

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Joint security exercise...

review of existing security arrangements," the spokesman said. Similar security drills have been conducted on some areas of Anantnag district.

Police had carried out anti-sabotage operations in Maharaja Bazaar and Amira Kadal areas in the vicinity of Bakshi Stadium, which is the main venue for Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations in the valley.

24x7 vigil along...

and security measures, particularly along the route and at the shrine, they said.

According to officials, emphasis was laid on strict regulation of the yatra through RFID-based access control, ensuring that only pilgrims possessing valid RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) cards are permitted to proceed.

Vaishya also directed the deployment of additional handheld RFID scanners and adequate manpower at key checkpoints to avoid any lapses, they added.

The meeting was informed that a joint round-the-clock monitoring is being undertaken, with special focus on high-footfall and congested locations, to ensure real-time surveillance, prompt response and enhanced situational awareness.

The representative of the fire and emergency services was tasked with deploying fire tenders at strategic points along the track and conducting a comprehensive fire safety audit of the shrine area to further strengthen safety mechanisms, officials said.

The CEO underscored the importance of strict adherence to prescribed standard operating procedures (SOPs) and reiterated the need for meticulous compliance across all aspects of disaster preparedness.

He also emphasised converting the existing sound system installed along the track into a fully functional public address system to facilitate timely dissemination of important announcements.

Additionally, the concerned agencies were directed to ensure proper verification of individuals employed in private establishments and service operators on the route, in order to safeguard the sanctity of the shrine area and the safety of pilgrims, officials said.

They said special emphasis was laid on addressing traffic bottlenecks caused by unauthorised parking, particularly in the Banganga area and the Tarakote Marg.

The need for strict regulation and coordinated enforcement was highlighted to ensure smooth vehicular movement, the officials said.

Security agencies briefed the meeting on the multi-tier security grid in place, comprising personnel from the Police, CRPF and shrine board security, supported by QRts for swift action.

The deployment of advanced surveillance tools for real-time threat assessment was also highlighted, the officials said.

The meeting was attended by the Addl.CEO, SMVDSB; SSP, Reasi; Jt. CEO, SMVDSB; SDM, Katra and Bhawan; SP, Katra; Commandant, CRPF; Asstt. CEOs, SMVDSB; SDPOs, Katra and Bhawan; ACF, SMVDSB; and representatives of the Fire and Emergency Services and other allied agencies.

Drug peddler's property...

NDPS Act, a police spokesman said.

He said the attachment proceedings were conducted strictly in accordance with the prescribed legal procedure and in the presence of two independent witnesses.

As per the attachment order, the owner has been restrained from selling, leasing, transferring, altering, or creating any third-party interest in the said property until further orders, the police said.

CJI urges young...

-- what is the role of a lawyer in a nation like India at this moment in its history? I insist upon this, being well aware that too often, we reduce the legal profession to a narrow exercise -- winning cases, billing hours, mastering procedure," he said, adding that while this certainly produces competent practitioners, it does not necessarily create nation builders.

A case builder focuses on the dispute of the day, a nation builder concerns himself with the consequences of today's dispute on tomorrow's society, the CJI said.

The distinction is fundamental -- the former is transactional, the latter transformational, he added.

Underscoring a young lawyer's role in a broader context, Justice Kant told the students that as they stand "at the beginning of your own apprenticeship, you are entering a world unlike that faced by any generation before you".

"India is modernising faster than its institutions can comfortably adapt. Our disputes no longer fit neatly into familiar categories. Contracts now involve algorithms, property includes digital assets, families stretch across jurisdictions, environmental cases are battles against time itself.

"And at the centre of this growing complexity stands the Indian lawyer -- expected not merely to argue, but to interpret, to advise, to innovate and, above all, to humanise," he said.

The CJI underlined that judicial reforms and modernisation efforts would achieve a real meaning only when young lawyers translate ideas into action at the grassroots level.

