their bank account details. If your details need to be updated, you can do so until July 7, 2026, on the official NTA portal," the NTA said.

Candidates who have not yet submitted or verified their bank-

ing information have been advised to log in to the official NEET portal and complete the process at the earliest.

The agency further stated that the refund process has already begun for candidates who have successfully submitted and confirmed their bank account details.

Those who complete the update before the deadline will be included in the next phase of refund disbursements.

To complete the process, candidates are required to visit the official NEET UG website at neet.nta.nic.in and click on the link titled 'Final Opportunity to Confirm/Update Bank Account Details for NEET (UG) 2026 Fee Refund (Exam held on May 3, 2026)'.

After logging in using their credentials, candidates can access their dashboard, review the bank account details already provided, make any required corrections and submit the updated information.

KLA Steps Out of the Shadows: Inside the Alleged ISI Strategy to Revive Pakistan-Based Khalistani Networks

NEW DELHI

SYSTEM OBSERVER ANALYSIS

Indian security agencies believe the Khalistan Liberation Army (KLA) is entering a new operational phase after remaining largely out of public view for nearly two years. Intelligence assessments indicate that the group's low profile was not a sign of inactivity but part of a calculated strategy aimed at rebuilding its operational network while avoiding sustained attention from security agencies.

A Quiet Reorganisation Unlike Pakistan-based Khalistani outfits such as (BKI), (KZF) and (KLF), the KLA has rarely appeared in public claims of responsibility or propaganda campaigns over the past two years.

According to Indian security officials, the organisation deliberately remained in the background while operating through overlapping networks associated with the KLF. Officials assess that this approach enabled the group to strengthen recruitment, logistics and operational capabilities without attracting the same level of scrutiny faced by other Pakistan-based Khalistani organisations.

The KLA emerged as a breakaway faction of the KLF during the 1990s.

Security officials believe that historical connection has continued to blur operational identities, with several recent incidents in Punjab witnessing competing or overlapping claims attributed to both organisations. Investigators view this as a deliberate effort to complicate attribution rather than evidence of rivalry.

Expanding the Training Network

Recent intelligence inputs indicate that KLA cadres have been receiving specialised training alongside members of at camps reportedly operating in Mianwali, Chakwal and Kot Lakhpat in Pakistan.

Security agencies further assess that these facilities form part of a broader training infrastructure that includes specialised modules in explosives, weapons handling and narcotics-based financing. Intelligence reports have also linked facilities in Attock and Gujranwala to these activities, suggesting an integrated network supporting Pakistan-based Khalistani organisations.

Officials believe the infrastructure reflects increasing coordination between Khalistani groups and Pakistan-based terrorist

organisations, with training, logistics and operational planning becoming more structured than in previous years.

Low-Intensity Attacks, High Strategic Value

Indian security agencies view the series of low-intensity explosions reported in Punjab this year as part of a broader strategy designed to maintain pressure without triggering a large-scale security response.

Officials believe such incidents serve multiple objectives, including testing security preparedness, sustaining operational relevance and stretching investigative resources while larger networks continue to consolidate.

Incident records compiled by the show multiple low-intensity blast incidents across Punjab during the year, targeting public infrastructure and government installations. Security agencies consider these incidents consistent with an evolving pattern of coordinated activity.

Information Warfare

Investigators also point to the growing use of misinformation as part of the operational strategy.

In one recent instance, the KLA allegedly circulated

propaganda claiming casualties among personnel of the following an explosion near Jalandhar. Punjab Police subsequently rejected the casualty claims while continuing to investigate the involvement of Pakistan-backed elements.

Security officials say such propaganda is intended to amplify psychological impact, generate public uncertainty and exaggerate the operational success of militant networks.

The Emerging Challenge

Indian intelligence agencies assess that the KLA is no longer functioning as a peripheral organisation but is gradually positioning itself as an independent operational entity within the Pakistan-based Khalistani ecosystem.

Whether this transition results in higher-profile attacks or continued reliance on proxy networks remains under close watch. Security agencies have intensified surveillance of cross-border networks, financing channels and recruitment efforts amid concerns that the evolving structure could present a renewed security challenge in Punjab.

The coming months are expected to provide a clearer indication of whether the KLA formally emerges as a

leading operational outfit or continues to function through overlapping militant networks linked to Pakistan-based handlers.

Tiger kills farmer near Tadoba Buffer Zone in Chandrapur

A farmer was killed in a tiger attack on Monday afternoon in an area adjoining the buffer zone of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district, officials said.

Forest department officials said the deceased was identified as Raju Bhojar, a resident of Navegaon (Ramdegi) village in Chimur tehsil.

He was erecting a bamboo fence around his field to protect the crops when a tiger lying in wait suddenly attacked him at around 4 pm, killing him on the spot.

The incident triggered panic in the area. Local villagers immediately informed the forest department, following which officials rushed to the spot and initiated further procedures, including drawing up the panchnama.

Irreparable loss to world of art: Leaders express grief over Teejan Bai's demise



NEW DELHI

Leaders across party lines expressed deep sadness over the demise of Padma Vibhushan awardee and legendary Pandwani singer Teejan Bai, recalling her invaluable contributions to elevating Chhattisgarh's cultural identity onto an international level.

Teejan Bai passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Raipur on Sunday after battling a prolonged illness. According to the hospital officials, Teejan Bai breathed her last at 3.15 a.m. on Sunday. She had been undergoing treatment since May 27. Teejan Bai was suffering from severe lung infection, bloodstream infection (sepsis), and acute kidney injury.

Home Minister Amit Shah, taking to social media, paid his heartfelt tributes to Teejan Bai and expressed grief over her passing, calling it an "irreparable loss to the world of art".

"With her unique talent and dedication, she bestowed a distinct identity upon the Pandwani folk art form. Her contribution to the preservation of this Chhattisgarh folk art will forever remain memorable. May the departed soul find eternal peace at the divine lotus feet, and may God grant strength to the bereaved family and her admirers to bear this sorrow," the Home Minister said.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai visited AIIMS Raipur upon learning about the sad news and paid his last respects to the legendary singer.

"The news of the demise of Dr Teejan Bai Ji, the immortal bard of Chhattisgarh's folk culture, recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, and world-

renowned Pandwani artist, is extremely heartbreaking. Her passing is not only an irreplaceable loss for the world of folk arts but also for the entire cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh and the whole nation," CM Sai said in a post on X.

"Through her unique singing style, extraordinary talent, and preservation of folk traditions, she elevated Chhattisgarh's cultural identity onto the global stage. Her unparalleled contribution will forever remain memorable. I pray to Lord Shri Ram that He grant a place at His divine feet to the departed noble soul and bestow strength and solace upon the bereaved family, countless admirers, and the entire folk arts community to bear this profound sorrow," he added.

The Chief Minister also announced that the state government will perform her last rites with full state honours.

Chhattisgarh Minister Kedar Kashyap also took to X and condoled the death of Teejan Bai.

"Chhattisgarh's folk culture has today lost its most resounding voice. The passing of Teejan Bai Ji, the Padma Vibhushan-honoured practitioner of Pandwani, is an irreparable loss to the state's cultural heritage. She bestowed a new identity upon Chhattisgarh's folk traditions and Pandwani on the global stage through her extraordinary art," he added.

Paying tributes, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the demise of the legendary Pandwani singer is "extremely heartbreaking".

"Through her exceptional talent, powerful expression, and dedication to music, she elevated Chhattisgarh's rich folk tra-

dition 'Pandwani' to new heights. Her contribution to the preservation and promotion of Indian folk art and cultural heritage is unforgettable. I pray to Maa Danteshwari to grant the departed soul a place at her divine feet and provide strength to the grieving family and her admirers to bear this immense sorrow," the UP Chief Minister added.

UP Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, in a post on X, expressed grief over the passing of Teejan Bai and said, "With her exceptional talent and dedicated practice, she took Chhattisgarh's 'Pandwani' folk tradition to every household, thereby bestowing new prestige upon Indian folk culture."

He said that Teejan Bai's contribution to the preservation and promotion of folk culture will "forever remain an inspiration".

Senior Congress leader and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that the demise of the "invaluable gem of Chhattisgarh", Teejan Bai, is a "profound loss to the art and culture" of India.

"Through her singing, she kept the Pandwani art form vibrantly alive and brought glory to Chhattisgarh on the global stage. Today, we all pay our heartfelt tribute to her. May God grant peace to her soul and strength to her family and admirers," Baghel said in a post on X.

Chhattisgarh Congress chief Deepak Baij, taking to social media, said, "The invaluable heritage of Chhattisgarh, the great Pandwani singer and Padma Vibhushan awardee, the passing of Smt. Teejan Bai Ji is an irreplaceable loss not only for Chhattisgarh but for the entire nation's world of art and culture."

The 70-year-old folk icon was widely regarded as one of the greatest exponents of Pandwani — a Chhattisgarh-based folk singing style involving narration of tales from the ancient Indian epic Mahabharata.

Born in 1956 in Ganiyari village near Bhilai in Chhattisgarh, Teejan Bai rose from humble beginnings to become an internationally acclaimed artist. She popularised Pandwani, a traditional folk art form of Chhattisgarh in which stories from the Mahabharata are narrated through powerful singing and dramatic performance.

Her unique style, marked by deep emotion and energetic delivery while seated on stage, brought this lesser-known folk tradition to the global stage.

Over her illustrious career, Teejan Bai received some of India's highest civilian honours, including the Padma Shri in 1988, Padma Bhushan in 2003, and Padma Vibhushan in 2019. She was also conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1995 and several other prestigious recognitions for her immense contribution to Indian folk culture.

Gujarat ATS Arrests Eight in Alleged Jaish-e-Mohammed Sleeper Module Case

AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested eight persons for allegedly operating a sleeper module linked to the banned terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The accused are alleged to have been spreading the organisation's ideology, attempting to build a network in Gujarat and preparing the groundwork for terrorist activities, according to ATS officials.

The arrests were made during coordinated raids in Banaskantha, Patan, Mehsana and Navsari districts of Gujarat, while one accused was apprehended from Dewas in Madhya Pradesh. The operation was carried out by multiple ATS teams with the assistance of district police and Special Operations Group personnel.

The ATS has registered a case under relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, including charges relating to unlawful activities, criminal conspiracy, membership of a terrorist organisation and providing support to a banned outfit.

According to the ATS, the investigation began after intelligence inputs indicated that certain individuals from north Gujarat had allegedly come into contact with Jaish-e-Mohammed operatives and were attempting to expand the outfit's influence in the state. Investigators conducted technical surveillance and gathered human intelligence for several weeks before carrying out simultaneous raids.

