

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Any terror attack...

Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Pratik Sharma and other senior officers including commanding officers of all units attended the meeting at Udhampur-based northern command headquarters, they said.

Singh reached Udhampur headquarters of the northern command on a two-day visit on Friday and led the International Day of Yoga celebrations of the Armed Forces on Saturday morning, performing various asanas and breathing exercises with 2,500 soldiers. After the yoga session, the top Army brass briefed the defence minister on the prevailing security situation in the Union territory, the officials said.

The briefing focused on security in the border areas as well as the hinterland, especially anti-terrorist operations in forested areas. It also covered security arrangements made for the annual 38-day Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin in the South Kashmir Himalayas on July 3.

Three detained for...

questioning. One of them failed to lodge a complaint after his mobile phone was allegedly taken away by suspected terrorists from the higher reaches of Basantgarh in Udhampur district in April, the officials said.

A woman was also called for questioning after the operation was extended to Dassal village of Bari Brahmana, they said.

Govt announce 15...

the approval conveyed by the competent authority, it is hereby ordered that all the Government and recognized Private Schools up to Higher Secondary level functioning in the Kashmir Division shall observe summer vacation w.e.f 23-06-2025 to 07-07-2025," the order read.

Kashmir is currently experiencing a heatwave as the temperatures have soared to record high in the last two decades.

Srinagar witnessed the hottest June day in two decades on Friday as the mercury rose to the maximum of 35.5 degrees Celsius, which was 6.3 degrees above the normal.

On the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, the city recorded 23.2 degrees Celsius --" the highest night temperature since 1990 when it recorded 23.6.

The all-time highest night temperature in June stands at 24.6 degrees recorded on June 29, 1978.

At 16.8 degrees, Pahalgam recorded the third highest night temperature ever in June, and at 20.4 degrees, Kokernag also recorded the third highest night temperature ever in the month. Similarly, at 21.1 degrees, Kupwara recorded the fifth highest night temperature ever in June.

World going through...

the beginning of Yoga for humanity 2.0 where inner peace becomes global policy," the PM said.

He remarked that the essence of yoga is "to unite", and it is heartening to see how yoga has united the world.

Asserting that Yoga is for everyone, beyond boundaries, background, age, or ability, Modi said the theme of this year's International Yoga Day - "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" - reflects a deep truth, that the health of every entity on earth is interconnected.

Expressing pride in seeing how differently-abled individuals are reading yogic texts in braille, Modi noted that scientists are also practicing yoga in space.

Human well-being depends on the health of the soil that grows food, on the rivers that give water, and the health of animals that share the ecosystem and the plants that nourish, he further said.

Yoga awakens us to this interconnectedness. Yoga leads on a journey towards oneness with the world and teaches that people are not isolated individuals but part of nature, Modi added.

"Yoga is a great personal discipline. At the same time, it is a system that takes us from Me to We. Let this Yoga Day mark the beginning of Yoga for humanity, where inner peace becomes global policy," he said.

When India proposed in the United Nations that June 21 be celebrated as International Yoga Day, in a short time, 175 countries accepted it, he said.

After 11 years, Yoga has now become part of the lives of crores of people around the world, he further said.

"Whether the Sydney Opera House or the Everest mountain, or the span of the ocean, the message is that Yoga is for everyone," said Modi.

Referring to Indian culture, the PM said it teaches us the value of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah"-the welfare of all is one's sacred duty - and this journey from 'Me' to 'We' forms the foundation of service, dedication, and coexistence. The Prime Minister stated that it is this very thinking that fosters social harmony.

Emphasising that yoga should not remain merely a personal practice, Modi said it should evolve into a medium for global partnerships.

He called upon every nation and society to integrate yoga into their lifestyle and public policy and envision a collective effort to advance a peaceful, balanced, and sustainable world.

"Yoga should guide the world from conflict to cooperation, and from stress to solutions," he said.

Further, Modi noted that through the National Ayush Mission, the message of yoga and wellness is being actively advanced across the country.

According to the PM, the scale of events taking place in every corner of India reflects yoga's growing influence.