Addressing the young lawyers, he said when he speaks about mediation, advocates for a unified national judicial policy, emphasises the need to modernise the country's courts, he is not shouting into a void.

"I am speaking directly to you -- our youth, our future and indeed, the very best of our human resources. And I am hoping that some among you will carry these ideas forward, refine them, challenge them and ultimately, make them work on the ground. Because it is an incontrovertible fact that words spoken from the bench acquire a meaning only when young minds convert them into action," he said.

"I stress upon the discrepancy between a case builder and a nation builder. A case builder asks, 'How do I win?' A nation builder asks, 'What kind of a system am I strengthening by the way I win?' A case builder is satisfied with technical compliance, a nation builder is concerned with justice, fairness and legitimacy," the CJI said.

He identified three essential pillars for a meaningful and enduring legal career -- integrity, compassion and curiosity -- and described integrity as the institutional backbone of the justice system.

Justice Kant told the graduates that these three pillars will guide them "when the law is unclear; when precedent is divided and when public opinion is loud but conscience is quiet".

Describing integrity as institutional strength, the CJI said a society may tolerate many inefficiencies, but it cannot survive a justice system that is not trusted.

"And trust, once lost, is extraordinarily difficult to rebuild," he said.

Touching upon the second pillar -- compassion -- the CJI noted that without it, justice risks becoming mechanical -- correct in form, but hollow in effect.

"Both at the bar and on the bench, I have seen how much depends on a lawyer's or a judge's willingness to look beyond the file. I have settled matters where a rigid insistence on procedure would have prolonged suffering.

"I have permitted last-moment mentions for listing cases when liberty was at stake, knowing fully well that justice delayed in such moments would be justice denied. And I have also known when the law required not urgency, but restraint: when tempering the harshness of an order could preserve dignity without com-

promising principle," he said.

The third and final pillar is the engine that keeps the law responsive to a changing world -- curiosity -- the CJI said.

He urged the young lawyers to engage thoughtfully with technology.

"Learn to use it, master it, harness it, but never surrender judgment to it. Technology must remain a servant of justice, not its substitute," he said.

On the occasion, the university conferred the Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) degree on Supreme Court judges Pankaj Mithal and Rajesh Bindal.

Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court Sheel Nagu was also present. Vice Chancellor of the university Jai Shankar Singh welcomed the guests.

Chugh slams Rahul...

said the country is aware of Congress' past links and questioned the party's stance.

"You praise China, but the nation knows about your party's record and which NGOs receive funding from China," he remarked, urging Gandhi to reflect on the Congress-led UPA government's performance.

Chugh alleged that during the UPA regime, India remained far from development and manufacturing due to weak policies, poor governance, and an atmosphere of despair.

In contrast, he said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the last 11 years has reversed this decline through initiatives such as Make in India, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, putting the country on a path of growth and national stability.

The B-JP leader further accused the Congress of spreading fear and confusion, asserting that such politics would not succeed. He also recalled major corruption scandals during the UPA era, including the 2G scam, Commonwealth Games scam, coal scam, and National Herald case, claiming these reflected large-scale misuse of public funds.

Calling Rahul Gandhi's statements unfortunate, Chugh said those whose tenure was marked by corruption have no moral right to question India's democratic strength on international platforms.

Special NIA court...

year after he failed to respond to a 30-day notice to appear before police. The case against him was registered in 2020 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Fai, a known supporter of banned Jamaat-e-Islami and alleged to be a close associate of designated terrorist and chief of Hizbul Mujahideen Syed Salahuddin, has been booked for giving support to a terrorist organisation in the country.

"This court is satisfied from the record that the accused... has deliberately and intentionally concealed himself," the judge said in the seven-page order.

The prosecution argued that the attachment was urgent as Fai's relatives currently in possession of the land were likely to sell it, which would defeat the legal process.

