

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

J&K gets major...

of DPR/Feasibility Study for various NH works to be up in next 3 years. These include widening and upgradation of NH-444 from Srinagar to Qazigund (63 kms), Construction of 2L+PS road from Shopian to Magam on NH-701A (75 kms), Construction of 10.80 Km long Panjtarni tunnel including approach (31 kms), Development of Domail - Katra -Bamla of NH-144 to 4-L specifications (82 kms).

Heavy rains trigger...

route and was continuing without any disruption.

The landslide occurred near Satya view point along the Hinkoti route when there was no movement of pilgrims, the officials said.

The shrine board immediately pressed its men and machines to clear the debris which is spread over more than a 30-feet area, they added.



PM honoured Mookerjee's...

years. "The foundation of this governance is rooted in Dr Mookerjee's ideas," he said.

Mookerjee offered original and alternative views on education, language, small industries, national security, foreign policy and the Constitution, Pradhan noted.

"Today, the essence of governance is reaching the last person in the society, inspired by the philosophy of integral humanism of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. Together, Dr Mookerjee and Pandit Upadhyaya are considered the two wheels of the party, which has now completed 11 years of governance focussed on service and welfare," he added. India has now carved a new identity based on Indian values and emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy, the Union minister said, adding that governance is no longer for consumption, but based on Indian values, it is a medium for service. Gupta said Mookerjee started the fight for national unity and integrity. "Though India became independent in 1947, the battle for unity continued and Dr Mookerjee led it. He declared that 'two constitutions in one country' was unacceptable and asserted that Kashmir belonged entirely to India.

"Unfortunately, previous governments only divided the country, giving birth to Pakistan and later, Bangladesh," the chief minister said.

She said it is unfortunate that the circumstances leading up to Mookerjee's death remain suspicious and added that Prime Minister Modi is the only one who has truly honoured his sacrifice by abrogating the provisions of Article 370.

The BJP-led Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370 in August 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Gathered substantial evidence...

of the terrorists. This includes victims' accounts, video footages, technical evidence and sketches released by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. All this evidence is being carefully analysed. NIA has not reached any conclusions at this stage," the statement said.

The identities and further details of the terrorists will be made public at an appropriate time, it added.

The NIA said certain media coverage related to the identities of the perpetrators is speculative and therefore misleading.

"Such reports circulating in sections of the media and on social media platforms are regarding the sketches and identities of the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack.

"It is reiterated that, as stated in the official press release dated June 22, 2025, two accused persons have been arrested in connection with the attack. During their interrogation, they have disclosed details about the identities of the three armed terrorists involved," the statement said.

Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly harboured the three armed terrorists at a seasonal dhok (hut) at Hill Park before the attack, the NIA investigation revealed.

They had provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who had, on the fateful afternoon, selectively killed the tourists on the basis of their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever, the agency said.

Iran launches missile...

US launched a surprise attack Sunday morning on three of Iran's nuclear sites.

Just before the explosions, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian wrote on the social platform X: "We neither initiated the war nor seeking it. But we will not leave invasion to the great Iran without answer."

Earlier in the day, Israel expanded its war against Iran to include targets associated with the country's struggling theocracy, striking the gate of a Tehran prison notorious for holding political activists and hitting the headquarters of the military force that suppressed recent protests.

As plumes of thick smoke rose over Tehran, Israel was attacked with yet another barrage of Iranian missiles and drones. The persistent fire has become a reality for civilians in both countries since Israel started the war to target Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

On the 11th day of the conflict, Israel said it attacked "regime targets and government repression bodies in the heart of Tehran," but Israeli officials insisted they did not seek the overthrow of Iran's government, their archenemy since the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The Israeli military warned Iranians that it would continue to attack military sites around Tehran over "the coming days" as its focuses has shifted to symbolic targets as well. The military issued the warning on the social platform X, though Iranians are struggling to access the outside world as an internet shutdown has crippled the country.

