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LG chairs high...

emphasized on better coordination among all stakeholders involved in yatra management. Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor gave an overview of the Yatra arrangements and key measures taken to further enhance the facilities and services for pilgrims and smooth conduct of Yatra.

Modi meets injured...

and mess. Modi later visited the city civil hospital, where he spoke to Vishwas Kumar Ramesh, the lone plane survivor of the tragedy and also met other persons injured in the accident.

The PM visited the C7 ward of the hospital, where 25 injured people are undergoing treatment, and interacted with the doctors.

Modi met state and civil aviation officers at the GujSail office near the Ahmedabad airport and was briefed on the tragedy.

The London-bound aircraft with 242 people on board, including former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, crashed moments after taking off.

Of the 265 bodies brought to the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital for post-mortem on Thursday, six victims were identified so far as their faces were intact, police inspector Chirag Gosai said.

He said DNA profiling is underway to ascertain the identities of others as their bodies are charred beyond recognition.

"We have handed over the six bodies to the relatives. We have started the process of collecting DNA samples of relatives for profiling to identify bodies that are charred beyond recognition," Gosai said.

"Relatives of 215 deceased persons have approached us to give their samples," he said. The details are gathered from relatives arriving at the post-mortem room, and the kin are then sent to BJ Medical College to provide their DNA samples, he added.

"It will take nearly 72 hours to complete the exercise of matching the DNA samples. Once there is a match, bodies will be handed over to relatives from the post-mortem room," Gosai said.

A Boeing 787 Dreamliner (AI 171), with 242 people on board, including former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, crashed into a medical college complex in the Meghaninagar area moments after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport.

Bhumi Chauhan, a UK-based woman visiting India, thanked God and her stars for missing the ill-fated Air India plane as she got stuck in heavy traffic and reached the airport late.

Chauhan said she missed boarding the plane by just 10 minutes.

"I am shivering after I learnt about the crash. I left the airport at 1.30 pm as I missed the flight due to traffic. I thank God," said Chauhan, who was in India for vacation.

At least nine crew members on board, including both the pilots, hailed from Maharashtra, an official said.

He said the aircraft's pilot, Captain Sumeet Pushkaraj Sabharwal (56), was a resident of Jal Vayu Vihar in the Powai area of Mumbai and lived with his elderly parents.

The co-pilot of the flight, Clive Kunder, was a resident of the western suburbs of Mumbai, as per his social media account.

Cabin crew member Deepak Pathak lived in Badlapur in neighbouring Thane district.

Pathak's sister had earlier said he spoke to his mother before leaving for London. He had been working with Air India for 11 years, she said.

Another crew member, Maithili Patil (23), was a resident of Nhava village in Navi Mumbai. Patil joined Air India two years ago, and her father, Moreshwar Patil, is a labour contractor with ONGC.

Patil had spoken to her father before her flight to London and promised to call him once she reached the city, a former sarpanch of Nhava said.

Aparna Mahadik (43), another crew member, was a resident of Goregaon in the western suburbs, and her husband also works with Air India as a crew member. She was a relative of NCP leader Sunil Tatkare.

Roshni Rajendra Songhare and Saineeta Chakravarti, both crew members, hailed from Dombivli and Juhu Koliwada, respectively.

Songhare was also a travel influencer with more than 54,000 followers on Instagram.

The victims also included Mahadev Pawar (68) and his wife Asha (60), who hailed from Hatid village in Sangola of Maharashtra's Solapur district.

The Pawars had left Sangola and settled in Gujarat 15 years ago, and they were heading to London to visit their son.

One of the passengers, Yasha Kamdar Modha (32), was the daughter of Nagpur businessman Manish Kamdar. She was travelling to London with her son Rudra and mother-in-law Rakshaben, and all three perished in the crash.

Meets family members...