"... this court directs collector Budgam to attach the immovable property of land measuring one kanal and two marlas under Khewat No 60, survey No 466 in village Wadwan and land measuring 11 marlas under Khewat No 136, Survey No 343 situated at village Chattabugh (belonging to Fai) and take possession forthwith," the court said.

The Budgam district collector has been instructed to use revenue authorities to identify and demarcate the properties before formal attachment, with the Senior Superintendent of Police providing necessary security for the operation.

Fai, 76, has a long history of legal trouble in both India and the United States. He rose to prominence as the director of the Washington-based Kashmiri American Council (KAC), which he claimed was an independent grassroots organisation to highlight the so-called 'oppression of people of Kashmir'.

He was arrested by the FBI in 2011 after an investigation showed that the KAC was a "front" for the Pakistani intelligence agency ISI. The US authorities proved that for over 20 years, Fai funnelled at least USD 3.5 million from the ISI into the US to influence American policy on Kashmir.

In 2012, Fai was sentenced to two years in prison by a Virginia federal court for conspiracy and tax violations. At the time, US Attorney Neil MacBride noted that Fai had "lied to the Justice Department, the IRS, and many political leaders" while pushing ISI propaganda. After his release, he was kept under supervision for three years.

During his US trial, federal prosecutors said that Fai had lied about holding a doctorate degree, a title he used for decades to bolster his credibility in political circles.

"Fai has no doctorate degree," US Attorney MacBride informed the court in 2011, noting that his false representation unfairly diluted the respect earned by actual scholars.

Disclosure of outsiders...

activities detrimental to national security.

According to the order, all landlords and property owners must execute written tenancy agreements and submit tenant details to the concerned Rent Authority within two months. The Rent Authority will register such agreements and forward tenant details to the local police for security verification, it said.

The order further clarified that all arrangements of letting or sub-letting, including paying guests and commercial and agricultural tenants, will fall under its purview.

"Owners who have allowed jhuggis on their land and contractors engaged in national highway, expressway and other major infrastructure projects have also been directed to disclose details of labourers engaged from outside the district," it said.

It has also been mandated that station house officer-rank police personnel will conduct security verification of outsiders and maintain separate registers for the purpose, while tehsildars will ensure wide dissemination of the order, particularly in border villages.

Any violation of the order will invite action under the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Act, 2025, including fines and other legal measures, the order said.

The directive has come into force with immediate effect and will remain valid for two months unless withdrawn or rescinded earlier, the order added.

During Op Sindoor...

took a very bold decision to strike deep inside Pakistan to destroy terror camps in retaliation of the Pahalgam massacre in April in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed by attackers backed by the neighbouring country.

Operation Sindoor was result of a very bold planning by joint teams of all the three services - the Army, Navy and Air Force, he noted.

Chaudhari was speaking at an event in IIT Bombay where former Navy chief R Hari Kumar and ex- Army chief Manoj Pande were also present.

On May 7, India struck nine terror camps deep inside Pakistan (and PoK) out of which two were hit primarily by the IAF -- Bahawalpur and Murtike. It was the first time that India went so deep and struck with absolute pin-point accuracy, the former IAF chief stressed.

"We expected some kind of response. The Pakistanis responded by carrying out multiple attacks by using drones and missiles on our military installations and civilian targets and so on. They even targeted hospitals in Udhampur," he said.

However, India's integrated air defence systems were able to thwart all these attacks, Chaudhari highlighted.

"We brought down every single drone or missile that was fired at us. No damage was suffered within our country. Now when they were targeting our bases, this was getting a little out of hand.

Once they are hitting our bases, we had to retaliate and go after their bases from where their aircraft and drones got air-borne," the former IAF chief said.

"On May 9 and 10, what we carried out was an attack on their air bases and military targets. We hit them so hard, we hit them so precisely that they started waving white flags once their primary air bases were hit. And where we hit them was where it hurt the most," he asserted.