The latest strikes unfolded only hours after President Donald Trump openly raised the possibility himself after just a day earlier inserting America into the war with its unprecedented stealth-bomber strike on three Iranian nuclear sites.

"If the current Iranian Regime is unable to MAKE IRAN GREAT AGAIN, why wouldn't there be a Regime change!!!!" he asked on his Truth Social website.

ECI begins 2...

preparation of electoral rolls and elections are conducted strictly in accordance with the Representation of People Act 1950, 1951, Registration of Electors Rules 1960, Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 and the instructions issued by the ECI from time to time.

He added that there can be nothing more transparent than law in any democracy and the elections in India are held as per law.

CEC also underlined that the participants, through the training, will familiarise themselves with the provisions of first and second appeals against the final electoral rolls as published with the DM/District Collector/Executive Magistrate under section 24(a) of RP Act 1950 and the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of the State/UT under section 24(b) respectively.

He also encouraged the BLOs and BLO Supervisors to make the electors also aware of these provisions during their field level verification.

It may be recalled that no appeals were filed from Meghalaya, Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh and Uttar Pradesh after the completion of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) exercise as of 6th-10th of January 2025.

The training is designed to enhance participants' practical understanding especially in the areas of voter registration, Form handling, and field-level implementation of electoral procedures. Participants will also receive practical training on the IT tools. The officials will also be provided technical demonstrations and training of EVMs and VVPATs including mock polls.

Employment generation, self...

the gap between education and employment. It will provide an opportunity to our young generation to showcase their skills and empower them to start their careers so they can effectively contribute in building Viksit Jammu Kashmir and Viksit Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted the reforms, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which are shaping the education landscape to align with the needs of the industries and creating robust employment avenues for the youth of Jammu Kashmir.

"Employment generation, self-employment through entrepreneurship and improving employability of the youngsters through educational transformation has been our top priority. Our efforts to attract industries in J&K since 2021 have helped in connecting young job seekers directly with employers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the presence of local private companies at today's Job Fair serves as a testament to the significant strides being made in industrialization and expansion of trade and business activities in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

"The operationalisation of new industries is also offering youth better exposure

about diverse roles and positions in industries suited for their skills and experience. The overwhelming response from the private sector to recruit youth from J&K is a positive indicator for our economy," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the progressive Industrial Policy and several key interventions that have attracted private investment in J&K UT over the past few years.

He said the industries had availed the benefits of Rs 28,400 cr worth incentives under New Industrial development scheme in just two and a half years.

"Rs 25,000 crore worth of investment plans are currently at various stages of implementation. Projects worth Rs 10,000 crore have been completed and have commenced production. The remaining Rs 15,000 crore worth of projects, presently at different stages, will start this year.

Nearly, Rs 60,000 cr worth proposals are pending. These have been stalled due to some reasons, and I hope a decision will be made on them in the near future," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also attributed the exponential growth registered in the employment generation and entrepreneurship sector in J&K to the dedicated efforts of all stakeholders.

He highlighted their crucial role in successfully implementing schemes and programs like PM's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), Hausla, Tejaswini, Mumkin, and Mission Youth, along with other initiatives focused on youth empowerment and livelihood generation. Interacting with the representatives of the participating companies, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that efforts are being made to provide youth with employment opportunities. He said the new Industrial policy has emphasised on employment to local youth on priority.

Atomic North Private Limited has established a BPO in a village in Kathua, providing employment to approximately 375 youths. The company has a potential to employ up to 1000 youth. I have urged them to start a BPO in Udhampur. JSW Group is also bringing a BPO to Jammu, he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor distributed job offer letters to selected candidates. He also handed over approval for BBA BCA courses to Cluster University, from AICTE. Mega Job Fair 2025 is a significant step towards empowering youth and enhancing employment opportunities for the youth. As many as 57 reputed companies from across the country participated and 3759 candidates were registered for the Job Fair.