The eight arrested have been identified as Ahmed Abdullah Gajiwala alias Abu Ubaida, Ibrahim

Mohammad Husen Ghagha alias Abu Hamza, Mudassir Abdullah Ghaziwala alias Abu Aya, Zakariya Durani Mohammad Ammar Ghagha alias Ibn Ammar, Mufti Faujan Ismail Dauwa alias Mufti Sahab, Mohammad Amin Shera alias Amin Palanpuri, Mohammad Abdul Rahman Savdi alias Mohammad Palanpuri alias Abu Unisa, and Bilal Durani Mohammad Ammar Ghagha alias Abu Dujana, who was arrested from Dewas.

During the investigation, the ATS alleged that the accused had received financial assistance from Jaish-e-Mohammed handlers and had used part of the money to purchase a second-hand vehicle. Officials also claimed to have recovered books attributed to JeM founder Masood Azhar, Urdu letters, a hand-made JeM flag and digital material allegedly containing extremist content. Investigators further alleged that some of the seized material included Gujarati translations of JeM literature intended to aid recruitment and propaganda. These claims are part of the ongoing investigation and are yet to be tested in court.

The ATS has also alleged that the accused maintained contact with Pakistan-based handlers through encrypted and social media platforms. Officials said the investigation is continuing to establish the full extent of the network, identify additional associates and trace the alleged funding trail.

All eight accused were produced before a court in Kadi, Mehsana district, which remanded them to 14 days of ATS custody for further investigation.

Shiv Sena (UBT) to hold 'Ram Raksha' protest in Mumbai today over Ram Temple funds embezzlement row

MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT), led by party chief Uddhav Thackeray, will launch a statewide agitation on Sunday with a 'Ram Raksha' protest in Mumbai's Dadar area, alleging misappropriation of funds, donations and offerings at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Addressing a press conference at his residence, Uddhav Thackeray accused the BJP of failing to ensure accountability over donations made by devotees at the Ram Temple. He alleged that money offered by devotees had been "robbed" and demanded transparency regarding the management of temple funds.

The protest is scheduled to be held near the Hanuman Temple at Dadar Kabutar Khana, where Thackeray will personally lead party leaders and Shiv Sainiks in

reciting the Ram Raksha Stotra, Hanuman Stotra and Hanuman Chalisa.

Extending an open invitation to the public, Thackeray urged citizens to participate irrespective of political affiliation.

"I invite every Hindu who cannot tolerate this theft in the house of Lord Ram. This is for everyone who hasn't abandoned Hindutva or the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray. We will gather to recite the Ram Raksha Stotra, Hanuman Stotra, and Hanuman Chalisa," he said.

The agitation comes at a politically challenging time for the Shiv Sena (UBT), which has witnessed a series of setbacks, including the defection of six Members of Parliament to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the recent exit of senior party leader and close aide Sachin Ahir.

Will always be remembered for dedication to public service: PM Modi on Ram Vilas Paswan's birth anniversary



NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on his birth anniversary on Sunday, recalling his contributions to the upliftment of weaker and deprived sections of society.

Ram Vilas Paswan, born on July 5, 1946, in Bihar's Khagaria, was the founder of the Lok Janshakti Party and served as a member of both Houses — nine times in Lok Sabha and twice in Rajya Sabha.

He served as the Cabinet Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in the first two terms of the Modi government.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "On the birth anniversary of former Union Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji, my heartfelt tribute to him. He made signifi-

cant contributions to the upliftment of society's deprived and weaker sections. He will always be remembered for his dedication to public service and national service."

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister, Ram Vilas Paswan's son and Union Minister Chirag Paswan said, "On the birth anniversary of the founder of the party, my leader, my father, the revered Padma Bhushan Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji, heartfelt thanks to you for paying homage to him, Honourable Prime Minister ji."

"Your respectful words are an inspiration to all of us. The ideals of social justice, service, and equality of the revered Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji will forever continue to guide us," the LJP (RV) chief added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, taking to X, said, "Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji's entire life was dedicated to the welfare of

the poor. During the Emergency, he waged a long struggle to protect democratic values and civil rights, enduring numerous tortures. His contributions to democracy and nation-building will forever remain a source of inspiration. On the birth anniversary of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji, I offer millions of salutations to him."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also paid homage to Ram Vilas Paswan on his birth anniversary, and said, "His entire public life was dedicated to social justice, democratic values, and the struggle for the rights of Dalits, backward classes, and the deprived. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji always placed human sensitivities above all and made continuous efforts to ensure that, in the policy-making process as well, the person standing in the last row of society also receives justice, opportunity, and respect. I bow to his memory."

Meanwhile, the birth anniversary of the late Ram Vilas Paswan, founder of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and former Union Minister, will be celebrated with great reverence and enthusiasm on Sunday across Bihar.

A grand ceremony will be held at the party's state office in Patna to mark the occasion. This will be attended by party office-bearers and workers from various districts of Bihar.

Speaking to the media, Utsav Seth, the Youth District Working President of LJP (RV), stated that 35 to 40 workers from the party's youth wing in Gaya district would travel to Patna to participate in the event.

He further mentioned that banners and posters have been put up at various locations across Gaya city to mark the birth anniversary, and party workers will organise tribute programs to pay their respects to the late Ram Vilas Paswan.

'Extremely heartbreaking': Prez Murmu on passing of Pandwani singer Teejan Bai

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said that the passing of Padma Vibhushan awardee and legendary Pandwani singer Teejan Bai is "extremely heartbreaking", while adding that her "invaluable contributions" to India's cultural heritage will always be remembered.

Teejan Bai passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Raipur on Sunday after battling a prolonged illness. According to the hospital officials, Teejan Bai breathed her last at 3.15 a.m. on Sunday. She had been undergoing treatment since May 27. Teejan Bai was suffering from severe lung infection, bloodstream infection (sepsis), and acute kidney injury.

Taking to X, President Murmu said, "The news of the demise of the renowned Pandavani artist Smt. Teejan Bai ji is extremely heartbreaking. With her powerful voice, commanding presence, and unique style of presentation, she brought the tales of the Mahabharata to life on stage."

"Through her exceptional talent, dedication, and years of rigorous practice, she brought recognition to Chhattisgarh's rich Pandavani tradition both in India and abroad. Her invaluable contribution to the dissemination of India's

cultural heritage will remain memorable. I extend my deepest condolences to her loved ones and admirers," the President added.

The 70-year-old folk icon was widely regarded as one of the greatest exponents of Pandwani — a Chhattisgarh-based folk singing style involving narration of tales from the ancient Indian epic Mahabharata.

Born in 1956 in Ganiyari village near Bhilai in Chhattisgarh, Teejan Bai rose from humble beginnings to become an internationally acclaimed artist. She popularised Pandwani, a traditional folk art form of Chhattisgarh in which stories from the Mahabharata are narrated through powerful singing and dramatic performance.

Her unique style, marked by deep emotion and energetic delivery while seated on stage, brought this lesser-known folk tradition to the global stage.

Over her illustrious career, Teejan Bai received some of India's highest civilian honours, including the Padma Shri in 1988, Padma Bhushan in 2003, and Padma Vibhushan in 2019. She was also conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1995 and several other prestigious recognitions for her immense contribution to Indian folk culture.

Govt withdraws emergency natural gas supply curbs as Strait of Hormuz LNG shipments resume

NEW DELHI

The Centre has withdrawn most provisions of the emergency natural gas supply regulation order introduced during the West Asia conflict, citing the resumption of liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments through the Strait of Hormuz following a ceasefire and an improvement in the regional supply situation.

In an official notification, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas amended the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026, removing key operational provisions that had empowered the government to regulate the allocation of domestically produced natural gas and imported LNG according to a priority customer list.

The ministry said the situation in West Asia has improved significantly, with a ceasefire in place, negotiations underway and maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz resuming. The restoration of shipping through the strategic waterway has eased concerns over fuel and gas supplies to India.

The emergency gas supply regulations were introduced under the Essential Commodities Act after the conflict in West Asia disrupted LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. The disruption followed military hostilities involving the United States, Israel and Iran, prompting some LNG suppliers to invoke force majeure and divert cargoes, raising concerns over India's gas availability.

Nitin Nabin meets NDA allies, discusses strategy for 2027 UP Assembly polls

LUCKNOW

BJP National President Nitin Nabin on Sunday held a series of meetings with leaders of NDA allies during the second day of his visit to Lucknow, with discussions focused on strengthening alliances and preparations for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Nitin Nabin met Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) president Om Prakash Rajbhar, Uttar Pradesh minister Ashish Patel, and Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) General Secretary Trilok Tyagi. According to party sources, he spent around 10 minutes with each leader and heard their suggestions on organisational and electoral matters.

During the meeting, the leaders of the allies presented their suggestions. According to sources, Nitin Nabin said that the BJP and its allies would pri-

oritize strongest and winning candidates in an effort to secure victory in the 2027 Assembly elections.

The BJP leadership believes that in view of the 2027 elections, the organization will be further strengthened down to the booth level and the election strategy will be finalized by establishing better coordination with all NDA allies.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Nishad, Rajbhar and Patel said there was no discussion on seat-sharing arrangements. They said the talks centred on strategies for ensuring the NDA's victory in the next Assembly election.

The BJP leadership believes that, with an eye on the 2027 polls, the party organisation needs to be strengthened down to the booth level, while closer coordination with NDA partners will be crucial in finalising the alliance's election strategy.

Later in the day, BJP leader

Aparna Yadav also met Nabin. During the meeting, he expressed condolences on the death of her husband, Prateek Yadav. The BJP President met with former state presidents of the BJP and discussed in detail the organization's experiences, organizational strength, and preparations for the 2027 assembly elections.

He reviewed the political landscape of Uttar Pradesh and discussed caste equations and electoral dynamics.

He is scheduled to have lunch at the residence of Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak. In the evening, he will have tea with Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya. He will also visit Bharti Bhawan, the RSS office in Lucknow, and hold discussions with Sangh officials.

BJP president will leave for Delhi this evening after attending other programmes.



EDITORIAL

WHEN SILENCE BECOMES THE STORY



AVINASH BASSAN

Nine days into his indefinite hunger strike, Sonam Wangchuk's protest has moved beyond symbolism. According to the latest medical bulletin, he has lost nearly 6.9 kilograms,

while his blood pressure and blood glucose continue to be closely monitored. The larger sit-in at Jantar Mantar has now entered its seventeenth day, yet the Union government has maintained public silence on the protesters' principal demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities.

At the heart of the agitation lies a larger question than one minister's political future. Public examinations determine the aspirations of millions of young Indians.

Allegations of repeated paper leaks and administrative failures have shaken confidence in a system that is expected to reward merit alone. Whether or not individual allegations ultimately withstand scrutiny, restoring trust in the integrity of competitive examinations has become an urgent national responsibility.