Shri Vijaybhai Rupani Ji. It is unimaginable that Vijaybhai is not in our midst. I've known him for decades. We worked together, shoulder to shoulder, including during some of the most challenging times," Modi said in his posts on X.

"Vijaybhai was humble and hardworking, firmly committed to the Party's ideology. Rising up the ranks, he held various responsibilities in the Organisation and went on to serve diligently as Gujarat's Chief Minister," he said.

In every role assigned, he distinguished himself, be it in the Rajkot Municipal Corporation, as Rajya Sabha MP, as Gujarat BJP President and as Cabinet Minister in the state government, Modi said.

"Vijaybhai and I also worked extensively when he was Gujarat CM. He ushered in many measures that enhanced Gujarat's growth trajectory, particularly in boosting Ease of Living. Will always cherish the interactions we had. My thoughts are with his family and friends in this hour of grief. Om Shanti," the PM said.

The PM met the former chief minister's wife Anjali Rupani and other family members at GujSail building near the airport.

Rupani was CM of Gujarat for two terms from August 7, 2016 to September 11, 2021, after winning the Gujarat assembly elections from Rajkot West seat. He was presently the BJP's in charge for Punjab.

CM meets delegations...

promotion initiatives. A delegation from Animal Rescue Kashmir raised issues regarding the welfare and rescue of animals, requesting institutional support and awareness for their cause.

Candidates appointed under SRO-120 of 2018 called for resolution of pending compassionate appointment cases, while another delegation being considered under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (2022) also highlighted similar concerns regarding pendency in compassionate appointments.

A deputation of "Voice of Weekly Newspapers" from Kashmir brought to light issues faced by weekly newspaper publishers in the region.

Besides these, numerous individuals and other delegations met the Chief Minister and apprised him of their grievances and demands.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all deputations and assured them that their genuine issues would be addressed on priority.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and other senior officials were also present during the programme.

Shri Amarnath Ji...

medical facilities, are in place for the Sadhus here. We wish for a trouble-free yatra," Dass said. He added that his complex has been serving sadhus for generations throughout the year.

As per past practice, the people of Jammu and Kashmir welcome the pilgrims according to age-old traditions so they do not face any problems.

Ram Mandir in the Purani Mandi area of Jammu, the city of temples, hosts the sadhus and sadhvis at its sprawling complex, with the government departments lending support to ensure various facilities, including on-the-spot registration for the yatra.

Dass lauded the role of the lieutenant governor and the administration in putting up the best possible facilities for the pilgrims.

"We expect a rush of pilgrims to Amarnath this year too," he said.

Amid chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and "Jai Jai Baba Barfani", the sadhus and sadhvis are eagerly waiting for the yatra to commence.

Hailing from Uttarakhand, Ram Baba has been visiting Amarnath for the past 24 years.

"We have been coming for the yatra for the past 24 years. This is our 25th year. We are waiting for the day the yatra starts, as we want to have early darshan of Barfani Baba," he said.

He further said that he had walked from his home temple along with his group of Naths in six days.

"I start my year with this yatra by seeking the blessing of the Ice Lingam," he added.

Another sadhu from Odisha said he is confident of undertaking the arduous journey to the shrine with the help of a belt tied around his back to overcome pain.

DB grants relief...

also granted liberty to the employer to initiate fresh disciplinary proceedings in accordance with law.

Subsequently, both the employee and employer filed separate Letters Patent Appeals.

LPA No. 97/2024 filed by Suresh Kumar Rekhi through counsel Ayushman Kotwal, challenging the denial of monetary benefits during the period of termination while LPA No. 195/2024, filed by the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and JKPCCL, represented by Ravinder Gupta, Additional Advocate General, challenging the quashing of the termination on the ground that the appointment itself was void ab initio due to alleged forgery.

After hearing both sides and perusing the records, the Division Bench delivered a nuanced verdict on May 29, 2025.

The Bench unequivocally held that termination without affording an opportunity of hearing violated fundamental legal principles, especially when the termination was stigmatic in nature and ended a career spanning nearly three decades.