Prof K.S. Chandraseker, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Dr. Sandeep Singh, President, Desh Bhagat University, Punjab; Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, Principal GCW Gandhi Nagar; Heads of various departments and educational institutions, representatives of various reputed companies, youth and people from different walks of life were present.

Govt sets up...

under chairmanship of Surjit S Bhalla, former Executive Director of India, International Monetary Fund. The expert group will provide guidance with regard to finalisation of concepts and definitions, preparation of the survey method and instruments, sampling design and method of estimation, and incorporate best practices as adopted across the world.

The survey will also strive to assess the impact of technology adoption on household income (wages). The TEG will also provide guidance for finalisation of the survey results and report for release.

In addition the chairman and several official from MoSPI and other ministries/departments, other members of the TEG are Aloke Kar, Former Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata; Sonalde Desai, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi; Praveen Jha, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU; Srijit Mishra, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad; Tirthankar Patnaik, Chief Economist, National Stock Exchange of India; Rajesh Shukla, Managing Director & CEO, People Research on India's Consumer Economy; and Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School of Economics.

The TEG may seek assistance of subject matter experts within and/or outside the government and may co-opt them as members according to necessity with the approval from the competent authority. The TEG may invite subject experts in the meeting as special invitee, if necessary, in order to meet specific requirements.

Air India Express...

following a suspected GPS interference incident. Subsequently, an alternative flight was organised to connect guests to Jammu," said an Air India Express spokesperson. "We regret the inconvenience caused. Instances of GPS signal interference have been reported by operators while flying over certain sensitive regions," the spokesperson added.

Arab countries next target of US, Israel: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah warned the Arab countries on Monday that they will be the next target of Israel and the US as Tel Aviv and Washington are eyeing their oil and gas.

"It is their (United States') long-time policy that Iran should not become a nuclear power. Even the Sunni countries in the region are against it but they do not have the courage to speak up.

"Today, they think Iran has been attacked, but I want to warn them through you that one day, Israel will attack them also, because they want their wealth like oil and gas. Israel is only a facade, America is standing right behind," Abdullah told reporters after a party meeting at Nawa-i-Subah here.

Asked about the impact of the escalation of the war in the Middle East, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said it will severely affect the economic condition of all countries.

"I am hopeful that the (other) world powers are watching the situation. If this (war) escalates, the economic condition of every country will head towards ruin. They should try to stop it and I pray that they are successful as our condition in India is also very bad," he added.

Responding to a question about media reports on conditions for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah accused the media of spreading falsehood. "Who told them (about the conditions)? Did they get a revelation? The media here is habitual of spreading lies, it does not speak the truth. Statehood is a right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It is not a favour to them," he said.

Earlier, Abdullah said the NC has formed a human rights wing that will be headed by Pampore MLA Justice (retired) Hasnain Masoodi, who will be assisted by two other members.

Modi's dynamism 'prime asset' on global stage: Tharoor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's energy, dynamism and willingness to engage remains a "prime asset" for India on the global stage but deserves greater backing, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said on Monday, in remarks that are likely to irk his party and widen the growing cracks in his ties with its leadership.

Tharoor's praise for the prime minister comes at a time when the Congress has been consistently attacking the Modi government over its foreign policy, alleging that Indian diplomacy is being "shattered" and the country stands "isolated" globally.

In an article published in The Hindu, Tharoor said the diplomatic outreach following "Operation Sindoor" was a moment of national resolve and effective communication.

The Prime Minister's Office shared Tharoor's article on X and said, "Lok Sabha MP and former Union Minister Dr. Shashi Tharoor writes- Lessons from Operation Sindoor's global outreach."

The BJP took a swipe at the Congress over Tharoor's article and said the Thiruvananthapuram MP has "exposed" Rahul Gandhi. Reacting to Tharoor's comments, Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said on X, "Shashi Tharoor admits that PM Modi's dynamism and global outreach are a strategic advantage for India."