Wangchuk's participation has also broadened the movement's moral appeal. Long associated with environmental protection and constitutional safeguards for Ladakh, he has framed the issue as one of public

accountability rather than partisan politics. His deteriorating health has shifted attention from the protest's slogans to the government's response.

In a democracy, disagreement is inevitable, but prolonged official silence during a peaceful protest carries its own consequences. Governments are not obliged to accept every demand placed before them. They are, however, expected to engage, explain their position and reassure citizens that their concerns are being heard.

The Centre still has

an opportunity to reduce tensions through transparent dialogue and credible institutional action on examination reforms. Delay only deepens public scepticism and raises the human cost of the protest.

No democratic government benefits when trust erodes. Equally, no public movement should have to depend on a hunger strike to secure a meaningful response. Institutions command respect not through silence, but through accountability, transparency and timely action.

A life devoted to India's unity and progress

NARENDRA MODI

Today, July 6, is a special day for countless people who cherish the ideals of nationalism and selfless service. We commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, whose life remains a timeless example of courage and unwavering commitment to Maa Bharti. Few leaders in modern India embodied the seamless confluence of intellect, public service, and moral conviction as profoundly as Dr. Mookerjee.

The young Syama Prasad was born into circumstances that could easily have assured him a protected and comfortable life. His father, Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, was among the foremost educationists and intellectuals of his age. Yet, while destiny placed before him a path of privilege, his conscience led him towards one of sacrifice and national service. He was convinced that he could not remain a mute spectator to the turbulence of his times, be it fighting colonialism, communalism, humanitarian challenges or more. Along this journey, he endured profound personal tragedies, including the loss of an infant child and, later, his wife. Yet, these tragedies only deepened his resolve and strengthened his unwavering commitment to serve.

If there was one ideal that defined Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's public life above all else, it was the indivisibility of India. He stood firm during the upheaval of Partition to ensure that West Bengal remained an integral part of India. A few years later, that very conviction drew him to Jammu and Kashmir. Imprisonment did not deter him and isolation did not diminish him. His life came to an abrupt end in detention, far from the countless people whose cause he had made his own. There are moments in history when an individual's final sacrifice transcends politics and enters the realm of national memory. Dr. Mookerjee's

last journey remains one such moment. Acharya Vinoba Bhave said that Dr. Mookerjee sacrificed himself for a cause in which he had faith. Years later, the revocation of Articles 370 and 35(A) in 2019 was the most fitting tribute to his martyrdom.

Dr. Mookerjee put India first and Indian values first. And he did it by building institutions and nurturing systems that defied conventional mindsets of those times. He became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta. In his unique style, he brought positive changes that were patriotic and futuristic. Addressing a conference of educators, Dr. Mookerjee put it wonderfully when he said, "It is incorrect to look upon educational institutions as factories to produce potential clerks and low-paid staff. We have to turn out students who are capable of providing leadership to our self-governing institutions, such as municipal corporations, provincial and central legislatures, and also of directing the affairs in various fields of life such as financial, commercial and industrial ones."

Under his leadership, Calcutta University undertook unique efforts such as improving library infrastructure, boosting research in sciences, encouraging the study of artefacts and establishing courses in agriculture, to name a few. He drew attention to areas such as sports, teacher training, and student welfare. To instil a sense of pride among students and alumni, he began a practice of marking January 24 as the foundation day of the University. He requested none other than Gurudev Tagore to compose a song for the University.

Alternative voice

Yet another example of this spirit can be seen in the later part of his life, when he decided to form the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. At a time when the Congress party was omnipresent, he felt that there was all the more reason for an alternative

voice to speak up for India's progress while staying attached to our cultural roots. It was perhaps fitting that the party's symbol was the Diya, the earthen lamp. A single lamp may appear modest, yet it possesses the power to dispel darkness far beyond itself. It is exactly what the Jana Sangh did both during the years it was active and beyond.

Dr. Mookerjee's tenure as India's first Minister for Industry and Supply reveals a statesman whose conception of development was remarkably comprehensive and humane. He viewed industry as a means of restoring dignity, opportunity and confidence to a newly independent nation. He respected wealth creation and value addition. While laying the foundations of modern industrial India through pioneering initiatives such as the Damodar Valley Corporation, the Sindri fertilizer plant and a robust industrial policy, he simultaneously ensured that India's traditional strengths were not neglected. Handlooms, cottage industries, artisans, and textile workers found in him an equally committed champion.

Here, I would like to share a personal experience. The Sindri plant, which Dr. Mookerjee worked to establish with a clear vision of self-reliance, was ignored by those who ran the nation for several decades. I feel honoured that our government had the opportunity to contribute to its revival. It was indeed among the most special moments to have been there for that programme.

India's civilisational tradition has long celebrated dialogue and discussions. Dr. Mookerjee embodied this democratic spirit. He joined Pandit Nehru's Cabinet, believing that the task of nation-building in the early years transcended political differences. He served with sincerity and a constructive spirit. But when he felt that questions of national importance demanded a different course, he relinquished office with dignity

and devoted himself wholeheartedly to the political work he believed the nation required.

Pandit Nehru brought the First Amendment 75 years ago which was a direct assault on free speech. Dr. Mookerjee was among its staunchest critics. He understood fully what the Congress was capable of doing. And he was proven right. Those who brought the First Amendment 75 years ago imposed the Emergency in 1975 and 50 years ago, brought in the 42nd Amendment Act, which again struck at the core of liberal democratic values.

Humanitarian efforts

Dr. Mookerjee also stood out for his humanitarian efforts. When the most tragic famine struck Bengal in 1943, Dr. Mookerjee immersed himself in serving those affected. He ensured that several canteens and relief centres were opened to feed people. On the one hand, he was deeply shaken by the plight of his people while on the other, he was repulsed by the insensitivity of the colonial rulers. He even wrote a book, Panchasher Manwantar, in which he expressed his angst. When a supercyclone hit Medinipur in 1942, his efforts to restore normalcy were widely lauded.

Speaking at a college in Kolkata, Dr. Mookerjee urged the youth, "Whatever work you undertake, do it seriously, thoroughly and well; never leave it half-done or undone, never feel yourself satisfied unless and until you have given it your very best." As India advances towards the goal of a Viksit Bharat, the finest tribute we can pay him is to strive every day to build the strong, united, self-confident and compassionate India that he so deeply believed in. And knowing today's youth, I am certain they will rise to the occasion and do exactly that.

**The author is the Prime Minister of India
Courtesy:- The Hindu**

Women's T20 WC: Mandhana, Perry among Player of the Tournament nominees

DUBAI

Australia's Ellyse Perry, England opener Danni Wyatt-Hodge, India's Smriti Mandhana, and South Africa all-rounder Marizanne Kapp have been shortlisted for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Player of the Tournament award after standout campaigns across the competition.

The four nominees have been instrumental in their respective teams' fortunes, with finalists Australia and England accounting for two of the contenders, while Mandhana and Kapp earned recognition despite their sides falling short of the title clash.

Ellyse Perry (Australia)

Perry has enjoyed another stellar ICC event, scoring 185 runs at an average of 46.25 and claiming four wickets at 7.50. The veteran all-rounder collected three Player of the Match awards during Australia's unbeaten march to the final, beginning with an all-round display against Bangladesh, where she picked up two wickets before finishing unbeaten on 19.



The 35-year-old followed that with successive half-centuries against Pakistan and India, helping Australia maintain a perfect record and secure a place in Sunday's final.

Danni Wyatt-Hodge (England)

England's Danni Wyatt-Hodge heads into the final as the tournament's leading

run-scorer, amassing 294 runs at an impressive average of 73.5. Her campaign began spectacularly with a century against Sri Lanka in the opening match before she added two more half-centuries to power England into the title decider.

Wyatt-Hodge has also provided consistently brisk starts for the hosts, striking

at 152.33 throughout the tournament.

Smriti Mandhana (India)

India's Smriti Mandhana is the lone nominee from a side that failed to reach the semi-finals. The left-handed opener scored 205 runs at an average of 41, including back-to-back fifties against Pakistan and the Netherlands to launch

India's campaign in style.

Mandhana also contributed a fluent 38 against Australia in a must-win final group-stage fixture, though India eventually fell short of securing a semi-final berth.

Marizanne Kapp (South Africa)

Completing the shortlist is South Africa's Marizanne Kapp, whose all-round contributions once again proved invaluable for the Proteas. Kapp scored 124 runs at an average of 14.37 during South Africa's run to the semi-finals.

Her defining performance came against India, where she claimed two wickets before steering South Africa's chase with an unbeaten 81 to keep her side's knockout hopes alive. The experienced all-rounder also showcased remarkable consistency with the ball, taking at least one wicket in every match except South Africa's group-stage fixture against the Netherlands.

The winner of the Player of the Tournament award will be announced following Sunday's Women's T20 World Cup final between England and Australia at Lord's.

2026 FIFA WC: Mbappe penalty takes France past Paraguay into quarterfinals



PHILADELPHIA

Kylian Mbappé scored his seventh goal of the 2026 edition, slotting home from the penalty spot as two-time winner France overcame Paraguay 1-0 to set up a quarterfinal meeting with Morocco at the FIFA World Cup, remaining on course for another title.

Mbappé scored the only goal of the Round of 16 match in the second half from a penalty to settle an attritional contest at the Philadelphia Stadium, moving level with Lionel Messi on goals but leading on assists in the race for the 2026 Golden Boot. The goal also moved France forward one behind Argentina's all-time World Cup tally of 20. This was Mbappé's record-extending 11th World Cup knockout-stage goal, while becoming the first player to score in the Round of 16 in three successive tournaments.

But it was not an easy outing for France, as was expected, as their opponents played physically.

Having stunned Germany on penalties to reach the Round of 16,

Paraguay effectively shut up shop in a frustrating first half for France, whose players returned to their base with a few bruises on their bodies.

The Les Bleus dominated possession on Saturday night, but struggled to break down La Albirroja's disciplined defence, with their efforts limited to speculative attempts from distance and none troubling goalkeeper Orlando Gill.

France began to make inroads after the restart, with Ousmane Dembele firing into the side netting following a quickly taken corner. As the pressure mounted, Gill had to dive full stretch to keep out Manu Kone's powerful long-range effort.

Paraguay's resistance was finally broken in the 69th minute after Desire Doué was adjudged to have been upended in the penalty area following a VAR review. Mbappé calmly dispatched the resultant spot-kick, sending Gill the wrong way to punch his team's ticket to the last eight.