The Court observed that the employer acted solely on departmental communication without providing Rekhi a chance to respond to the allegation regarding the PRC. This, the Court said, rendered the action legally untenable.

The Bench also noted that while there were credible allegations about Rekhi using a subsequently cancelled PRC, there was no finding that he had personally forged or misrepresented documents. The PRC may have been valid when issued and only later cancelled.

Recognizing both the employer's position and the employee's hardship, the Court struck a balance. It ruled that Suresh Kumar Rekhi shall be entitled to 50 per cent of the back wages for the period from July 29, 2021 to December 18, 2023-partially allowing LPA No. 97/2024.

LPA No. 195/2024 filed by the employer was dismissed, affirming the Single Judge's order to reinstate the employee with liberty to initiate de novo proceedings. The matter has now been disposed of by the Court.

Israel strikes Iran's...

"Israel will come to deeply regret this reckless aggression and the grave strategic miscalculation it has made," he said.

Israel's military said about 200 aircraft were involved in the initial attack on about 100 targets. Its Mossad spy agency positioned explosive drones and precision weapons inside Iran ahead of time, and used them to target Iranian air defences and missile launchers near Tehran, according to two security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was not possible to independently confirm the officials' claims.

Among the key sites Israel attacked was Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility in Natanz, where black smoke could be seen rising into the air. It also appeared to strike a second, smaller nuclear enrichment facility in Fordo, about 100 km southeast of Tehran, according to an Iranian news outlet close to the government that reported hearing explosions nearby.

Israel said it destroyed dozens of radar installations and surface-to-air missile launchers in western Iran.

Israel military spokesman Brig Gen Effie Defrin said the Natanz facility was "significantly damaged" and that the operation was "still in the beginning".

The first wave of strikes had given Israel "significant freedom of movement" in Iran's skies, clearing the way for further attacks, according to an Israeli military official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to discuss details of the attack with the media.

The official said Israel is prepared for an operation that could last up to two weeks, but that there was no firm timeline and it would depend largely on how Iran responds.

Among those killed were three of Iran's top military leaders: one who oversaw the entire armed forces, Gen Mohammad Bagheri; one who led the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Gen Hossein Salami; and the head of the Guard's ballistic missile programme, Gen Amir Ali Hajizadeh.

Iran confirmed all three deaths, significant blows its governing theocracy that will complicate efforts to retaliate. Khamenei said other top military officials and scientists were also killed.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the attack had been months in the making.

In a video statement sent to journalists Friday, Netanyahu said he ordered plans for the attack last November, soon after the killing of Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah in Lebanon, one of Iran's strongest proxies. Netanyahu said the attack was planned for April but was postponed.

In its first response Friday, Iran fired more than 100 drones at Israel. Israel said the drones were being intercepted outside its airspace, and it was not immediately clear whether any got through.

Israel's military said it called up reservists and began stationing troops in "all combat arenas" throughout the country as it braced for further retaliation from Iran or Iranian proxy groups on its border.

Trump urged Iran on Friday to reach a deal with the US on its nuclear program, warning on his Truth Social platform that Israel's attacks "will only get worse".

"Iran must make a deal, before there is nothing left, and save what was once known as the Iranian Empire," he wrote.

Earlier in the week, officials in Washington had cautioned Israel against an attack so as not to disrupt US negotiations with Iran over its nuclear enrichment programme. On Friday, they stressed the US had not been involved in the attack, and warned against any retaliation targeting US interests or personnel.

Israel calls attacks preemptive strikes on Iran's nuclear programme

Israel leaders cast the attack as necessary to head off an imminent threat that Iran would build nuclear bombs, though it remains unclear how close the country is to achieving that or whether Iran had actually been planning a strike. Iran maintains its nuclear programme is for civilian purposes only.

