

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Terrorism breathing its...

and the region. He called upon the youth to develop qualities like compassion and courage, and dedicate their potential and talents in service to the nation.

"Sports is the universal language of unity and it promotes inclusivity and mutual respect. The sports events like All India Police Judo Cluster serves as a vibrant platform to celebrate Unity in Diversity and showcase India's rich cultural and social heritage," he said.

More than 2,000 athletes are participating in the championship comprising of Judo, Wushu, Pencak Silat, Taekwondo and Karate, hosted by Jammu Kashmir Police.

DGP, Nalin Prabhat; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; ADGP Armed, Anand Jain; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration; representatives of various sports associations; prominent sports personalities, and youth in large number were present.

CJ orders major...

Hussain have been promoted as Registrars against newly created and vacancy-based posts. Similarly, Ved Parkash, Sarveeda Nissar, Nuzhat Parveen and Anil Sanhotra have been elevated as Additional Registrars-cum-Secretaries.

Syed Ayaz Hussain, Qazi Amjad Yousuf, Narinder Kumar, Ghulam Nabi Malik, Karam Chand and Anjad Ahmad Lone have been promoted as Joint Registrars-cum-Secretaries. Vinod Kumar, Paramjit Singh and Sunita Koul have been elevated to the post of Secretary, while Javid Iqbal, Arif Hameed and Intiyaz-ul-Gani have been promoted as Private Secretaries.

The order makes it clear that all promotions will be treated as notional with effect from the dates mentioned against each officer, while monetary benefits will accrue from the date of issuance. All promoted officers will continue to serve at their present place of posting until further directions.

SC gives Centre...

need to be factored in before taking a final call," the country's top law officer said.

He said consultations were underway with the Jammu and Kashmir administration on the issue of restoration of statehood.

"This is a sui generis (unique) problem and there are wider concerns involved. Of course, there was a solemn undertaking but several factors need to be considered," Mehta submitted.

He alleged that some people are spreading a specific narrative and giving a grim picture of the union territory.

During the hearing, CJI Gavi said the region continued to face security challenges and cited the Pahalgam terror attack. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Zahoor Bhat, said, "Pahalgam happened under their watch...."

Mehta vehemently objected to the remark, saying, "What is their watch'? It is under our government. I object to this."

Sankaranarayanan argued that the Centre had assured the court about restoring statehood in 2023 and said, "Much water has flowed since then."

To this, Mehta retorted, "And blood too. This is a citizen before the Supreme Court who treats the government of India as your government and not my government."

Sankaranarayanan also said that the matter be placed before a five-judge Constitution bench, given that the original Article 370 judgment had been delivered by a bench of similar strength.

He clarified that the applicants were not seeking to reopen the abrogation issue but merely enforcement of the Union's commitment "within a reasonable timeframe".

The solicitor general opposed the submissions, saying this cannot be done that too at the behest of interveners.

Senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy, appearing for MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone, argued that the continuing denial of statehood undermines the federal structure of the Constitution.

"If a state can be converted into a Union Territory like this, what does it mean for federalism? The J-K Assembly passed a resolution a year ago calling for statehood. Allowing Jammu and Kashmir to remain a UT sets a dangerous precedent," she said.

Citing Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the Constitution, she added, "These provisions do not envisage converting a state into a union territory. The Union gave an assurance. What is the consequence of not honouring that assurance for federalism?"

"If this is permitted, any state can be downgraded to a UT if the government is inconvenient... tomorrow, it could be Uttar Pradesh or Tamil Nadu. This has never happened in our constitutional history," another lawyer said.

The solicitor general interjected, accusing the counsel of attempting to "create a grim picture" of the union territory before the world.

"Why are you getting agitated? Let him complete the submissions," the CJI told Mehta, drawing mild laughter in the courtroom.

Counsel representing a group of Jammu-based lawyers submitted that citizens in the region were facing acute unemployment and stagnation in development projects.

"There is hardly any developmental work in the Jammu region. Legislators say they have no funds for local works. Despite incidents like Pahalgam, peace has largely prevailed and tourist inflows are high, and the Vaishno Devi yatra continues smoothly. Security concerns cannot be a perpetual excuse," the counsel said.

To this, SG Mehta responded by saying that the region had witnessed significant improvement.

"Jammu and Kashmir has progressed; everyone is happy... 99.9 per cent of the people consider the government of India as their own. These arguments are for some other forum, not this court," he said.

"Delay in the restoration of statehood would cause serious reduction of democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, causing a grave violation of the idea of federalism which forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India," Bhat's plea said.

The assembly elections and the Lok Sabha polls were conducted peacefully in Jammu and Kashmir without any incident of violence, disturbance or any security concerns being reported, it said.