Underlining the efforts of the Yoga Certification Board, which has trained more than 6.5 lakh volunteers and recognised around 130 institutions, the PM noted the inclusion of a 10-day yoga module in medical colleges as part of building a holistic wellness ecosystem.

He called upon everyone to transform yoga into a people's movement to lead the world towards peace, health, and harmony.

This year, special contests such as Yoga with Family and youth-focused initiatives under Yoga Unplugged have been launched on platforms like MyGov and MyBharat, encouraging mass participation, said Modi.

Modi congratulated Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh for organising Yogandhra project.

The 11th edition of the Yoga Day saw new records being made.

Naidu said that the state set 23 global records - two Guinness Records and 21 World Book of Records.

Addressing media persons after performing Yoga along with PM Modi, Naidu said 3.03 lakh people gathered to perform the ancient lifestyle art, creating a world record for most people performing Yoga at a single location.

"A total of 23 global records comprising 21 World Book of Records and two Guinness Records were created," he said.

Further, about 22,122 tribal students simultaneously performed 108 Surya namaskar for 108 minutes in one location, thus creating the second Guinness World Record. This feat was achieved on Friday at Andhra University.

ACB arrests absconding...

bushes on the NHW near Palli.

The tainted bribe money was recovered from the bushes by independent witnesses and seized in the instant case, official said adding that Anti-Corruption Bureau Jammu finally arrested the aforesaid absconding public servant on Saturday in the case at hand and further investigation of the case is in progress.

ACB arrests Tehsildar...

complainant paid him Rs 50,000 in advance as demanded.

But when after payment of initial bribe amount of Rs 50,000, official said, the complainant again approached Tehsildar for permissions, he demanded remaining bribe amount of Rs 50,000 before giving him permissions and asked him to pay rest of the balance amount before he issue permissions.

After verification of facts which disclose commission of a cognizable offence punishable under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (As amended in 2018) against Ghulam Rasool Bhat, Case FIR No.04/2025 under section 7 of the PC Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) was registered at PS ACB Baramulla and investigation was set into motion, the official said.

After registration of case, official added, trap team of ACB caught the accused Tehsildar and his tout Rafi Ahmad Lone, son of Abdul Khaliq Lone, resident of Pothora Kralagund, Kupwara red handed at private residence of accused in Handwara while demanding and accepting bribe from complainant after which both were taken into custody.

During search in addition to bribe money of Rs 50,000, cash of Rs 79,000 was also recovered and same was also seized by ACB, official said adding that the searches are being conducted at residential and official premises of the accused Tehsildar, the accused persons were presented before Additional Special Judge Anti Corruption Court, Baramulla which remanded them to police custody for 7 days.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the year 2021, ACB registered case against the said Tehsildar for illegal land mutations. Besides this some more verifications are going on against him in ACB, official said adding that further investigations are going on and role of other officers/officials is being ascertained.

Hope Israel, Iran...

"It is obvious that there is some politics behind it but we hope that this cycle stops sooner and the issues are resolved through dialogue," he added.

Abdullah visited many areas in his assembly constituency and said it was his duty as the local MLA.

"The people of Ganderbal have sent me to represent them and serve them and I will try my best to meet their expectations. So, since I became the MLA, we have hastened the development progress here.

"Today, I inaugurated one project, a marriage hall and laid the foundation stone of a bridge, which was an old demand," he said.

Abdullah said when he sought votes from the people of Ganderbal, he had told them that he would serve them as an MLA and address their issues.

"I had told them I will not remain away for five years after taking their votes. Despite having the responsibility of the whole J-K, I have never forgotten that the people of Ganderbal did me a huge favour by electing me from here and that is why I did not leave this seat," he said.

Abdullah won the assembly polls from two seats -" Ganderbal and Budgam. He vacated Budgam after being sworn-in as the chief minister.

Asked about the upcoming annual Amarnath yatra, Abdullah said he was hopeful that yatris will come in large numbers to visit the Amarnath cave shrine.