"We knew what kind of match to expect. I think it was really good for us to experience a game like that

and to see how we handled it. We showed that we're not just a team capable of playing attacking football. Every team uses its own strengths – there's no right or wrong way to play. The only right way is to win. Now we have to focus on Morocco. We're really looking forward to facing them because we know they're a very good team," said Mbappé after the match.

France head coach Didier Deschamps praised his side for remaining focused despite their opponent's tactics in this match.

"It wasn't easy. If we'd taken one of our chances late in the game, it would have been a much more comfortable finish. Paraguay used every

trick in the book. It's not necessarily the kind of football people enjoy watching, but we stayed focused, and that's not easy to do. They're a physical side, and they defend very well. It's another important step forward. It's always difficult against South American teams, but I'm delighted that the players got the job done. We're into the quarterfinals, and we have to enjoy that," said Deschamps.

France, who won the title in 1998 and 2018 and ended up as runners-up in 2006 and 2022, will next face Morocco, who knocked out co-hosts Canada in the opening last-16 tie, at the Boston Stadium on July 9.

Wimbledon: Madison Keys stuns Anisimova to reach fourth round

LONDON

No. 26 seed Madison Keys continued her outstanding grass-court form with a superb comeback victory over 2025 Wimbledon finalist Amanda Anisimova, winning 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 on Saturday to book her place in the fourth round at the All England Club.

Following her title success in Eastbourne just a few weeks ago, Keys extended her winning run to 10 matches, reaching the Wimbledon Round of 16 for the sixth time in her career. The win also represented her 30th career Wimbledon main draw victory and also served as revenge for the only loss she had suffered against Anisimova, which was at the 2025 WTA Finals in Riyadh where Anisimova came back from a set down to beat her.

The American needed one hour and 40 minutes to take her turn in coming back from a set down on Centre Court. In the previous round Anisimova had put immense faith in her serve to defeat Sofia Kenin, but today it simply deserted her. The sixth seed committed seven double faults against Keys having just committed eight combined in her previous two matches and, after hitting a costly double fault on break point in the second set, which helped fuel Keys' turnaround, she was unable to contain her opponent, with the former Australian Open champion dominating the remaining two sets with her powerful baseline game, continuing her tremendous grass court form.

The result opened up the bottom half of the women's singles draw, even further after the shock departures of No.2 seed Elena Rybakina and No.3 seed Iga Swiatek earlier in the day. Keys will next play No.9 seed Linda Noskova for a place in the Wimbledon quarter-finals after the Czech also fought back from a set down in spectacular style to save a match point, as well as overcoming No.17 seed Sorana Cirstea 2-6 6-3 7-6(9).

Diljit Dosanjh's 'Satluj' becomes unavailable on ZEE5 just 2 days after its release



Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh's long-delayed film "Punjab '95", which released in India on streaming service ZEE5 under a new title "Satluj", has become unavailable on the platform just two days later.

The film, based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, was stuck in censorship for over three years.

The Honey Trehan-directed movie was released without any cuts on Friday, but on Sunday evening the platform shared a statement to inform viewers that it's no longer available in India.

"In light of the current developments, 'Satluj' will be unavailable in India until further notice. We remain

committed to exploring every appropriate avenue through due process to bring the film back to our audiences at the earliest opportunity," the streamer said in a statement.

The OTT platform said the response to 'Satluj' since its release has been truly overwhelming.

"We are deeply grateful to every viewer who chose to subscribe, watch and champion the film. Your love and support have meant a great deal to us and to everyone who brought this story to life. At ZEE5, we stand firmly by 'Satluj' and the creative vision behind it. We believe powerful storytelling has the ability to inspire, endure and leave a lasting impact," it further said.

In the movie, Dosanjh essays the

role of Khalra, who investigated the cremation of thousands of unidentified bodies in Punjab during a 10-year period from 1984 to 1994, before disappearing in 1995.

In 2005, four Punjab Police personnel were convicted for his abduction and murder and sentenced to seven years in prison. Two years later, the Punjab and Haryana High Court enhanced their sentence to life imprisonment.

In 2023, the movie was scheduled to have its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) but was removed from the line-up without any official statement from the organisers.

The social drama had run into trouble with the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), which had reportedly asked for an unprecedented 127 cuts. The delay in getting a clearance from the censor board forced the makers to postpone planned releases.

With its earlier title of "Punjab '95", the movie was slated for a worldwide release on February 7, 2025, without any cuts, except in India. But that release also did not happen.

In an earlier statement, Dosanjh expressed gratitude to the OTT platform for releasing the movie.

"Our film, 'Satluj', is a story of conviction, courage, and humanity, and portraying this character has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my career. I'm grateful that audiences across the world can finally watch the film on Zee 5 and connect with a story that is both

deeply personal and truly a must-watch for all...

"Bhai Jaswant Singh Khalra ji's martyrdom and his contribution to humanity were the primary reasons I chose to be a part of this film. When I first heard the script, it moved me deeply, as it is rooted in the lived experiences, struggles, and sacrifices of real people. As an artist, opportunities to be part of such meaningful stories are rare," the actor said.

Trehan said his intention was to make the film with honesty, sensitivity and without compromise.

"After a long wait, audiences will finally witness our labour of love and hard work. 'Satluj' is not just the story of one individual; it is a tribute to the strength of human spirit in the face of adversity.

"Everyone associated with the film deeply believed in the importance of this narrative, as it draws inspiration from the life of the great martyr Jaswant Singh. I'm delighted that it is now reaching audiences on Zee 5," he said.

In a separate statement to Variety, the filmmaker said the film is available on ZEE5 in its original form without "any cuts or compromises".

The film is produced by Trehan, Abhishek Chaubey and Ronnie Screwvala, under the banners MacGuffin Pictures and RSVP.

It also features Arjun Rampal, Kanwaljit Singh, Suvinder Vicky and Geetika Vidya Ohlyan in key roles.

Welcome To The Jungle Movie Review: Akshay Kumar Leads A Crazy, Crowd-Pleasing Entertainer That Brings Back The Joy Of Watching Comedies In Theatres

There was a time when Bollywood regularly produced big, unapologetic comedy entertainers that families could watch together. Films weren't trying to preach, surprise audiences with complicated twists or leave behind social messages. They existed for one simple reason—to make people laugh. Welcome To The Jungle embraces exactly that philosophy, and that's what makes it work.

Director Ahmed Khan doesn't try to reinvent the Welcome franchise. Instead, he understands its DNA and amplifies it. The laughs are bigger, the cast is bigger, the scale is grander and the madness is turned up several notches. The result is a film that knows exactly what it wants to be—and rarely loses sight of it.

The story itself is delightfully ridiculous. A billionaire comes up with an absurd plan to convert his black money into losses by deliberately producing a flop film. To execute this bizarre mission, he assembles a film full of struggling stars, forgotten heroes and eccentric personalities. Among them are Yeda Anna (Suniel Shetty), the brother of Anna from the Welcome universe, and Romeo (Arshad Warsi), Majnu's equally eccentric brother. Just when the production begins, an Income Tax raid wipes out the financier's money, forcing the crew to abandon the

expensive setup and continue the shoot in a remote village with real people—while the actors remain blissfully convinced that everything happening around them is part of the script. From there, the film spirals into complete comic chaos involving mistaken identities, fake heroics, terrorists, villagers and nonstop confusion.

If there is one actor who reminds audiences why he has ruled Bollywood comedy for decades, it is Akshay Kumar. This is comfortably one of his strongest comic performances in recent years. His expressions, dialogue delivery, body language and effortless timing hold the enormous ensemble together without trying to dominate it. He lets the humour breathe and trusts the situations to generate laughs.

Suniel Shetty is undoubtedly one of the film's biggest surprises. His Yeda Anna is wonderfully eccentric and consistently entertaining, delivering several laugh-out-loud moments. Arshad Warsi slips into the franchise's familiar madness with ease, while Lara Dutta, as the Army trainer preparing the clueless actors, adds another enjoyable layer to the comedy.

The supporting cast is where the film truly shines. Veterans like Paresh Rawal, Johnny Lever and Rajpal Yadav prove once again why

they remain among Hindi cinema's finest comic performers. But the film's biggest scene-stealers are undoubtedly Farida Jalal and Kiran Kumar. Every single time they appear on screen, the theatre erupts in laughter. Farida Jalal's delightfully confused character, speaking in her own hilarious gibberish language, becomes one of the film's biggest highlights. Kiran Kumar matches her brilliantly with his exaggerated, heavily Urdu-laced dialogues delivered with complete conviction. Their chemistry, impeccable comic timing and effortless performances produce some of the loudest laughs in the film.

There's another emotional layer that longtime Bollywood lovers will instantly appreciate. Watching Akshay Kumar reunite with Suniel Shetty and Raveena Tandon brings back memories of an era when entertainers were built around fun rather than formulas. Thankfully, these reunions never feel forced. They blend naturally into the narrative while allowing the film to create its own identity instead of living entirely on nostalgia.

Managing such a massive ensemble is never easy, yet Ahmed Khan deserves credit for ensuring almost every actor gets at least one memorable moment. Despite featuring dozens of familiar faces, the screenplay rarely

feels overcrowded. The humour constantly shifts between situational comedy, visual gags, witty one-liners, misunderstandings and complete comic mayhem, ensuring the energy rarely drops. The adventure angle also gives the franchise a refreshing twist. Instead of repeating the exact template of the earlier films, Welcome To The Jungle expands its canvas with larger action set pieces and a more adventurous narrative while still retaining the flavour that fans associate with the franchise. Visually, the film looks colourful and vibrant. The production design suits the exaggerated world perfectly, while the songs arrive naturally without disturbing the pace. The background score effectively enhances both the comic situations and the action sequences.

What deserves appreciation is that the film never pretends to be more intelligent than it is. It doesn't chase awards, social commentary or emotional manipulation. It simply focuses on entertaining its audience for over two hours—and judging by the laughter echoing through the auditorium, it succeeds.

Welcome To The Jungle is designed for the big-screen experience. Many jokes become funnier because they are enjoyed collectively. The whistles, applause and laughter inside a packed theatre

become an extension of the film itself. That's something no OTT platform can replicate. Directed by Ahmed Khan, the film boasts one of the biggest ensemble casts in recent Hindi cinema, featuring Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Disha Patani, Jacqueline Fernandez, Arshad Warsi, Jackie Shroff, Paresh Rawal, Raveena Tandon, Lara Dutta, Farida Jalal, Johnny Lever, Shreyas Talpade, Tusshar Kapoor, Rajpal Yadav, Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda, Daler Mehndi, Aftab Shivdasani, Mukesh Tiwari, Yashpal Sharma, Kiran Kumar, Zakir Hussain, Vinu Dara Singh, Urvashi Rautela, Hemant Pandey, Brijendra Kala, Feroze Khan (Arjun), Late Pankaj Dheer, Puneet Issar, Sudesh Berry, Jeetu Verma, Vrihi Kodvara, Aditya Singh and Bhagya Bhanushali.

