

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Seven dead, 17...

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and Democratic Progressive Azad Party president Ghulam Nabi Azad have condoled the loss of lives in the tragic accident.

In a condolence message, the Lt Governor has said, "Pained by the loss of lives due to tragic road accident in Doda. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. Praying for a speedy recovery of the injured."

In a post on X, the office of the Chief Minister said "...the administration has been directed to ensure immediate medical assistance and support to all affected." The Chief Minister extends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prays for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said he spoke to Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh upon receiving the information about the accident.

"All possible help and medical aid being provided. DC is personally supervising the entire exercise and giving me regular updates. Any further assistance, as required, will also be provided," Singh said in a post on X. He expressed condolences to the families of the deceased.

Meanwhile, three other road accidents in Doda and Ramban districts claimed one life and left four others injured on Tuesday.

One person was killed when his vehicle collided with another vehicle inside a tunnel in Banihal along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district, the officials said.

A couple was injured when a private SUV turned turtle at Bhagwa village of Doda, while two persons were injured when a bus carrying Amarnath pilgrims hit an iron railing inside Kela Morh tunnel in Ramban, the officials said.

Another batch of...

4:15 am, the officials said.

The first pilgrim convoy, carrying 2,501 pilgrims in 103 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district, followed by the second convoy of 3,887 pilgrims in 145 vehicles who are undertaking the yatra via the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, they said.

With this, a total of 95,439 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the valley since July 2, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

CM reiterates commitment...

profession is now at a crossroads of human care and machine efficiency. While tools like ChatGPT can simulate empathy and generate treatment suggestions, they can never replace the human touch that defines this profession," he remarked.

In a light-hearted personal reflection, Omar Abdullah recalled how he narrowly avoided a career in medicine due to his fear of cadaver dissection, choosing instead to pursue commerce. "I lacked the aptitude and courage to become a doctor-but I have always had the utmost respect for those who do," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasized that earning a medical degree is only the beginning, and the real challenge lies in applying that knowledge to serve people, especially in underserved and rural areas. He urged young doctors to embrace government service not merely for job security but as a platform to deliver care where it is most needed. "I meet aspirants who seek government jobs but don't want to be posted even a few kilometers away from home. That mindset needs to change," he added.

Underscoring the government's focus on healthcare, the Chief Minister said that health and medical education would continue to receive top priority in budgetary allocations. "You have our full support-whether it's infrastructure, staffing or training. But improving urban hospitals alone is not enough. If we are referring normal deliveries and minor surgeries to tertiary care due to staff shortages in rural areas, we are failing our system," he said.

Omar Abdullah also praised the Principal of SKIMS Medical College for gaining wide popularity and earning the trust of students and staff in a remarkably short time. "It's rare to see a rising popularity graph after four months in any leadership role. This speaks volumes about the direction in which this institution is headed," he said.

He wished the students continued success and reaffirmed the government's unwavering support for SKIMS and its affiliated institutions.

Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Secretary H&ME Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Director SKIMS Soura Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganai, and Principal SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Dr. Fazlul Qadir Parry also addressed the gathering. The event was attended by several MLAs, former Directors of SKIMS, senior faculty members, outgoing graduates, students, parents, and other distinguished guests. On the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah presented certificates to the graduates of the 2019 batch and felicitated the families of deceased faculty members in recognition of their invaluable contributions to the college and hospital.

Police mock drills...

and pilgrims was appreciated.

To ensure the safety and security of pilgrims undertaking the yatra, the police conducted mock drills along the designated yatra routes in several districts of the Kashmir valley, including Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, Pulwama and Kulgam, the police spokesman said.

He said the exercises were carried out at strategically significant points to assess the alertness, preparedness and coordination among different security agencies deployed for yatra duties.

The mock drills simulated scenarios of standoff fire, attempted fideyean attack, IED detection, convoy stoppage, emergency evacuation, crowd management and disaster scenarios due to earthquake, landslides and the likes, the spokesman said. Senior police officers supervised these mock drills, ensuring that the standard operating procedures (SOPs) were followed and refined where necessary, he said. Special focus was laid on critical areas prone to congestion or high footfall to test the efficiency of response teams and quick reaction units, he added.

Will work together...

try my best to serve the Union Territory."

The BJP leader, who also served as Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly from 2014, said, "This is a big responsibility, and I am confident of fulfilling it sincerely. We will work together with everyone (for the development of the region)."

GOC reviews situation...

Swords Divisions, visited multiple forward brigades to review the prevailing security situation and was briefed on current modalities and operational preparedness," he said. During the visit, the GOC interacted with all ranks and motivated them to maintain a high degree of operational readiness, professionalism, and morale in line with emerging challenges.

PM spreading Dalai...

being a sanctuary for seekers of truth and justice.

Recalling PM Modi's own words, Chugh said, "India is the land of Buddha, and Prime Minister Modi is making every possible effort to protect and preserve the legacy of Bhagwan Buddha, not just for India, but for the world."

He added that the Dalai Lama is not just a spiritual leader but a living embodiment of India's civilisational values. "His message of compassion, universal brotherhood, and spiritual strength resonates with the soul of India," Chugh said.