"This is a clear and present danger to Israel's very survival," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed as he vowed to pursue the attack for as long as necessary to "remove this threat."

Israel is widely believed to be the only nuclear-armed state in the Middle East but has never acknowledged having such weapons.

Over the past year, Israel has been targeting Iran's air defences, hitting a radar system for a Russian-made air defence battery in April 2024 and surface-to-air missile sites and missile manufacturing facilities in October.

On Friday, Israelis rushed to supermarkets in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and elsewhere to buy bottled water and other supplies. But, otherwise, streets and parks were mostly deserted.

Iran says Israel targeted residential areas

For Netanyahu, the operation distracts attention from Israel's ongoing and increasingly devastating war in Gaza, which is now over 20 months old.

There is a broad consensus in the Israeli public that Iran is a major threat, and Israel's opposition leader, Yair Lapid, a staunch critic of Netanyahu, offered his "full support" for the mission against Iran. But if Iranian reprisals cause heavy Israeli casualties or major disruptions to daily life, public opinion could shift quickly. The Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah issued a statement that offered condolences and condemned the attack, but did not threaten to join Iran in its retaliation. Hezbollah's latest war with Israel - which killed much of the group's senior leadership - ended with a US-brokered ceasefire in November.

Khamenei, the Iranian Supreme Leader, said in a statement that Israel "opened its wicked and blood-stained hand to a crime in our beloved country, revealing its malicious nature more than ever by striking residential centres."

Israel's attack on...

such as Russia, on another is wrong, the attack by Israel on Iran is totally unjustified," Abdullah said. The situation in the Middle East would escalate, and it would have an immediate impact on the world, the chief minister said.

"It has an impact on our fuel prices, on our stock market, and on the flights that fly to the West. But, more than that, it has an impact on the sentiments of the people," he said. The chief minister also requested the Ministry of External Affairs to ensure the safety of Kashmiri students in Iran.

"Requesting @MEAIndia to urgently ensure the safety and well-being of Kashmiri students currently stuck in Iran. Their families are deeply worried, and we stand with them in this difficult time. Every step must be taken to safeguard our students," Abdullah said on X.

Farooq urges MEA...

and diplomacy in resolving tensions between the two nations.

"Both sides must refrain from taking any escalatory steps. Existing channels of dialogue and diplomacy should be utilised to work towards de-escalation and address the underlying issues," the NC president said in a statement.

Road safety enforcement drive conducted in Rajouri; violators booked

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: The Motor Vehicle Department Rajouri conducted an intensive road checking drive here at Panja Chowk and adjoining areas.

The enforcement drive was carried out in the wee hours by MVI, Rahul Singh and other officials of under the supervision of ARTO Rajesh Gupta.

During the drive, 100 vehicles were checked of which 17 were e-challaned for different violations, with an expected penalty amounting to Rs. 42,000 (Forty-two thousand only). In addition, 6 e-Autos found being operated without valid driving licences were seized on the spot. The Drive was conducted in line with the directions of Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan and Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma.

Doda police inspects 30 SIM vendors during drive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a proactive initiative to enhance security and tackle issues related to unauthorized SIM card distribution, Doda Police on the directions of SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta District Police Doda conducted a comprehensive inspection drive targeting SIM card vendor outlets across the district. The initiative aims to strengthen the verification process for new SIM registrations to curb the misuse of mobile connectivity.

During the inspection, vendors were directed to maintain proper records of all issued SIM cards including customer details and to follow strict KYC (Know Your Customer) protocols before issuing SIM cards. The vendors were also instructed to prohibit the sale of fake or pre-activated SIM cards and ensure compliance with all guidelines issued by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT).

The day long drive for 30 teams were constituted inspected about 94 vindors throughout the District. The drive also highlighted the importance of maintaining detailed records for recharges, duplicate SIM issuance, and logs for lost or damaged SIM cards along with associated customer details. Vendors were warned against irregular practices and strict legal action was emphasized for any violations detected during future inspections. Some record of the SIM vendors was also taken for detailed analysis and verification.