Presented by A.A. Nadiadwala, Cape of Good Films and Star Studios in association with Seeta Films and Rakesh Dang, the film is a Base Industries Group production produced by Rakesh Dang and Vedant Vikaas Baali, and produced by Firoz A. Nadiadwala.

If your expectation is meaningful cinema, look elsewhere. But if you simply want to laugh, switch off your brain and enjoy a grand Bollywood entertainer with your family, Welcome To The Jungle delivers exactly what it promises. Sometimes, that's more than enough.

WALKING 45 MINUTES A DAY ISN'T ENOUGH IF YOU SIT ALL DAY: HERE'S WHY YOU NEED TO KEEP MOVING ALL DAY

PROF DR. SUDHIR KUMAR

"I walk for 45 minutes every morning. So, I am healthy." This is one of the most common statements I hear from patients. While regular exercise is one of the best investments you can make in your health, there is an important catch: what you do during the remaining 15-16 waking hours matters just as much.

Imagine someone who goes for a brisk 45-minute walk every morning but then spends the rest of the day sitting at the office, in meetings, during the commute, while watching television, and scrolling on the phone before bed. This person may technically meet the recommended exercise guidelines, yet still spend 10-12 hours sitting.

Research has shown that prolonged sitting is itself a health risk, even among people who exercise regularly. While regular exercise certainly reduces the risk, it does not eliminate the harmful effects of excessive sedentary time.

Sitting: The new smoking?

Calling sitting 'the new smoking' is probably an exaggeration, but there is no doubt that prolonged sitting has emerged as an independent risk factor for several chronic diseases.

Large studies have linked long hours of sitting with an increased risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, certain cancers, and premature death. Sitting for prolonged periods also affects blood sugar regulation, slows fat metabolism, reduces calorie expenditure, and contributes to muscle weakness and poor posture.

For the brain, prolonged inactivity has also been associated with poorer cognitive performance, lower mood, and a higher long-term risk of dementia, although exercise remains strongly protective.

Your body was designed to move frequently

Human beings did not evolve to remain seated for eight to ten hours at a stretch. Our ancestors



walked, squatted, climbed, carried loads, and changed posture throughout the day. Even if the total amount of vigorous exercise was modest, movement was continuous.

Modern life has replaced this natural movement with chairs, elevators, cars, laptops, and smartphones. The solution is not necessarily to spend more hours in the gym. Instead, we should move more throughout the day.

The power of movement snacks

One of the most exciting areas of recent research involves what scientists call 'movement snacks', very short bouts of physical activity spread across the day.

Studies have shown that standing up and moving every 30-60 minutes improves blood sugar control, lowers insulin spikes, and reduces fatigue.

The movement doesn't have to be strenuous.

Even 2-5 minutes of walking, climbing a flight of stairs, or performing 10-20 body-weight squats can make a measurable difference. Think of these as exercise 'snacks' instead of one

large exercise 'meal'.

Make every hour count

Here are simple ways to add movement without setting aside extra time.

1. Walk while talking. If you are on a phone call, don't sit. Walk around your office or home.

2. Take the stairs. Climbing stairs is a surprisingly effective form of exercise that strengthens the heart, lungs, and leg muscles.

3. Stand during meetings. Not every meeting requires everyone to remain seated. Standing meetings are often shorter and more productive.

4. Use the farthest parking spot. Those extra few hundred steps every day accumulate over months and years.

5. Walk to a colleague instead of sending a message. It improves both your health and workplace interactions.

6. Stand up every 30-45 minutes. Set an alarm if necessary.

7. Stretch, walk to the water dispenser, or simply move around for two minutes.

Don't underestimate the

10-minute walk after meals

One of the simplest and most effective habits is taking a 10-15-minute walk after meals, particularly after lunch or dinner. Research shows that light walking after eating reduces post-meal blood sugar spikes, improves insulin sensitivity, aids digestion, and contributes to daily physical activity. For people with diabetes or prediabetes, this small habit can be especially beneficial.

Household work counts too

Many people underestimate everyday activities. Gardening, mopping the floor, washing the car, carrying groceries, cleaning the house, and playing with children all contribute to Non-Exercise Activity Thermogenesis (NEAT), the calories burned outside structured exercise. People with higher NEAT often maintain a healthier body weight despite never visiting a gym.

Strength matters too

Walking is excellent, but don't neglect muscle strength. After the age of 30, adults gradually lose muscle mass unless they perform

resistance exercises.

Simple activities like squats, wall push-ups, lunges, climbing stairs, resistance bands, or lifting light weights two or three times a week help preserve muscle, improve balance, strengthen bones, and reduce the risk of falls later in life.

Sleep and recovery are part of an active lifestyle

Physical activity does not end with movement. Adequate sleep (around 7-9 hours for most adults) allows muscles, joints, hormones, and the brain to recover. Exercise, movement, nutrition, and sleep work together. None can fully compensate for the absence of another.

Small changes, Big rewards

Many people believe health requires dramatic lifestyle changes. In reality, it often comes from dozens of small decisions repeated every day. The goal should not simply be 30 minutes of exercise; the goal should be a day filled with movement. After all, our bodies were designed not just to exercise, but to move.

Why eating out more often could be contributing to weight gain

Shyla Jovitha Abraham

Eating out at restaurants and fast-food establishments instead of preparing meals at home is linked to weight gain and obesity in both wealthy and poorer nations.

Food prepared outside the home is often more heavily processed and contains higher levels of salt, sugar and unhealthy fats, contributing to greater calorie intake and a higher body mass index.

For the study, presented at the European Congress on Obesity, German researchers pooled data



from health surveys conducted in 65 countries involving 2,80,265 adults.

Globally, 47 per cent of

people eat out at least once a week. The numbers vary widely by region, ranging from 26 per cent in

Southeast Asia to 81 per cent in the Americas and 36 per cent in Central Europe.

People in high-income countries eat out three times more often on average than those in poorer countries. However, among those who eat out at least once a week, the average frequency is fairly similar-about 4.4 meals per week in high-income countries compared with 3.5 meals in low-income countries.

"While eating out appears to be a marker of affluence in low-income countries, it has become the norm in high-income countries," the lead researcher said.

Across all countries, men, younger adults, single individuals, employed people and those with higher levels of education tended to eat out more frequently.

Importantly, the researchers found a strong link between eating out and obesity. In low-income countries, people with obesity ate food away from home 39 per cent more often than those with a normal weight, while overweight individuals did so 28 per cent more often. In lower-middle-income countries, people with obesity ate out 20 per cent more frequently.

LG Manoj Sinha attends one day capacity building programme of School Education Department

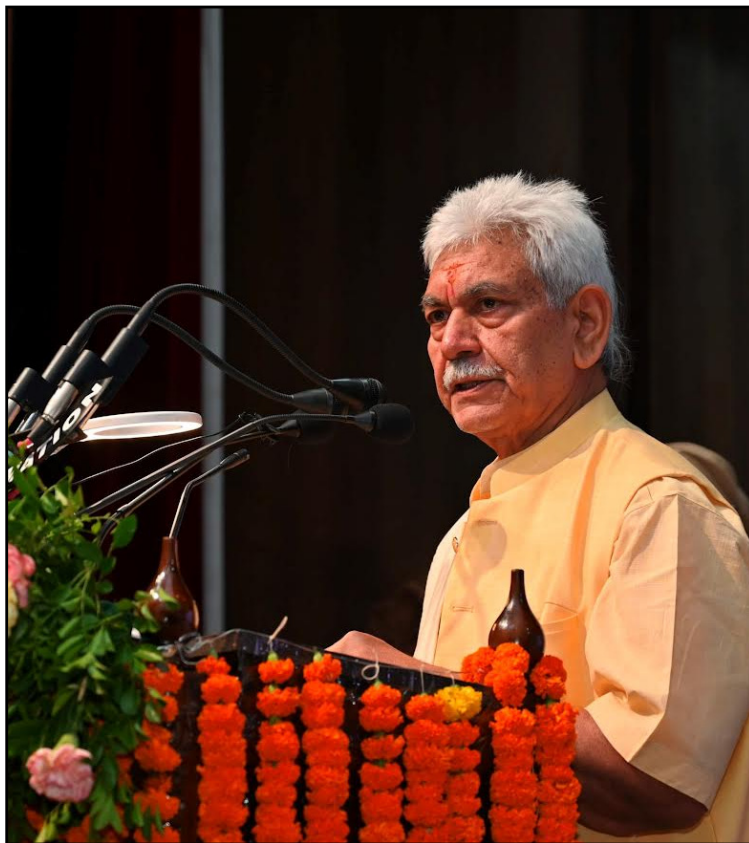
SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today attended 'One Day Capacity Building Programme' organised by Bharti Airtel Foundation, State Council of Educational Research and Training, J&K and School Education Department. The event served as a formal platform for the launch of instructional resources jointly developed by the three institutions aimed at strengthening the professional capacities of teachers and enriching the overall quality of school education across the Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said the initiative is a collective pledge and rooted in a fundamental truth that when we empower teachers, we inspire confidence in our students.

"When teachers are empowered, students gain confidence. When schools are strengthened, society becomes more resilient and when education moves in the right direction, Jammu Kashmir and the nation advance toward a brighter, safer and more prosperous future.

We must remember that the ultimate purpose of education is transformation. When learning connects with lived experiences, it sparks generational change. The greatest power of education does not lie in exam results but in its ability to change lives. A dedicated teacher shapes destiny. I want schools in Jammu Kashmir to focus on this



aspect and become laboratories of life-building," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The one-day capacity-building programme is also linked to the broader "Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir" campaign. Its aim is to improve teaching methods and protect students from the challenges today's youth face. The Lieutenant Governor said that rising trends in drug abuse, mental stress, social pressure, digital-world risks and changing lifestyles have made the school's role more important than ever. He said teachers are being provided with modern tools and training so they help build stu-

dents' personalities and empower them to face life's challenges.

"Every student is born with unique talents. Our duty is to recognise each child's talent and provide resources and tools to grow. I ask every teacher, with a strong sense of responsibility, to remember that education is not merely competition but an ongoing journey of self-development. In this journey you must respect and encourage each student's individuality.

Education today cannot be restricted to measurable academic achievement alone. The challenges of modern life are far more

complex than before. Pressure from competition, societal expectations, stress, peer influence and the growing danger of substance abuse, are realities our children face daily. In such circumstances life-skills education becomes essential, and schools should focus on self-awareness, emotional balance, problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking. We must teach children practical lessons for living so they learn with greater confidence and contribute to building a healthy society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the National Education Policy's aim is to develop citizens who are creative, responsible, innovative, compassionate and self-reliant. He also commended the initiative of the Directorate, School Education Jammu to start online classes for grades 11 and 12 across ten districts. He said this is an important step toward educational equality and through this initiative even students in remote villages can access quality learning.