"Therefore, there is no impediment of security concerns, violence or any other disturbances which would hinder or prevent the grant/restoration of the status of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as had been assured by the Union of India in the present proceedings," the plea added.

Trump fails to...

do is fine. I know this: I didn't do it for that. I did it because I saved a lot of lives," Trump said on Thursday.

Although Trump received a number of nominations for the prize, many of them occurred after the Feb. 1 deadline for the 2025 award, which fell just a week and a half into his first term. His name was, however, put forth in December by Republican Rep. Claudia Tenney of New York, her office said in a statement, for his brokering of the Abraham Accords, which normalised relations between Israel and several Arab states in 2020.

Nevertheless, Trump and his supporters are likely to view the decision to pass him over for the award as a deliberate affront to the US leader, particularly after the president's involvement in getting Israel and Hamas to initiate the first

phase of ending their devastating two-year-old war.

The peace prize, first awarded in 1901, was created partly to encourage ongoing peace efforts. Alfred Nobel stipulated in his will that the prize should go to someone "who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

Three sitting US presidents have won the Nobel Peace Prize: Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, Woodrow Wilson in 1919 and Barack Obama in 2009. Jimmy Carter won the prize in 2002, a full two decades after leaving office. Former Vice President Al Gore received the prize in 2007.

Obama, who was a focus of Trump's attacks well before the Republican was elected, won the prize early in his tenure as president.

"He got the prize for doing nothing," Trump said of Obama on Thursday. "They gave it to Obama for doing absolutely nothing but destroying our country."

As one of his reasons for deserving the award, Trump often says he has ended seven wars, though some of the conflicts the president claims to have resolved were merely tensions, and his role in easing them is disputed.

But while there is hope for the end of Israel and Hamas' war, much remains uncertain about the aspects of the broader ceasefire plan, including whether and how Hamas will disarm and who will govern Gaza. And little progress seems to have been made on the war between Russia and Ukraine, a conflict Trump claimed during the 2024 campaign that he could end in one day. (He later said he made that remark in jest.)

Trump invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to Alaska in August - but not Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy - for a summit aimed at reaching peace, but he left empty-handed, and the war started by Russia's invasion in 2022 has since raged on.

As Trump pushes for peaceful resolutions to conflicts abroad, the country he governs remains deeply divided and politically fraught. Trump has kicked off what he hopes to be the largest deportation program in American history to remove immigrants in the US illegally. He is using the levers of government, including the Justice Department, to go after his perceived political enemies. He has sent the military into US cities over local opposition to stop crime and crack down on immigration enforcement.

He withdrew the United States from the landmark Paris climate agreement, dealing a blow to worldwide efforts to combat global warming. He touched off global trade wars with his on-again, off-again tariffs, which he wields as a threat to bend other countries and companies to his will. He asserted presidential war powers by declaring cartels to be unlawful combatants and launching lethal strikes on boats in the Caribbean that he alleged were carrying drugs.

The full list of people nominated is secret, but anyone who submits a nomination is free to talk about it. Trump's detractors say supporters, foreign leaders and others are submitting Trump's name for nomination for the prize - and, specifically, announcing it publicly - not because he deserves it but because they see it as a way to manipulate him and stay in his good graces.

Others who formally submitted a nomination for Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize - but after this year's deadline - include Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Pakistan's government, all citing his work in helping end conflicts in their regions.

Force ready with...

so far failed to succeed in their nefarious designs, he said.

"The BSF is in constant touch with its sister agencies, sharing intelligence pouring in from across the border. We are fully prepared to give a befitting response to the enemy," Anand said.

There is no need to panic as Indian forces are keeping a close watch on whatever movement happens across the border, the officer added.

"The armed forces carried out missile strikes across the border in May under Operation Sindoor and destroyed nine terror infrastructure, including the major camps of LeT and JeM, while the BSF wiped out a number of terror launch pads along the International Border and the Line of Control.

"We are getting information that they have changed their hideouts and are regrouping once again. We will take appropriate action as needed, and we are ready for that," the BSF IG said.

There is a ceasefire agreement with Pakistan in place but "if there are any attempts by the enemy to push foreign terrorists, we will not remain silent".

"The government has also given us a free hand to respond with a shell to a bullet from across the border and this message has clearly reached the jawans guarding the borders," he said.

The IG also said that counter-drone measures and air defence systems proved very effective during Operation Sindoor, but "we should not be overconfident and adopt modern technology to further enhance our systems".

"The 21st century warfare highlighted the use of drones, unmanned aerial vehicles, missile systems and Artificial Intelligence in a big way. The BSF is not lacking behind in this race. We recently organised a 'school of drone warfare' event at our academy in Gwalior to enhance the skill of the jawans and officers.

"If there is a need, we will utilise the latest training to counter enemy drones, and also inflict losses on them using our own drone technology," the officer said.