"We hope they return safely as well. The responsibility of their security lies with the LG and Raj Bhavan, and I hope all the measure will be taken for their safety and security. Rest of the responsibilities -" be it medical or infrastructure -" we have fulfilled those," he added.

Unveils marriage hall...

for a 50-meter span steel trussed girder bridge in Ganderbal.

He dedicated the Community Marriage Hall at Duderhama, Ganderbal to the public which has been constructed at a cost of Rs 4.15 crore and the facility is meant to serve as an important and affordable venue for weddings and other community events, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the local population.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to build people-centric infrastructure that promotes social wellbeing. "This marriage hall is not just a building, but a step toward making community life more inclusive and accessible," he said.

Later, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for construction of a 50-meter span steel trussed girder bridge over Nallah Sindh at Ahanger Mohalla, Gadoora. The Rs 7.56 crore project is expected to significantly enhance local connectivity and facilitate smooth movement between habitations on either side of the Nallah.

Highlighting the importance of the bridge, the Chief Minister stated, "Bridges don't just connect places, they connect people and opportunities. This bridge will significantly improve access, reduce travel time, and ensure smoother mobility for residents."

Senior district officers, engineers, and a large number of local residents were present at both the events and expressed appreciation for the developmental initiatives undertaken by the government in their area.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal Khalil Poswal, Chief Engineer Public Works (R&B) Department Kashmir Sajjad Ahmed Naqeeb and other concerned officials.

India evacuating all...

+989128109109," it said.

In another post, the embassy said that its evacuation efforts will also cover citizens of Nepal and Sri Lanka.

"On request of the Governments of Nepal and Sri Lanka, the Indian Embassy's evacuation efforts in Iran will also cover Citizens of Nepal and Sri Lanka," it said.

"The citizens of Nepal and Sri Lanka may urgently reach out to the Embassy, either on the Telegram channel or over the emergency contact numbers. +989010144557; +989128109115; +989128109109," it added.

In Colombo, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry also advised its citizens in Iran to contact the Indian Embassy in Tehran if they wish to leave the country.

"The government of Sri Lanka has made arrangements with the government of India to assist Sri Lankans who wish to leave Iran by accommodating them in the flights," the ministry said in an official release.

According to the Foreign Ministry, there are less than 100 Sri Lankan nationals in Iran, while some 20,000 are employed in Israel.

In Kathmandu, Nepal's Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba's secretariat said she requested the Indian government to rescue 16 Nepalese nationals who were stranded in Iran.

Foreign Minister Deuba requested the Indian government, through Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava, to include the Nepali nationals during the evacuation of Indians from Iran.

Deuba took to X to thank External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for India's swift assistance.

"Thank you @DrSJaishankar for India's swift assistance in helping to evacuate Nepali nationals from Iran. India's support in Nepal's evacuation efforts is a reflection of the strength of Nepal-India ties," Deuba wrote.

Of the 16 Nepali nationals, five are currently in Iranian prisons due to immigration-related offences, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, adding, efforts are underway to secure their release and repatriation as part of the evacuation process.

India on Wednesday announced the launch of "Operation Sindhu" to evacuate its nationals from Iran after its conflict with Israel, which has entered its second week, showed no sign of letting up.

On Saturday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that over 500 Indian nationals have returned home from Iran under Operation Sindhu so far:

Embracing Yoga as...

to include Yoga in their daily life to remain physically and mentally fit. He emphasized that embracing Yoga as a way of life can significantly enhance judicial functions, boosting efficiency and effectiveness for Judicial Officers and all stakeholders.

Following the inauguration, all the participants collectively took part in Yoga sessions and Asanas (breathing techniques) under the guidance of trained instructors. The theme of this year's Yoga Day was "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", which highlights Yoga's role in fostering harmony among the individuals, communities and the environment. The event was also graced by the presence of Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohammad Younsuf Wani, Justice Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General (Officiating) and Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Registrar Vigilance, Member/Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority, Registrar Judicial Srinagar, Joint Registrar Judicial/Incharge Protocol Srinagar besides other officers and staff of the Srinagar Wing.

Ex- BDC member...

under section 8/21/22/25 of the NDPS Act.