"Success of these efforts will be measured by the confidence of our students and their contribution to a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir. Many countries have shown that in times of crisis the younger generation becomes our greatest hope. Beyond the standard curriculum, learning must include how to overcome hardships, help rebuild communities and support one another. Life-skills-based education can

reduce social divides and strengthen the values of diversity.

The purpose of education is the upliftment of all humanity. Today Jammu Kashmir is making its important contribution to this global endeavour. Every positive step taken here can reshape the lives of millions of children in the years ahead. This initiative also reflects the spirit of long-term collaboration among government, teachers, parents, industry and society. All the stakeholders must come together to build a Jammu Kashmir where every student feels safe, respected and inspired, where every teacher, through knowledge, compassion and dedication, shapes the next generation and where education becomes the primary means of transformation, confidence, social harmony and hope," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the meritorious students and winners of Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (TOFEI) initiative. Several books on life-skills were also released.

Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman Bharti Airtel Foundation; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Nuriya Ansari, CEO, Bharti Airtel Foundation; Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director School Education Jammu, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, prominent citizens, teachers and students were present.

CM OMAR ABDULLAH REVIEWS SHOPIAN'S PROGRESS, DEDICATES RS 76 CRORE DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE FOR DISTRICT

SYSTEM OBSERVER
SHOPIAN

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of District Shopian to assess the progress of developmental works, implementation of key government schemes and the overall delivery of public services, while reiterating his government's commitment to ensuring balanced and equitable development across the district.

During his visit, the Chief Minister dedicated development projects worth over ₹76 crore to the people of Shopian, laid the foundation of major infrastructure works and interacted with farmers, fruit growers and public delegations to take stock of their concerns.

The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Agriculture Production Department Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Members of Legislative Assembly Shabir Ahmad Kullay (Shopian) and Showkat Hussain Ganai (Zainapora).

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Shopian,

Heads of Departments, district officers and other senior officials also attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on accelerating infrastructure development, strengthening essential public services and ensuring the timely completion of ongoing developmental projects so that their benefits reach the people without delay.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian gave a detailed presentation highlighting the district profile, progress achieved under centrally sponsored schemes, physical and financial status of various departments, and the implementation of major developmental projects currently underway.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister commended the Deputy Commissioner and his entire team for their efforts in implementing developmental programmes in the district.

Describing Shopian as a geographically small but strategically significant district with unique developmental challenges, Omar Abdullah observed that its identity is intrinsically linked to its world-renowned apple industry, scenic beauty and the historic Mughal Road. He said the government is committed to further strengthening these assets through focused investments and sustained developmental interventions.

The Chief Minister acknowledged

the prevailing financial constraints facing Jammu and Kashmir but asserted that these would not become an obstacle to the district's progress. Jammu Kashmir Tourism

"There will be no injustice with Shopian or with any Assembly constituency of the district despite our financial limitations," he said, assuring the elected representatives that every issue and demand raised during the meeting had been carefully noted and would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

He directed officers to immediately rectify shortcomings wherever identified and expedite action on the developmental demands projected by the legislators.

Emphasising effective implementation of projects sanctioned under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), the Chief Minister asked the Deputy Commissioner to personally monitor these works to ensure timely execution.

He observed that the scheme carries strict timelines and requires close supervision to maintain the pace of implementation.

Expressing satisfaction over the overall developmental progress reflected during the review, the Chief Minister appreciated the constructive feedback provided by the legislators and assured them that all genuine public grievances would be

addressed to the fullest extent possible.

He also thanked the elected representatives for their active participation in the review meeting and appreciated the district administration for its dedicated efforts towards public service delivery.

Earlier, the Chief Minister dedicated and laid the foundation of 13 developmental projects with a cumulative cost of ₹76.45 crore, spanning the sectors of roads, bridges, drinking water supply, urban development, rural infrastructure and horticulture.

The projects inaugurated included the upgradation of the Shirmal-Wathoo-Matipora road, water supply schemes at Shadab Karewa, Domwani, Adijen Gadipora and Rebon Khojpora, construction of residential accommodation for Panchayati Raj Institution members at Gagren, the Trenz-Sheikhpora Bridge and the upgradation of the Safanagri-Lamine Darbagh Wachi Road.

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation for construction of the Doompura multi-cell causeway, beautification of Shopian town through improved drains, lanes and street lighting, establishment of a mechanical windrow composting unit at the Mega Fruit and Vegetable Mandi Aglar, and a pasteurised compost making unit at Allowpora.

TEACHINGS OF LORD BUDDHA MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER: GOVERNOR



SYSTEM OBSERVER
BAIJNATH

Governor Kavinder Gupta today said that at a time when the world is grappling with severe challenges like violence, intolerance, wars, environmental degradation, and the erosion of moral values, the teachings of Lord Buddha, compassion, the Middle Path, non-violence, and wisdom, have become more relevant

than ever. Quoting the eternal message of the Dhammapada, the Governor emphasized that hatred can never be appeased by hatred; it can only be overcome by love and compassion, which is the eternal law.

The Governor said this while addressing a national seminar titled 'From Nalanda to the Himalayas - The Unbroken Legacy of the Buddhist Knowledge Tradition' at

Tashijong in Baijnath today, where he was present as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Gupta stated that the ancient Nalanda University was not merely an educational institution but a beacon of knowledge for the entire world, where high-quality research was conducted in fields like philosophy, logic, medicine, grammar, mathematics, and astronomy. He noted that although the physical structure of Nalanda was destroyed over time, the monasteries, viharas, and Buddhist institutions in the Himalayas have kept this great legacy alive for centuries by preserving Indian languages, culture, art, and priceless manuscripts. From this perspective, the Indian Himalayas are truly the genuine custodians of Nalanda's living heritage.

The Governor lauded the unique initiative of the Council to implement the curriculum of the National Institute of Open Schooling in monasteries. He said that this step would serve as a meaningful bridge between traditional monastic education and modern formal education, enabling young monks and nuns to attain quality education and nationally recognized academic qualifications while maintaining their spiritual practices.

Appreciating the efforts of the office-bearers of the Council established under the guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Governor urged the youth of the

country to draw inspiration from the core ideals of the Nalanda tradition—curiosity, logical thinking, discipline, compassion, and human service. He emphasized that to realize the vision of Viksit Bharat-2047, it is imperative to give equal importance to our rich Indian knowledge tradition, cultural heritage, and moral values alongside modern science and technology.

Earlier, Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta formally inaugurated the seminar by lighting the traditional lamp. The national seminar was organized by the Indian Himalayan Nalanda Buddhist Tradition Council in collaboration with the Khampagar Monastery, Tashi Jong. The event witnessed in-depth deliberations on the modernization of monastic education and the relevance of Buddhist philosophy in addressing global challenges.

Minister of Religion and Culture CTA Dharamshala Tsegial Chukya Dranyi, Spiritual Head of Khampagar Monastery H.E. Khamtrul Rinpoche, Khenpo Choying Lundup, Khenpo Pema Negi from Palpung Sherabling Monastery, MLA Baijnath Kishori Lal, Director of NIOS Dr. Rajiv Kumar Singh, Deputy Commissioner Kangra Hemraj Bairwa, and Superintendent of Police Kangra Kulbhushan Verma were also present among other dignitaries on the occasion.

JKAACL Organises Grand Valedictory Function of 20-Day Children's Summer Workshop



SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today organised the Valedictory and Certificate Distribution Ceremony of its 20-day Children's Summer Workshop at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu. The workshop provided training in Theatre, Painting and Dance, culminating in a vibrant showcase of the participants' creative achievements through theatre performances, dance presentations and an exhibition of paintings created during the workshop.

MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta, was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while B. M. Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, graced the function as the Guest of Honour.

In his address, Arvind Gupta lauded JKAACL for providing a vibrant platform to children to explore and nurture their artistic talents. He said that such

initiatives play a vital role in promoting creativity, confidence and cultural awareness among the younger generation. He appreciated the Academy for its sustained efforts in preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and assured his continued support to such endeavours.

Speaking on the occasion, B. M. Sharma said that art and culture are indispensable for the holistic development of children. He appreciated the Academy for successfully conducting the 20-day workshop and observed that exposure to theatre, dance and visual arts helps shape disciplined, confident and socially responsible individuals. He encouraged the young participants to continue pursuing their artistic interests with dedication and passion.

Earlier, Sonali Arun Gupta, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the Academy's continued commitment towards nurturing young talent through meaningful cultural and artistic

initiatives.

The audience was treated to impressive theatre performances, colourful dance presentations and an exhibition of paintings created during the workshop, all of which reflected the enthusiasm and creativity of the young participants.

The Painting Workshop was conducted by renowned cartoonist Shri Chandrashekhar, assisted by Ms. Jyeshtha Jamwal. The Theatre Workshop was conducted by Mr. Neeraj Kant, while the Dance Workshop was conducted by Ms. Himani Kapoor. The dedicated guidance of the instructors enabled the participants to develop their artistic skills and confidently present their work before a large audience.

DC, SSP review Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra arrangements at Shadipora Transit Camp

SYSTEM OBSERVER
BANDIPORA

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, on Sunday visited the Shadipora Transit Camp to review the arrangements put in place for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 and took firsthand feedback from the pilgrims regarding the facilities being provided. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP undertook a comprehensive inspection of the facilities established at the transit camp, including accommodation, sanitation, drinking water supply, healthcare services, electricity, traffic management, security deployment and other essential amenities to ensure the convenience, safety and security of the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the elaborate preparations made by the District Administration, Police and line departments. She directed all concerned

departments to maintain close coordination, ensure prompt response to any requirement and provide uninterrupted services throughout the Yatra period to facilitate a smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage.

Interacting with the pilgrims, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP received positive feedback regarding the arrangements. The pilgrims appreciated the facilities being provided at the transit camp and thanked the District Administration and Police for their dedicated efforts in facilitating the annual pilgrimage.

Reaffirming the District Administration's unwavering commitment to the successful and smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib stated that all necessary measures would continue to be taken to ensure the safety, comfort and well-being of the pilgrims through seamless coordination among all departments and efficient delivery of essential services.

Acceptance Testing of newly established Kisan Helpline Centre conducted at Jammu



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
JAMMU**

As part of the nationwide roll-out of the revamped Kisan Helpline Centre (KHC) under the Government of India's KHC RFP-2025 initiative, the Acceptance Testing (AT) of the newly established Kisan Helpline Centre, Jammu was conducted today at the Directorate of Agriculture Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo Jammu under the supervision of Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Jammu Sanjay Anand.