Anand also said the force is organising a full marathon in Jammu on November 9 to mark the diamond jubilee celebrations of the force, which was raised in 1965.

"This is for the first time that we are organising this event with an objective to reach out to the border residents and convey a message of fitness and the need for a healthy lifestyle, besides identifying local talent who will be groomed to take part in national and international sports events," the IG said.

NC names 3...

opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) holds 28 votes, creating a high-stakes battle.

The upcoming polls will restore Jammu and Kashmir's representation in the Upper House of Parliament following the end of terms for previous members in February 2021 and the Union Territory reorganisation in 2019.Kashmir Travel Guide Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to CM did not speak specifically about a seat reservation for its alliance partner, Congress. On Budgam and Nagrota by-polls, he said, "There is still time left for its nomination and we will announce our members at the right time."

Admission for Class 12 pass-outs extended to Oct 14

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Director Colleges, J&K, Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir has announced the extension in admission deadline for students who passed the Secondary School Examination (Class 12th) under the Annual Private/Biannual 2025 session upto 14th October, 2025.

These admissions are for Four-Year Undergraduate Programs (FYUGP) with multiple-exit options, offered across various degree colleges of J&K against leftover vacant seats for the Academic Session 2025-2026.

In continuation to earlier notification, the last date for admission has now been extended up to October 14, 2025, in view of multiple representations received from students. Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

HC seeks police officers' statements in case of Gujjar youth's death after 'torture' in Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has sought personal appearance of two police officers -- part of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) -- to record their statements in a case related to the death by suicide of a Gujjar youth after alleged custodial torture in Kathua district earlier this year.

A single-judge bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal passed the directions while hearing the case on Wednesday, asking the SIT head, who is the Superintendent of Police (Operations), and Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Billawar, to appear in court on the next date of hearing on October 27.

Makhan Din (25), a Gujjar youth from the Billawar area, ended his life by consuming insecticide on February 4 after alleged police torture and recorded the act on a video, claiming innocence and denying any connection with terrorists, prompting separate probes by police and the local administration.

"Record reveals that when the matter was listed before this court on April 25, Neeraj Padyar, SDPO, Billawar, who was part of the SIT headed by SP (Operations) investigating the case, submitted that the SHO of Billawar police station already stood transferred and the other two officials, against whom the complainants have levelled allegations, were not posted in the same police station.

"In addition, the SDPO, Billawar, stated at the Bar that no such persons, namely Jugal and Harish, were posted at the Billawar police station.

However, Appu Singh Slathia, the counsel appearing for the petitioners, submits that she has placed on record electronic evidence by virtue of a pen drive, which indicates that Jugal and Harish were also present on February 5 when the deceased was taken to his residence and thereafter, he committed suicide in a mosque at Bhatodi village, Billawar," the judge said.

He said the petitioners further submitted that even at the time when the body of the deceased was taken to the hospital, four police officers were present, including Jugal and Harish.

"Since, there is an ambiguity with regard to the statement so made by the concerned SDPO, Billawar, on April 25, this court deems it proper to direct him to remain present before this court on the next date of hearing, with a view to record his detailed statement before the registrar judicial of this court to proceed further in the matter," Justice Nargal said.

For proper appreciation of the matter, the judge said, it is necessary to verify whether the police officers, namely Jugal and Harish, were ever posted at the Billawar police station, or whether they were present at the time when the body was taken to the hospital, or when the deceased was taken to his residence.

In addition, the court also sought the personal presence of the head of the SIT, with a view to apprise the court with regard to the investigation so carried as on date in light of the fact that the SIT was constituted on March 10.

Government advocate Suneel Malhotra has been directed to produce the case detail file (of the SIT) on the next date of hearing, besides apprising the court about the investigation being conducted in the case.

Taking serious note of the failure of the respondents - chief secretary and home secretary - to submit their response to the notices issued to them on April 16, the court granted them one more opportunity to file their response through their counsel.

"The court deems it proper to grant one more opportunity to the (government) counsel for respondents 1 and 2 to file their response within a period of one week positively, failing which the matter will be heard on its own merits on the next date of hearing," the judge said.

Missing soldiers body found

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG Security forces on Friday found the body of a soldier who had gone missing in Anantnag district earlier this week, officials said.

The body of another soldier was found from the area on Thursday.

The two soldiers of the Army's elite para unit -- Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh and Lance Naik Sujay Ghosh -- had gone missing during a combing operation at Kokernag on Tuesday. The operation was launched in the Ahlan Gadole area, following inputs that terrorists were hiding there, the officials said.

While the body of one of the soldiers was found on Thursday, the other body was found on Friday, they said, adding that it seems that both died due to hypothermia.

According to the officials, the two soldiers went missing after their communication line went out. Helicopters were pressed into aerial reconnaissance to locate the commandos. The Srinagar-based Chinar Corps unit of the Army said the operational team was caught in a severe snowstorm.