In his article, Tharoor said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's energy, dynamism and willingness to engage remains a prime asset for India on the global stage but deserves greater backing."

"The diplomatic outreach following 'Operation Sindoor' was a moment of national resolve and effective communication. It affirmed that India, when united, can project its voice with clarity and conviction on international platforms," said the Congress leader, who led a multi-party delegation to the US and four other countries to convey India's stand following the Pahalgam terror attack and the military operation.

Tharoor said the lessons learned -- the power of unity, the efficacy of clear communication, the strategic value of soft power and the imperative of sustained public diplomacy -- will undoubtedly serve as guiding principles as India navigates an increasingly complex international landscape, leveraging its three Ts -- tech, trade and tradition -- and always striving for a more just, secure, and prosperous world.

In his article, Tharoor said the aftermath of the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack and India's resolute response through 'Operation Sindoor' presented a critical juncture for the nation's foreign policy.

PIL regarding encroachment in Jammu DB orders removal of encroachments in city, directs security cover during anti-encroachment drives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, while taking serious note on the encroachments on Path and roads, directed to remove encroachments.

This order has been passed in an order aiming at restoring public spaces and ensuring smooth flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic the Jammu & Kashmir High Court has issued comprehensive directions to curb illegal encroachments by shopkeepers, vendors, and food joints.

While disposing of the PIL, DB observed that as the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu has already been nominated as Nodal Officer for enforcement of the directions issued by this Court from time to time, accordingly we dispose of this Public Interest Litigation with the following directions:

DB directed the Jammu Municipal Corporation to ensure that no public pathway/road/street/nullah is encroached by any one and shall conduct anti-encroachment fortnight and during drive, the encroachments temporary or permanent made by the shopkeepers or any commercial establishment on the pathways/streets/roads/nullahs be removed. No commercial establishment be permitted to place their gadgets on the street/pathway/road/nullah. The Jammu Municipal Corporation shall educate the shopkeepers or owners of commercial establishments against encroaching any street/road/pathway/nullah for the purpose of displaying/selling their goods/ keeping their gadgets and consequences of the violations thereof.

DB further said that the errant shopkeepers/owners of commercial establishments, who despite being challaned and fined, repeat their actions again and display their merchandise by extending their shops or placing their gadgets on the public road/street/pathways, the Jammu Municipal Corporation in addition to penal provisions, shall also proceed against the encroachers in terms of section 232 of the Municipal Corporation Act. The Jammu Municipal Corporation shall also proceed against such violators in terms of section 371 of the Municipal Corporation Act. If despite repeated fines and action under section 232 of the Municipal Corporation Act, the violator(s) still continue(s) with his/their illegal activities, the Jammu Municipal Corporation, shall seal the shop/commercial establishment after the failure on the part of violator to remove the violation within 10 days of the notice to remove the violation(s).

DB further directed the Jammu Development Authority shall ensure that the shopkeepers in the JDA Complex situated at City Chowk, Jammu do not encroach the pathways in front of their shops and in case of repeated violations may issue notice for cancellation of their lease deeds and thereafter proceed in accordance with law.

DB further ordered that the Jammu Municipal Corporation shall ensure that no food joint is operated on the roadside/pathway/street without permission from the Jammu Municipal Corporation and competent authority under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation shall also ensure that rehries operate only at the designated places and no obstruction is caused in smooth flow of traffic due to illegal operation of rehries. The authority concerned shall ensure the implementation of Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation Street Vending) Act, 2014 and Rules of 2021 framed there-under, in its letter and spirit.

DB also directed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu is directed to provide the necessary protection to the officers of Jammu Municipal Corporation and Jammu Development Authority whenever required. As the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu has already been nominated as Nodal Officer, he shall hold the meeting with the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation and Vice Chancellor, Jammu Development Authority regularly, so that the directions issued as mentioned above, are complied with in its letter and spirit. While removing the encroachments, the officials concerned shall use minimal force, so that no unnecessary harassment is caused to anyone.