Chaudhari said BrahMos missiles launched from Sukhoi 30 aircraft and Scalp missiles from Rafale fighter jets stole the show during the conflict.

The precision air strikes were achieved through ISR -- Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. This, in turn, was obtained through Signal Intelligence (SIGINT), IMINT (Image Intelligence), Open source intelligence, Human intelligence, and satellite based surveillance, he maintained.

"So when you put all these together, you get a clear picture of exactly who is hiding where. (With) the kind of surveillance that is available globally, there are no hiding places," Chaudhari stressed.

Delhi HC dismisses...

Adil Bhat and Arsalan Feroze Ahenger.

The court passed a common decision on all the appeals, filed under Section 21 of the National Investigation Agency Act, challenging orders of special courts framing charges are framed against the various accused in different cases.

The NIA raised a preliminary objection that an appeal against an order framing charge is not maintainable under Section 21 of the NIA Act.

As per Section 21 of the NIA Act, an appeal should lie from any judgment, sentence or order; not being an interlocutory order; of a special court to the high court both on facts and on law.

The counsel for the accused appellants submitted as per Section 21, an appeal is maintainable against every order other than an interlocutory order.

They contended that it was already settled by the Supreme Court that an order framing charge is not an interlocutory order but an intermediate order and thus an appeal would be maintainable.

However, the counsel for NIA argued that a plain reading cannot be given to Section 21 as it would not serve the purpose of the NIA Act. It should rather be interpreted in a manner which fulfils the purpose of the rest of the sections along with the Act and thus a purposeful interpretation needs to be given.

The high court said an order framing charge is an interlocutory order as it does not decide any proceeding finally and the term 'intermediate order' is a concept of revisional jurisdiction which cannot be applied while interpreting the term 'appeal' both on facts and law.

"A conjoint reading of Section 21, other sections and purpose of the NIA Act shows that the term 'order' in Section 21(1) refers to a final order and not an interlocutory or intermediate order," it said.

The court said the scheme of Act is that for the scheduled offences covered by the NIA Act, the investigation as well as trial shall be speedy and a revision challenging any order is absolutely barred to enable the court to hold proceedings expeditiously. An appeal is provided only from any judgment, sentence or order; not being an interlocutory order; to a division bench of the high court both on facts and on law, it said.

"The term 'order' here is preceded by words 'judgment' and 'sentence' and followed by 'not being an interlocutory order'. The scope of challenge to such order is by way of appeal both on facts and law. Thus, the order has to be a final order; like a judgment or sentence which can be challenged both on facts and law and conclude proceeding finally," the bench said.

It added that under the NIA Act, though a revision is barred, "we do not find any provision enlarging the scope of challenge of an order framing charge from supervisory jurisdiction to challenge on facts and law".

It said at the stage of framing of charge, the court is to summarily look into the evidence collected by the prosecution and to find if a charge is made out.

"It is also obliged to see that there is no abuse of process of law or jurisdictional defects in the proceedings. However, the evidence is yet to be led by the parties before the court and thus, at this stage, the special court is not expected to give any definite finding on facts and law, consequently an appeal on facts and law cannot be envisaged," it said.

Northern Railway introduces...

weather in winter: "Trains often get delayed due to fog. The operation of these scratch rakes or additional rakes will be beneficial for passengers and will also help in the timely operation of trains.

"Such additional measures will also help in meeting the increasing demand of passengers in the future. This successful operation is a testament to the efficient management of the railways and its understanding of passenger needs," Singhal said.

NTA to introduce...

to create a digital template for comparison with stored data, often using AI for analysis. Meanwhile, a real-time photo capture via webcam or phone is used during online application or exam processes to prevent impersonation.

The recommendations were made by the Radhakrishnan Committee which was set up by the Centre following incidents of alleged paper leaks.

Fresh snowfall, rain...

The tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, in south Kashmir, recorded sub-zero temperatures, with the mercury settling at minus 2.2 degrees Celsius and minus 0.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In south Kashmir, Qazigund recorded a low of 3.2 degrees Celsius and Kokernag 2.8 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of 2.4 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Department has forecast generally cloudy weather with the possibility of rain at isolated places. The weather is likely to remain dry over the next few days, it said.

Theft case worked out; 2 arrested, stolen items recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police has worked out a theft case registered at Police Station Vijaypur, arrested two accused persons and recovered stolen items from their possession. On 20.12.2025, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Vijaypur by one person namely Pankaj Verma S/o Girdhari Lal R/o village Patti tehsil Bari Brahmanna district Samba regarding theft of inverter-battery, speakers, soundbars and other items from his shop situated at Rahya Morh during the intervening night of 19/20.12.2025. Acting upon the complaint, a case FIR No. 143/2025 u/s 331(4)/305 BNS was registered at Police Station Vijaypur and investigation started. During the course of investigation, a Police team of PS Vijaypur after relentless efforts, apprehended two suspects who upon sustained questioning confessed their involvement in the instant case. The arrested accused have been identified as Harpreet Singh @ Kaka S/o Darshan Singh R/o Sukarpura Dera Dor district Gurdaspur (Punjab) and Harpreet Singh S/o Bachan Singh R/o village Ahmedabad tehsil Dhalival district Gurdaspur (Punjab). On the disclosure of said accused persons, stolen items were recovered from their possession.

Ladakh LG puts off official engagement to facilitate air evacuation of critically ill patient

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Lt Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday deferred an official programme to facilitate the emergency air evacuation of a critically ill patient from Leh to Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The gesture was warmly welcomed by Ladakh B-JP president Khachu Tashi who praised the LG for demonstrating exemplary humanitarian leadership by prioritising a medical emergency over an official programme. The officials said Gupta was scheduled to take part in an official event this morning but decided to defer the programme after receiving a request for airlifting of a 67-year-old critically ill patient from SNM hospital Leh to Soura Medical Institute in Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir).

We are thankful to the Lt Governor and his administration for the helicopter service which is very crucial in saving lives of critically ill patients. Yesterday, we had a 67-year-old critically ill patient from Takhmachik village who was suffering from multiple ailments," Medical Superintendent, SNM hospital Leh, Rinchen Chosdol said. She said the acute emergency part was his gangrenous hernia, had chronic liver disease, filling water in the lungs and in the stomach and a heart problem. "After the damage control, we gave a requisition to shift the patient to a tertiary level as soon as possible. After the requisition, we sent a letter to the Deputy Commissioner's office. We do not have any tie-up with PGI, and Srinagar seems very comfortable for us. The patient also preferred Srinagar," the doctor said. She said the Lt Governor postponed his official visit and accordingly, the patient was airlifted and admitted in Srinagar hospital. "The patient is stable now. I would like to say a big thank you to Lt Governor for cancelling the flight and giving preference to the patient," she said. B-JP Ladakh president also lauded the Lt Governor for the courtesy and said this compassionate and prompt decision reflects a people-first administration, reaffirming the Ladakh administration's commitment to service, sensitivity, and the welfare of citizens.

Surinder, Amrita win Christmas Cup Chess titles

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Surinder Gupta bagged men's Under-20 title in the Christmas Cup Open Chess Tournament which was organised by the Vivek Chess Academy at Mast Garh, here today.

The women's Under-20 title went to Amrita Gupta, after she topped the points tally with four points secured by her out of five rounds. The under-15 boys event won by Pazhany Kohli. Earlier, young Pazhany gave a tough fight to his senior, Surinder in a drawn game. But due to buckle system in Chess, Surinder declared winner. Both got 4.5 points each.