"On the intervening night of October 6 and 7, an operational team on the Kishtwar range confronted a severe snowstorm and whiteout conditions in the mountains of southern Kashmir. Since then, two soldiers have gone out of communication," the Chinar Corps said in a post on X on Wednesday.

"Intense search and rescue operations have been launched but hampered due to prevailing adverse weather conditions," it added.

The Army paid tributes to the fallen soldiers.

"Chinar Corps honours the supreme sacrifice of Bravehearts Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh and Lance Naik Sujay Ghosh, while conducting relentless counter terror operations in the Kishtwar Range of Kokernag battling extreme weather conditions. Their courage and dedication will forever inspire us," the Chinar Corps said in a post on X.

India upgrades Tech Mission in Kabul to Embassy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Friday announced the upgrading of its technical mission in Kabul to the status of an embassy and pledged to renew its development works in Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also appreciated the Taliban set-up for showing sensitivity towards New Delhi's security concerns.

Jaishankar made the twin announcements during his wide-ranging talks with Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, who landed in New Delhi on Thursday on a six-day visit.

India had withdrawn its officials from its embassy in Kabul after the Taliban seized power in August 2021. In June 2022, India re-established its diplomatic presence in the Afghan capital by deploying a "technical team".

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Jaishankar listed cross-border terrorism as a shared threat for both the countries and said India and Afghanistan must coordinate efforts to combat the menace.

On his part, Muttaqi assured India

that Afghanistan will not allow any element to use its territory against New Delhi's interests and identified the Daesh terror group (ISIS) as the main challenge for the region. He added that Kabul is at the frontlines of this struggle.

Since the Taliban came to power, New Delhi has also been insisting that Afghan soil must not be used for any terrorist activities against any country.

"Your visit marks an important step in advancing our ties and affirming the enduring friendship between India and Afghanistan," Jaishankar told Muttaqi in his opening remarks at the meeting.

"As a contiguous neighbour and a well-wisher of the Afghan people, India has a deep interest in your development and progress," he said.

India's longstanding partnership that has seen so many Indian projects in Afghanistan stands renewed, the external affairs minister announced.

Jaishankar said both India and Afghanistan have a common commitment towards growth and prosperity.

"However, these are endangered by the

It said Chinara Warriors salute the valour and sacrifice of the bravehearts.

"We stand in solidarity with the bereaved families and are committed to their well-being," it added.

Advocate killed, 2 injured as truck overturns on car in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN/JAMMU: An advocate was killed and two others

injured after

an apple-

laden truck

overturned on

his car after a

head-on collision

on Friday, police

said.

The advocate,

identified as Baman

Singh Bali

(36), a resident of Ukhral Pogal Paristan, died on the spot

while the truck driver and his helper sustained injuries in the

accident, which took place near Seri along the Jammu-

Srinagar National Highway, police said.

Bali was on his way to the Ramban district court when the

tragedy struck, they said.

The truck driver and his helper were shifted to a hospital,

where their condition is stated to be stable, police said.

Raids in Srinagar at premises of terrorist associates

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday conducted raids at the premises of terrorist associates linked with banned outfits at multiple locations in the city here.

In its sustained efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and curb unlawful activities, Srinagar police conducted extensive raids at multiple locations across the city, a police spokesman said.

He said the searches were carried out at the residences of terrorist associates and overground workers (OGWs) affiliated with proscribed terrorist organisations, in connection with ongoing investigations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The coordinated search operations were conducted across various areas of Srinagar, targeting individuals involved in facilitating, aiding, or abetting terror-related activities, the spokesman said.

He said the searches were conducted at 21 premises across the city.

The searches were conducted in accordance with due legal procedure, in the presence of executive magistrates and independent witnesses, and under the supervision of senior officers of J-K police, the spokesman added.

The objective of these searches was to seize incriminating material such as documents, digital devices, and other evidence relevant to ongoing investigations, the spokesman said.

The raids also form part of a broader intelligence-gathering exercise aimed at pre-empting and disrupting any conspiratorial or terrorist activities threatening public peace and national security, he said. The police said the decisive action underscores its commitment to identify and take firm legal action against all individuals involved in promoting or supporting terror-related and anti-national activities.

Crackdown on illegal mining continue; 10 dumpers seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized ten dumpers in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Ghagwal and Samba which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by SHO PS Samba, SHO PS Ghagwal, Incharges Police Posts of Supwal & Rakh Amb Talli of PS Samba and Incharge Police Post Rajpura of PS Ghagwal while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas, have seized ten dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK14L-9596, JK14H-9791, JK14H-1802, JK21G-9091, JK21G-9959, JK21G-5654, JK21J-8185, JK21J-8683, JK21G-7817 and JK21G-6049 which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area. The above-mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to the Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.