The police official said that the accused who served as a BDC member in the year 2019 and remained on chair for 8 months (from Sep 2019 to April 2020), has a history of involvement in some cases.

Local sources said that he was subsequently removed from the position through a No-Confidence Motion passed by the local Sarpanches and Panches in April, 2020.

He also held the position of Sarpanch during 2019 for a period of 10 months (from Nov 2018 to Sep. 2019) Further investigation is underway to trace the source of the contraband and identify any possible links to a broader drug trafficking network, the official added.

Will move SC if there is inordinate delay in restoration of statehood to J&K: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said that his party would move the Supreme Court if there is an inordinate delay in the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"After the elections, people wanted their issues to be resolved immediately, but statehood (not being restored) is stopping us. They have many demands like they want him (National Conference MLA Altaf Kaloo) to become a minister, but how is this possible till statehood is restored," he told reporters after a meeting of the party workers in Kokernag area of south Kashmir district here.

"We are waiting, but if they (Centre) take a long time then we will have no option but to go to the Supreme Court," said Abdullah. "I am hopeful that when statehood is restored, we will get all the powers," he added. Commenting on the Israel-Iran conflict, the National Conference president said he prays to God to give sense to both countries to stop the war. "I pray that God gives both Israel as well as Iran some sense and give (Donald) Trump some sense also so that he talks about peace and not war. The issues can only be resolved peacefully and nothing will be achieved without peace," he said. Addressing his party workers earlier, Abdullah while referring to the April 22 Pahalgam attack said the attackers managed to reach Baisaran and carry out the attack despite the presence of so many security forces and technologies like drones. "They (Centre) said we ended militancy here, then where did they (Pahalgam attackers) come from? We have so many forces, so many drones etc. Where did those four (attackers) come from?" asked Abdullah.

Raj Bhawan celebrates West Bengal Foundation Day LG pays tributes to freedom fighters, luminaries from West Bengal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan on Saturday hosted the cultural evening commemorating West Bengal Foundation Day, which was celebrated on June 20. Officials, Security Personnel and the people of West Bengal currently living in J&K UT were the special invitees.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha conveyed his greetings and best wishes to the people of West Bengal on the occasion.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address through virtual mode, paid tributes to the freedom fighters, great revolutionaries and luminaries from West Bengal and recalled their valuable contributions to nation's growth and building of a modern India.

"For centuries, West Bengal has stood as a beacon of cultural and social awakening. This blessed land of Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Khudiram Bose, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, has shaped India's intellectual, political and spiritual landscape.

Building upon the legacy of these great personalities who fuelled the nation's rising aspirations and instilled new self-confidence, the new generation now has the important task of contributing to the journey of Viksit Bharat", the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to work collectively for building a progressive and united society. "Unity in diversity is our greatest strength and I believe this spirit will empower us to fulfil the dream of our forefathers," he said.

"West Bengal has kept the ancient traditions alive while sustaining a vibrant societal energy. Its influence across diverse fields, including the economy, social reform, the freedom movement, literature, music, arts, drama, and cinema is remarkably extensive. May the state scale new heights of progress in the years to come. I pray for the good health and well-being of all," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Int'l Yoga Day celebrated at High Court Complex

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 11th International Yoga Day was celebrated on Saturday at the High Court Complex, Jampur, Jammu under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, with immense enthusiasm and fervor.

The event was held in presence of Justice Rahul Bharti and Justice Sanjay Parihar, Judges, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

Organized under the supervision of Joint Registrar Judicial (Protocol), Jammu, Meyank Gupta, the celebration was attended by Khem Raj Sharma, Registrar Rules, Jeevan Kumar Sharma, Secretary, High Court Legal Services Academy, officers and staff of High Court Wing Jammu.

The event was held in collaboration with the Bhartiya Yog Sansthan and their experienced instructors who led the session by demonstrating various aasnas and pranayams.

Justice Rahul Bharti expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for championing the global recognition of Yoga and for creating an opportunity for everyone to actively contribute to this meaningful initiative. He said that this year's Yoga Day theme, 'One Earth, One Health,' conveys a powerful message about addressing the pressing challenges being faced by the world today.