The winners were presented with a cash prize worth Rs 3,000, certificates and title trophies by the VCA coach and former J&K champion, Vivek Bharti. The FIDE recommended Swiss software was used for pairing. The Detailed Results: Round-1: Pazhany (1) got walkover; Surinder (1) beat Keshav (0); Ishaan (1) beat Nitika (0); Lakshya got walkover; Amrita (1) beat Pearl (0); Avni (1) beat Prajanya (0); Prince (1) beat Gunjan (0); Mitansh (1) beat Raesha (0); Rudransh (1) beat Aadvik (0); Vaibhav (1) beat Aayansh (0); Aroo (1) beat Triyansh (0). Round-2: Pazhany (2) beat Avni (1); Surinder (2) beat Mitansh (1); Ishaan (2) beat Aroo (1); Lakshya (2) beat Prince (1); Amrita (2) beat Rudransh (1); Gunjan (1) beat Vaibhav (1); Aadvik (1) beat Pearl (0); Prajanya (1) beat aayansh (0); Keshav (1) beat Raesha (0); Nitika (1) beat Triyansh (0). Round-3: Pazhany (3) beat Lakshya (2); Surinder (3) beat Ishaan (2); Amrita (3) beat Avni (1); Nitika (2) beat Gunjan (1); Mitansh (2) beat Prajanya (1); Aadvik (2) beat Vaibhav (1); Prince (2) beat Aroo (1); Keshav (2) beat Rudransh (1); Aayansh (1) beat Raesha (0); Pearl (1) beat Triyansh (0). Round-4: Surinder (4) beat Amrita (3); Pazhany (4) beat Mitansh (2); Ishaan (3) beat Prince (2); Lakshya (3) beat Keshav (2); Avni (2) beat Vaibhav (1); Pearl (2) beat Gunjan (1); Rudransh (2) beat Aayansh (1); Prajanya (2) beat Aroo (1); Raesha (1) beat Triyansh (0). Round-5: Pazhany (4.5) drew Surinder (4.5); Amrita (4) beat Ishaan (3); Lakshya (4) beat Aadvik (3); Avni (3) beat Pearl (2); Mitansh (3) beat Rudransh (2); Keshav (3) beat Prince (2); Prajanya (3) beat Nitika (2); Gunjan (2) beat Raesha (1); Aayansh (2) beat Aroo (1); Vaibhav (2) beat Triyansh (0).

CYBER CRIME INVESTIGATION CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE, CRIME BRANCH. J&K

SUBJECT: - CYBER ADVISORY - RTO CHALLAN APK FILE SCAM.



As reported, the cyber criminals are circulating fake RTO challan messages through SMS and WhatsApp containing malicious APK files. Once installed, the victim's mobile phone and WhatsApp account get compromised and the fraudsters have access to the accounts of the mobile phone user.

MODUS OPERANDI:

- Victims receive messages claiming pending traffic challan / e-challan.
- Messages contain APK files or links such as "RTO Challan.apk", "e-Challan App", etc.
- On installation, the mobile phone gets hacked and WhatsApp may be taken over.
- Fraudulent messages are then sent to contacts and sensitive data including bank accounts which are internet connected may be accessed.

RED FLAGS:

- Messages asking to download APK files.
- Unknown senders posing as RTO or Traffic Police.
- Urgency created by threatening penalties or legal action.
- Requests to enable unknown sources in phone settings.
- Receiving OTP without any request.

SAFETY GUIDELINES:

- Do not download or install APK files received via SMS or WhatsApp.
- Do not click suspicious links.
- Check traffic challans only on the official website or physically by Traffic Police.
- Install apps only from Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- Enable WhatsApp two-step verification.
- Inform your bank if they notice anything suspicious.
- Report the incident immediately by calling at 1930 (Helpline number) or www.cybercrime.gov.in.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

- RTO, Traffic Police, or any Government department do not send APK files for challan payment.

All official challans are available only through authorized government portals.

Stay Alert – Stay Safe – Stop Cyber Crime.

DIP/J-9326/25
Dated:- 23/12/2025