The Acceptance Testing was undertaken in compliance with the directions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, to assess the operational readiness of the newly established Kisan Helpline Centre. The exercise involved a comprehensive evaluation of the Centre's infrastructure, information technology systems, communication facilities, software applications and service delivery mechanisms to ensure adherence to the prescribed technical specifications and

service standards.

The revamped Kisan Helpline Centre has been established to replace the erstwhile Kisan Call Centre with an integrated, technology-enabled platform providing farmers with a single-window facility for agricultural advisories, grievance redressal and information on government schemes and services.

During the inspection, Sanjay Anand reviewed the overall functioning of the Centre and expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made for delivering prompt and effective services to the farming community.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Anand said that the Kisan Helpline Centre would play a vital role in strengthening the agricultural extension system by ensuring timely dissemination of expert advisories, efficient grievance redressal and easy access to various government programmes through a modern digital platform. He expressed confidence that the initiative would significantly enhance the quality and outreach of extension services across the Union Territories of

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Joint Director also urged all Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) and district-level officers to create widespread awareness about the Kisan Helpline Centre at the grassroots level, particularly through Panchayats, Farmer Awareness Programmes and extension activities. He appealed to the field functionaries to actively promote the toll-free helpline number 1800-180-1551 so that a larger number of farmers could avail themselves of the advisory and grievance redressal services offered through the Centre.

Earlier, Manager, Kisan Helpline Centre, Jammu Naveen Kumar briefed the Joint Director about the functioning of the Centre. He informed that during the peak agricultural season, the Centre receives an average of around 400 calls daily from farmers seeking guidance and grievance redressal related to agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors.

The Centre serves as a single-window platform where farmers can obtain scientific crop advisories, information on government schemes, pest and disease management, weather-related guidance, input management, market-related information and other agriculture-related services through a panel of subject matter experts.

The Acceptance Testing was conducted in the presence of Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Jammu Sanjay Anand; Programme Officer (JDA Extension) Vivek Mahajan; Manager, Kisan Helpline Centre, Jammu Naveen Kumar; Supervisor, Kisan Helpline Centre, Jammu Nikhet Rafiq and officers of the Agriculture Department, Jammu.

Commissioner JMC visits Ward No. 61, Reviews ongoing development works

JAMMU

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav today undertook an extensive tour of Ward No. 61, covering Laxmi Vihar, Tomal Colony, Anand Nagar, Bohri and adjoining localities to assess the status of civic infrastructure, review ongoing development works and interact directly with residents to address their grievances.

During the visit, residents of Lane No. 4-A, Laxmi Vihar submitted a memorandum highlighting several long-pending civic issues, including inadequate and choked drainage, damaged internal roads, waterlogging during rainfall, irregular drinking water supply and the recurring flooding caused by the overflow at the confluence of the Muthi/Udhawala Main Nallah and the Om Nagar Nallah near the Tomal Colony Shamshan Ghat.

The Commissioner carried out a detailed inspection of the affected areas and reviewed the ongoing drainage improvement works being executed at various locations across Ward No. 61 and its adjoining areas. Emphasizing the need for timely execution and quality of works, Dr. Devansh Yadav directed the executing agencies to ensure that all works are completed within the stipulated timeframe while strictly adhering to prescribed quality standards.

Taking serious note of the grievances raised by the residents, the

Commissioner issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers to initiate immediate remedial measures. He instructed officials to undertake regular desilting of drains, prepare comprehensive proposals for strengthening the drainage network, expedite the repair and reconstruction of damaged roads and formulate long-term measures to effectively mitigate flooding. He further directed the concerned officials to maintain close coordination with the respective departments for early resolution of issues relating to drinking water and power supply.

Reaffirming the Jammu Municipal Corporation's commitment to responsive, transparent and citizen-centric governance, Dr. Devansh Yadav assured the residents that all genuine public concerns would be addressed on priority. He reiterated that the Corporation remains committed to strengthening civic infrastructure, enhancing public amenities and ensuring a better quality of life for the people.

Senior officers and officials of the Jammu Municipal Corporation accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection. The Commissioner directed all concerned officers to ensure prompt follow-up and time-bound implementation of the instructions issued during the visit.

ADC Bhaderwah reviews progress of HADP, Calls for effective implementation across panchayats

BHADERWAH

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the subdivision. The meeting focused on evaluating the implementation of various schemes under HADP and ensuring better coordination among the concerned departments.

During the meeting, the ADC reviewed the achievements, ongoing activities and challenges in implementa-

tion of the programme. He emphasized the need for timely execution of developmental initiatives and directed the departments to work in close coordination for the benefit of the farming community.

It was informed that ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal has been nominated among the senior district officers for the inspection and monitoring of various Panchayats, including Bheja, Butla, Katyara, Jalga and Chakka to ensure effective implementation of government programmes and developmental works at the grassroots level.

DDC Doda reviews progress of Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
DODA**

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign being implemented across all Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the hilly States/UTs from June 15 to July 15, 2026, in accordance with the directions of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

The meeting comprehensively reviewed the implementation status and achievements under various financial inclusion initiatives being carried out as part of the campaign. These included enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), conversion of inoperative Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts into operative accounts, generation of pending Central KYC (C-KYC)

IDs, updating of nominations in savings bank accounts, Re-KYC of existing PMJDY and other savings accounts and opening of PMJDY accounts for left-out eligible adults.

Reviewing the progress, the DDC stressed the need to achieve 100 percent saturation of all identified financial inclusion services within the stipulated campaign period. He directed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to ensure complete saturation in every Gram Panchayat, while Executive Officers (EOs) of Urban Local Bodies were instructed to achieve 100 percent saturation in their respective municipal areas by July 15, 2026.

Emphasizing timely completion of the campaign, the DDC directed all concerned departments, banks and field-level functionaries to work in close coordination so that no eligible beneficiary is left uncovered. He called for focused efforts to achieve the prescribed targets well within the campaign timeline through effective planning, continuous monitoring and coordinated field action.

To maximize public participation, the DDC instructed the

concerned officers to intensify awareness campaigns across rural and urban areas through field outreach, public meetings and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities so that every eligible citizen is informed about the benefits of the schemes and motivated to enrol.

He further directed all implementing agencies to closely monitor the campaign and submit progress feedback on alternate days to facilitate regular review and timely resolution of bottlenecks. The DDC also instructed that the final saturation list of beneficiaries be compiled and submitted by July 15, 2026, ensuring accurate documentation and verification of achievements.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B); Chief Planning Officer (CPO); Chief Medical Officer (CMO); Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP); concerned Executive Engineers; Block Development Officers (BDOs); Executive Officers of Municipal Committees; District Employment Officer; representatives of banks and other concerned officers.

RAAHI: Hop Jammu Opens a Golden Opportunity to Showcase Akhnoor Tourism MLA Mohan Lal Welcomes Social Media Influencers and Media Delegation, Says Akhnoor's Heritage Deserves National Recognition



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
AKHNOOR**

In a significant initiative to place Akhnoor's rich historical, religious, and cultural heritage on India's tourism map, the District Administration Jammu

launched its ambitious RAAHI: Hop Jammu tourism project with a special familiarization visit to Akhnoor. The programme witnessed the warm welcome of social media influencers and media representatives at the historic Jia Pota Ghat by Akhnoor MLA Mohan Lal.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jammu, Ms. Ansuja Jamwal, along with senior officials of the district administration, was also present.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Mohan Lal described the initiative as a golden

opportunity to transform Akhnoor into a premier tourist destination.

"Akhnoor is blessed with an extraordinary blend of history, spirituality, archaeology, and natural beauty. Through RAAHI: Hop Jammu, visitors from across the country will now get an opportunity to experience our glorious heritage. This initiative will not only strengthen tourism but also create employment opportunities for local youth and boost the region's economy," he said.

The visiting delegation was introduced to Akhnoor's major tourist attractions, including Akhnoor Fort, Jia Pota Ghat, Pandav Gufa, Ambaran Archaeological Site, Kameshwar Temple, Sumah Devta, Khoongan Devsthan, Chib Devsthan Nad, the Army Museum, and several other heritage and religious sites.

Under the Chenab Line of the RAAHI: Hop Jammu project, special Hop-On Hop-Off electric buses will begin

operations from 10 July, connecting Tawi River Front with Akhnoor's key tourist destinations. Online ticket booking will commence on 8 July, with a fare of ₹250 per person for a full-day pass. Every bus will be accompanied by a professional tour guide, providing visitors with insights into the historical, cultural, and religious significance of each destination.

MLA Mohan Lal expressed his gratitude to Deputy Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Minhas, ADC Jammu Ms. Ansuja Jamwal, and the entire District Administration for conceptualizing this visionary tourism initiative.

"RAAHI: Hop Jammu is not merely a bus service; it is a transformative step towards showcasing the true heritage, culture, spirituality, and untapped tourism potential of Akhnoor and Jammu to the nation. It marks the beginning of a new chapter in the region's tourism journey," he added.

8 Officials suspended in J&K over books 'glorifying' separatism, probe ordered

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
SRINAGAR**

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday suspended eight officials of the School Education Department, removed a contractual staff and ordered an inquiry into two controversial books found containing "highly inappropriate content".

The action comes after BJP, Congress and other political groups raised objections that the book allegedly "glorified" separatism. In an order, the School Education Department said the two books were withdrawn on Friday.

The books in contention are titled "Personalities and Legends of J&K", authored by Hilal Ahmad and Santosh Meena and published by Oberoi Book Service, Jammu; and "Great Personalities of Jammu and Kashmir", authored by Sushant Giri and published by Anurag Prakashan, Delhi.

According to the order, 123 copies of one of the books were supplied to Jammu, Ramban and Udhampur districts and 128 copies of the other book were supplied to Jammu and Baramulla districts.

"It has come to the notice of the department that these books have highly inappropriate content, it is quite evi-

dent that there was serious negligence, dereliction of duty and lack of proper due diligence was carried out by the members of the Sub Committee Series 4 and Supervisory Officers while recommending such books which contained content related to separatism which has potential for creating law and order situations," the order said.

It said that keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the matter, the members of the sub-committee appear to be responsible for such serious lapses and negligence unbecoming of government servants.

Therefore, eight officials and supervisory staff of the School Education Department in terms of Rule 31(1)(a) Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, are placed under suspension, with immediate effect, the order added.