The Joint Registrar Judicial (Protocol), on behalf of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Jammu, extended heartfelt gratitude to the Bharatiya Yoga Sansthan for their efforts in successfully organizing the event.

Drug licences of 9 pharma dealers suspended

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Authorities here on Saturday suspended drug sale licences of nine dealers in a special drive carried out to curb misuse of pharmaceuticals with habit forming ingredients, an official said.

The drive was conducted by the J-K Drugs and Food Control Organisation to identify and take punitive action against "unscrupulous elements dealing with such drugs in a clandestine manner," an official spokesperson said.

During the drive, it emerged that some wholesale dealers were procuring certain pharma preparations containing Pregabalin as an active ingredient, which is prone to addiction, he said.

The ingredient was being sourced directly from the suppliers based outside Jammu and Kashmir illegally, he said.

More scrutiny revealed that the firms procured and distributed these medicinal preparations without maintaining the sales records as mandated under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, the spokesperson said. S

Stocks of pharmaceutical preparations, which are prone to addiction, worth over Rs 13.58 lakh were also seized, he said.

J-K State Drugs Controller Lotika Khajuria warned against indulging in procuring lesser-known brands of drugs formulations consisting of habit forming ingredients directly from the suppliers, or manufacturers located outside J-K.

"In case any violation is reported, the defaulters shall be dealt strictly in accordance with zero-tolerance policy adopted by the government against persons involved in promoting drug abuse which warrants the cancellation of such licences as also legal mandate," she said.

CS for framing strategic plan to ease traffic congestion in Srinagar, Jammu cities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A pivotal meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee on Traffic Management Systems for Jammu & Srinagar was convened on Saturday under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo.

The committee undertook a comprehensive review of the existing traffic challenges and proposed advanced strategies to enhance urban mobility, streamline logistics and improve road safety in both cities.

The members of the Committee who attended the meeting included Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; DIG Traffic, Jammu/Kashmir; SSP Traffic (City), Srinagar/Jammu; Commissioner, JMC/SMC along with other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary directed for a proper implementation plan with a defined role for every stakeholder involved. He highlighted the importance of such a plan for making the travel experience less cumbersome for both travellers and commuters.

The Chief Secretary asked the Divisional Commissioners to work out such modalities in their respective areas, and subsequently, these are going to be consolidated to frame a well-thought-out strategy for both Jammu and Srinagar. He also advised for looking into creating a web portal defining the actionable points pertaining to different departments so that the role played and progress could be easily tracked in subsequent meetings.

The key discussions held in the meeting revolved around the need for development of detailed traffic management plans for Srinagar and Jammu by the Traffic Department. The focus was laid on utilizing the scientific studies and data analysis to identify alternate routes after incorporating feedback from local authorities, citizens and stakeholders.

A commitment was made to operationalize an efficient traffic management system, including the installation, management and maintenance of traffic signals at key junctions, rotaries and T-points.

Strategies for de-congestion will be implemented in high-footfall and vehicular traffic areas, especially in tourist and pilgrimage zones together by the Traffic and Tourism Departments. Actions to regulate the commercial activities impacting traffic flow will be identified, with the Transport Commissioner, JMC/SMC and potentially LCMA, being involved in this process.

Moreover, the key locations requiring road expansion or upgrading to accommodate the growing traffic volumes will be identified, focusing on increasing the carrying capacity of critical roads. The committee also underscored the need for speedy completion of ongoing developmental projects to alleviate traffic congestion at key locations.

In addition, the strategies for addressing encroachments, particularly by street hawkers and their relocation and rehabilitation without disrupting the traffic flow will be recommended by the Tourism and municipal bodies in consultation with each other. The Committee also discussed the requirement of multi-modal solutions like Mass Rapid Transit system, city bus system, Inland Water Transport (IWT), Ring Roads, enhanced parking and creation of Unified Transport Authority as highly reliable solutions to ease traffic woes in our cities here.