Missing lady reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In a swift and coordinated effort, the Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kathua successfully traced and reunited a missing woman with her family, completing all necessary legal formalities.

According to police sources, on June 12, 2025, a man named resident of RS Pura, District Jammu, approached Police Station Billawar to lodge a complaint regarding the disappearance of his 24-year-old wife, Jyoti Devi.

Following the complaint, a missing report was promptly registered under GD No. 16 dated 12-06-2025 at Police Station Billawar. Acting swiftly, a dedicated team from the station, under the guidance of SDPO Billawar and SHO PS Billawar, initiated a search operation.

The team made use of multiple methods including reviewing roadside CCTV footage, applying technical surveillance techniques, and conducting extensive field inquiries. Their timely and effective efforts led to the successful recovery of the missing woman. After verifying her identity and completing all required legal procedures, woman was handed over safely to her legal heirs. Consequently, the missing report has been officially closed.

Opium poppy cultivation destroyed, one held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Continuing its war against drugs, Udhampur Police has arrested



one person for cultivating Opium/Poppy illegally under the jurisdiction of Police Post Damnote.

On receiving specific information regarding the cultivation of banned Opium/Poppy at Dungi Dhar Bariote, Mougari, a special team was constituted by Insp. Parshotam Sharma SHO PS Panchari and

assisted by PSI Kulvinder Singh ICPP Damnote who rushed to the spot and found one person cultivating Opium/Poppy on his private land at Dungi Bariote, Mougari, Udhampur. The accused person has been identified as Maan Singh S/O Prabhat Singh R/O Dingi Dhar Bariote, Udhampur. The entire operation was conducted in the presence of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Mougari and other independent witnesses. The Opium/Poppy cultivation was destroyed on spot and a case FIR 24/2025 U/S 8/18 NDPS Act has been registered against the accused person.

50 lost mobile phones recovered; handed over to owners

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Kathua Police with the aim to extend Public Services, recovered 50

Android Lost Mobile Phones (including 01 Apple i Phone 14) with purchase value of approximately INR 9,32,000/- for which missing complaints were registered in various



Police Stations of District Kathua. SSP Kathua Shobhit Saksena alongwith Addl. SP Kathua Rahul Charak JKPS, DySP DAR Kathua Sh. Ritesh Samyal and other officers today handed over these recovered mobile handsets to their rightful owners after proper verifications. These phones have been recovered by the dedicated professional team of IT Section DPO Kathua by using technical assistance. On receiving their missing/lost mobiles phones, the owners felt elated and expressed their gratitude towards Kathua Police and especially to SSP Kathua for his arduous efforts and guidance in tracing out missing mobiles. These mobile phones have been recovered from different areas of J&K UT, Punjab, Gujrat, Rajasthan, UP, Bangalore etc also.

Jammu police nabs wanted criminal involved in Bari Brahmana police attack

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant breakthrough, Jammu Police apprehended a wanted criminal from the Bishnah area who had been evading arrest in multiple FIRs, including his alleged involvement in the recent attack on the Station House Officer (SHO) of Police Station Baribrahmana. The arrested individual has been identified as Inam Hussain, 27, son of Ghulam Rasool, a resident of Lagotian, Miran Sahib.

The operation was carried out by a team from Police Station Bishnah, led by SHO Inspector Sushil Choudhary, under the close supervision of SDPO R.S. Pura and SP Headquarters Jammu. According to police officials, the arrest marks a major step in cracking down on criminal elements who pose a threat to law enforcement and public order. Inam Hussain was reportedly absconding and had been actively involved in cases that include the recent high-profile attack on the Baribrahmana police party. SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh (JKPS), lauded the police team for their courage, swift action, and professionalism in handling the case. Further investigations are ongoing to uncover the broader criminal links and activities associated with the accused.