The officials have been identified as Fazil Imran Saddiqui, Coordinator Library, Samagra Shiksha; Gurjeet Singh, Assistant Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha; Sanjeev Sharma, Principal GHSS, Kore Pannu; Shazia Kouser, Academic Officer, SCERT Jammu; Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, Lecturer BHSS Wathoor Budgam; Niranjana Sharma, Lecturer GHSS Badhat

Kishtwar; Renu Mengi, Lecturer DIET Jammu; and Rajmohini, Lecturer GGHSS Poonch.

During the period of suspension, they shall remain attached with the administrative department of the School Education Department, the order said.

According to the order, Sheikh Suheel Ahmad, Computer Assistant (Contractual) assisting the Coordinator Library, Samagra Shiksha is hereby disengaged with immediate effect from his contractual engagement, it said.

The LG also ordered an inquiry into the matter.

"Keeping in view the seriousness of the matter and misconduct of the aforementioned officials, it is ordered that Ashwani Kumar, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Power Development Department is appointed as Inquiry Officer to conduct an enquiry into the matter," the order said.

Mr Rohit Sharma, Additional Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department is appointed as the Presenting Officer in the case, it said.

The inquiry officer shall submit his report to the competent authority within 30 days, the order added.

The LG also ordered that the aforementioned authors

and publishers are hereby banned and blacklisted, henceforth, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Furthermore, any printed material authored or published by them shall also be withdrawn from Jammu and Kashmir, the order said.

The controversy erupted after political parties raised objections over the content of the book.

The BJP alleged that the books glorify terrorists, separatists and stone-pelters and demanded an immediate ban on them and the sacking of J-K Education Minister Sakeena Itoo.

Calling the issue a criminal matter rather than merely an academic lapse, Leader of Opposition in J-K Assembly Sunil Sharma alleged it was a part of "academic jihad" intended to poison young minds to revive separatism by using the education system to propagate a Pakistan-sponsored narrative.

Sharma said the book "glorifies convicts, murderers, terrorists, separatists, and stone-pelters".

"It is deeply regrettable that the Jammu and Kashmir Education Department has distributed this book to schools under the logo of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. This is a grave offence," the BJP leader said.

He alleged that the publications promoted an anti-national narrative and demanded their immediate withdrawal.

The Congress demanded a high-level probe into the distribution of the controversial book, allegedly glorifying separatist leaders and terrorists, to government schools in Jammu and Kashmir under the Samagra Shiksha Mission.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) demanded an immediate ban on the books.

"There is no place for such mischief... if the book carries objectionable content as being learnt, a high-level probe should be conducted to identify the culprits who allowed the book to be supplied to schools and government institutions," JKPCC chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said in a statement issued here.

He said the book should be banned till completion of the inquiry. "The conspiracy behind the publication of the book needs to be exposed."

The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples' Forum (JKPF) in Jammu also claimed the books glorified separatist leaders and terrorists by portraying them as "great personalities" and "legends" of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sadguru Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj Holds Divine Discourse at Akhnoor



**SYSTEM OBSERVER
AKHNOOR**

Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandgi blessed a large congregation on Sunday with a spiritual discourse, touching upon themes of consciousness, meditation and the practice of remembrance of the Divine Name.

Addressing the gathering,

Maharaj Ji noted that scientists have recently claimed the human brain remains active even during sleep, and that breathing continues even in states of unconsciousness. He observed that while modern science is only now arriving at such conclusions, these truths were established in spiritual tradition long ago.

He explained the concepts of Surati, meaning

conscious attention, and Nirati, the vital force of awareness that animates the entire body. Surati, he said, is the primary element, and when it unites with Nirati, the spiritual goal is achieved. Nirati, he added, is essentially a part of Surati, though the restless mind constantly keeps Surati in a state of flux.

"Whatever state you may be in, apart from death itself, your bodily functions continue to operate," he told devotees.

Cautioning against unnecessary complication in spiritual practice, Maharaj Ji shared a simple parable. A young boy, he said, would constantly make demands of his mother, sometimes for barfi, sometimes for cream or butter or other delicacies. His father finally told him that he troubled his mother daily with changing demands, and asked why he did not simply drink milk, since everything he desired was made from milk in the

first place.

In the same way, Sahib teaches that one should practice Sumiran, the remembrance of the Divine Name, since everything else is encompassed within it. Jap, Tap, Sanyam and Sadhana, he said, are all contained within Sumiran, and nothing equals it in spiritual value. He revealed that at the conclusion of every program, he urges devotees to practice Sumiran, since it is this practice that unites Surati and Nirati.

Citing scripture, Maharaj Ji said that one who chants the Holy Name is truly wise. He referred to the Ramayana, noting that Tulsidas wrote of how Lord Rama redeemed only a few wicked individuals in his time, while the Holy Name itself has brought salvation to countless sinners across ages.

Happiness, he said, is attained only through

Sumiran, and it is Sumiran alone that destroys suffering. He quoted Kabir Sahib, who taught that through Sumiran the soul merges into the Divine.

Elaborating further on Nirati, Maharaj Ji said that just as a person moves forward by stepping with the feet, Nirati activates the entire body. It pervades every pore, he said, and is the force that drives the breath, which in turn keeps the body vitalized. He explained that the restless mind prevents Surati and Nirati from uniting, even though Nirati is itself an aspect of Surati and is enlivened by the breath. It is only through the union of the two, he said, that the soul can be realized.

Concluding his discourse, Maharaj Ji urged devotees to practice Sumiran at all times, whether eating or drinking, sleeping or waking, or going about their daily activities.

MHA Designates 23 Individuals Based In Pak As 'Terrorists' Under UAPA

**SYSTEM OBSERVER
NEW DELHI**

The Union home ministry on Saturday designated 23 Pakistan-based individuals, including close associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, linked to Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and LeT, as "terrorists" under the anti-terror law UAPA.

The designated terrorists were involved in high-profile attacks on security forces, drone-based weapon smuggling, and indoctrination and recruitment of youth through social media, a government order said.

On Saturday, 23 Pakistan-based terrorists, including those involved in attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, were added to the list under schedule, taking the total number to 80.

In a message posted on 'X', Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the designated terrorists were involved in anti-India activities, carrying out terror attacks, inciting terror, trafficking arms, infiltrating through the border, facilitating terrorist organisations, raising funds and recruiting terrorists.

"Pursuing Modi Ji's vision of zero tolerance against terror, the MHA today declared 23 dreaded terror functionaries as terrorists under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act...

"Out of the 23 terrorists announced today, 17 are Pakistani nationals and 6 are Indian nationals. However, all of them at present operate terrorist activities from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Modi govt is determined to rip apart every

terror module to shield India and its people," he said.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) empowers the central government to designate an individual as a terrorist if it believes the individual is involved in terrorism.

Inclusion in the fourth Schedule is for designating individuals, while the first Schedule lists and designates terrorist organisations, such as JeM and LeT.

Including the names of terrorists in the list will allow the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to block their finances, embargo arms sales, and seize their assets.

Associates of LeT founder Saeed, already a designated terrorist, 52-year-old Abdul Rauf, who operates under Saeed's direct command in Lahore, and 54-year-old Rana Iftikhar, a close associate who motivates youth for Jihadi activities, have been designated as terrorists under the UAPA.

Hafiz Khalid Waleed, Maulana Saifullah Khalid, and Molana Yousaf Taibi, associated with Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) network, have also been included in the list.

Ashfaq Ahmad (52) was designated to provide "technical assistance" and collect funds for JeM operations from his base in Bahawalpur.

The notifications, issued by Joint Secretary Rakesh Rathi on Saturday, designated 52-year-old Mufti Muhammad Asghar Khan, identified as a JeM launching commander based in Abbaspur, considered one of the masterminds behind the attack on the Indian Army Camp in Nagrota, Jammu, on November 29, 2016.

Two other JeM operatives also linked to the Nagrota attack -- 56-year-old Hafiz Abdul Shakoor from Kotli, and 47-year-old Abdullah Jehadi, who facilitates the infiltration of cadres from the Neelum district -- were also included in the list, the order said.

JeM terrorists -- 41-year old Masood Ilyas Kashmiri from Poonch in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and 38-year-old Mohammad Mussadiq from Shakargarh, district Narowal in Pakistan, who was involved in the attack on the security forces at Sunjwan, Jammu, on April 22, 2022 -- also figure in the list of designated terrorists.

Mussadiq is also accused of using a team of "cyber players" to recruit youth across various social media platforms, and a "main handler" for JeM infiltration was also included in the list.

A resident of Bangalore now holed up in Rawalpindi, 40-year-old Mohammed Shaheed Faisal, affiliated with LeT, JeM, Al-Qaeda, and ISIS modules, is included in the list for recruiting youth via social media, arranging for weapons training in Pakistan, and raising funds for terrorist activities.

Faisal has remained involved in imparting training in the use of data encryption and fake identities to evade law enforcement agencies, the order said.

"With the intent of carrying out terrorist activities in the country, he has remained involved in the delivery of weapons and ammunition and conspiracies related to several terrorist incidents," the order notified on Saturday morning said.

DGP chairs security meeting for safe, smooth Amarnath Yatra SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat on Saturday directed the security forces to maintain the highest level of operational preparedness, enhance surveillance and keep a close watch on inimical elements across the Union territory to prevent any attempt to disrupt peace during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

DGP Prabhat chaired a review meeting at the police control room here to assess the security and logistical arrangements for the annual Yatra that commenced on July 3. The meeting was attended by officers of J-K Police, Army, CAPFs, Traffic Police, Railway Police, intelligence wings and other agencies, including the Army's GOC 15 Corps.

The officers presented a comprehensive review of the security arrangements, traffic management plan and implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure the safe, secure and smooth conduct of the Yatra.

Directing all agencies to maintain the highest level of operational preparedness, Prabhat emphasised seamless inter-agency coordination and intensified area domination and night domination exercises, particularly along the national highway, critical road corridors and Yatra routes.

The DGP also directed field formations to enhance surveillance and maintain a close watch on inimical elements across Jammu and Kashmir to prevent any attempt to disrupt peace.

The police chief instructed the officers to ensure strict verification of identity credentials and effective utilisation of the RFID-based tracking system for real-time monitoring of registered yatrins.

He also directed that issues relating to unregistered yatrins be handled proactively and humanely in close coordination with the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, while ensuring that only duly registered pilgrims are permitted to undertake the Yatra in accordance with the prescribed protocols.

Reviewing disaster preparedness, the DGP directed all agencies to keep contingency plans and adequate resources ready to effectively respond to any weather-related disruptions by ensuring timely evacuation, shelter, medical assistance and other essential support.

He also emphasised robust security and seamless assistance for both tourists and pilgrims across the UT. Stressing the importance of professionalism and public service, Prabhat directed all the officers to remain accessible, responsive and people-friendly, ensuring prompt assistance to every pilgrim whenever required.