DB also appreciate the sincere efforts made by Adv Ajay Sharma, the learned Amicus curiae, DB close the proceedings in this PIL with liberty to Mr. Ajay Sharma, the Amicus and any other public-spirited person to bring to the notice of this Court non-compliance of the directions of this court by the officers/authorities as mentioned above.

JKEEGA condoles demise of Jr Engineer, Technician/PDL; demand compensation, fair enquiry

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) on Monday held a condolence meeting to mourn the demise of Er. Hitesh Wali, a Junior Engineer with the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (JKPDD), Manzoor Ahmed Technician and PDLs Sunil Kumar and Imtiyaz, while working at various locations in KPDC/L/JPDC/L.

JKEEGA, after observing two minute silence in the memory of deceased Er.Hitesh Wali other employees, briefed the media that entire fraternity of Power Employees and Engineers is in deep sorrow over these tragic deaths in electrical accidents.

Er. Wali sustained severe injuries while on duty at the Receiving Station Budgam. The incident occurred when an adjacent auxiliary transformer exploded, splashing hot oil and causing critical injuries. Despite efforts, he succumbed to his injuries, leaving his family, colleagues, and the engineering community in shock and grief.

In a statement, JKEEGA shared, "All engineers of JKPDD extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of the deceased during this difficult time. Words cannot ease the pain, but we stand united with them in their loss."

The association highlighted the dedication of frontline engineers and staff who work tirelessly under high-risk conditions to ensure uninterrupted power supply for the public and essential services like hospitals. JKEEGA also noted that such incidents, though rare, remind everyone of the dangers faced by power department workers daily.

JKEEGA urged the government to introduce insurance schemes for all JKPDD engineers and staff, emphasizing their need for financial security given the risks they face while maintaining and repairing the power network.

Er.Sachin Tickoo General Secretary of JKEEGA, demanded a compensation of minimum Rs 1 crore in favour the deceased Engineer and Employees and a impartial probe into the medical procedure adopted post the electrical accident involving burn injuries to deceased Engineer and Technician.

He demanded that it remains questionable as to why the administration didn't shift them via Airlift to Higher medical facility outside UT if their condition was deteriorating and why very minimum medical monitoring was being done at Highest level. All these things hurt the morale of the power employees who are working under very adverse circumstances posing grave danger to life.

Op Sindoor succeeded in injecting fear in minds of terrorists: Rajnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday that India's Operation Sindoor achieved all objectives and succeeded in "injecting fear" in the minds of terrorists.

He was addressing a gathering at an event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan complex.

Singh released a curated collection of 51 speeches by President Droupadi Murmu delivered by her during her second year in office.

In his address, Singh lauded Murmu and said he considered this book -- 'Wings to Our Hopes, Volume 2' -- a "document for scripting India's future".

This volume follows its predecessor in chronicling the evolving discourse on governance, inclusivity and national aspirations, officials said.

Singh in his address also made a reference to Operation Sindoor launched by India in May in retaliation against the Pahalgam terror attack.

Operation Sindoor achieved all objectives, he said.

It also succeeded in injecting fear into the minds of terrorists, the defence minister said. The book titled 'Wings to Our Hopes-Volume II', its Hindi version 'Ashaon Ki Udaan-Khand 2' and its e-version has been compiled by the Rashtrapati Bhavan and published by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister of State L Murugan were also present on the dais during the event.

In his address, the defence minister said, "This book will become a means to achieve the 2047 goal of making a Viksit Bharat."

'Wings to Our Hopes - Volume II' is a carefully curated collection of 51 speeches, offering a window into the vision, philosophy, and priorities of President Murmu during her second year in office (August 2023- July 2024), the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said in a statement on Sunday.