Chugh also highlighted Ladakh's significance, not just as a strategic frontier but as a sacred region where Buddhist wisdom, Indian civilisation, and national pride converge. He said India's commitment to spiritual freedom and cultural preservation is not a matter of policy, it is a civilisational dharma.

This meeting, Chugh said, was not just a political gesture but a reaffirmation of India's timeless duty to protect the torchbearers of truth, ahimsa, and dharma in a turbulent world. This meeting reflected a deep spiritual connection and mutual reverence for India's civilizational responsibility in promoting peace, compassion and religious freedom.

Shubhanshu Shukla, 3...

in orbit around the Earth. For India, Hungary and Poland, this mission has realised the return to human spaceflight, with astronauts from these countries travelling to space for the first time in more than 40 years.

The Dragon Grace spacecraft lifted off from Florida on June 25 and docked at the International Space Station on June 26 after a 28-hour journey.

Onboard the orbital laboratory, the Axiom-4 mission crew comprising Shukla, commander Peggy Whitson, and mission specialists Slawosz

Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland and Tibor Kapu of Hungary spent the next 18 days conducting 60 experiments and 20 outreach sessions.

Travelling at a speed of over 28,000 km per hour, the Dragon spacecraft, carrying the Axiom-4 crew members, executed a series of manoeuvres to gradually slow down and enter the Earth's atmosphere, braving intense heat before a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean.

Minutes later, the Dragon spacecraft was hauled up over SpaceX's recovery ship 'Shannon', where Shukla and the other astronauts emerged from the spacecraft, smiling and waving at the cameras.

The astronauts were helped by the ground staff to get on their feet as they adapted to gravity on Earth after experiencing weightless conditions during their 20-day trip.

Soon after Shukla returned from the space odyssey, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "I join the nation in welcoming Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as he returns to Earth from his historic mission to Space."

The prime minister said that as India's first astronaut to have visited the International Space Station, Shukla has inspired a billion dreams through his dedication, courage and pioneering spirit.

"It marks another milestone towards our own Human Space Flight Mission - Gaganyaan," Modi said in a post on X.

The astronaut's parents, who watched the splashdown in Lucknow, heaved a sigh of relief as their son returned to Earth. While Shukla's father, Shambhu Dayal Shukla, and mother Asha Devi wiped their tears, his sister, Suchi Misra, welcomed her brother's landing with moist eyes and folded hands.

"He has been to space and back, and we are all over the moon because this mission has its own importance for the country's Gaganyaan programme," Shambhu Dayal Shukla said.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has hailed the safe return of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla from the Axiom-4 space mission as a "moment of pride for the world, moment of glory" for India, stating that the country had secured its rightful place in the global space ecosystem.

"One of Mother India's illustrious son is back. India has found a "lasting space" in the world of space," he said while addressing scientists, media, and senior officials after watching the live splashdown.

Dr. Jitendra said the mission demonstrated India's growing stature in global space exploration. "These are experiments that have never been done before. This marks a new era for India's scientific and technological ambitions," he noted, adding that the mission's success would have long-term implications for humankind.

Giving details about the next steps, Dr. Jitendra informed that all four astronauts will remain in quarantine until July 23 to complete medical and re-adaptation procedures. "From the 24th, they will begin discussions with ISRO. Debriefings with Axiom and NASA will follow," he added.

Describing the safe return as both a scientific and symbolic achievement, the Minister said, "The call given by Prime Minister Modi to look to the skies and dream big has begun to take shape. This successful mission is just the beginning. It will inspire a new generation of Indians to pursue careers in science and space."

CS for making...

Security Officers (ISOs). This initiative aims to empower them to conduct future website audits independently, thereby mitigating potential security compromises.

He also mandated the installation of necessary security software on all devices used for official work and strictly directed the discontinuation of private email IDs for official communications, citing the inherent security risks to official data and devices.

Addressing infrastructure needs, the Chief Secretary took note of the requirement for augmenting the State Data Centre (SDC) in Jammu. He directed the IT Department to promptly initiate the process using available funds, assuring that additional requisite funding would be provided as the work progresses. During the meeting, Administrative Secretaries also contributed valuable suggestions to enhance the overall security of IT assets and prevent data breaches. The Secretary, IT, Dr. Piyush Singla took this occasion to provide a comprehensive presentation detailing the safety and security precautionary measures undertaken by the department to ensure the cyber security of all government websites and assets. He informed the meeting that an audit agency has been engaged to conduct security audits of websites/portals hosted at the J&K SDC. Dr. Singla highlighted the current status of websites hosted at the J&K SDC. He gave out that of a total of 239 websites, 140 are live. Of the 99 non-live websites, 70 are currently under audit by a Third-Party Auditor (TPA), 11 are under departmental audit, 10 are yet to be audited but are covered under the audit plan, 6 more have been allocated for auditing but their staging is not ready, and 2 websites have been decommissioned till date.

He further informed that to expedite the security audit process, the TPA has been requested to engage four additional resources, with the audit of all pending websites expected to be completed within the next two months. Regular follow-ups with CISOs/ISOs is done by the Department and detailed reports are being shared with all Administrative Secretaries for their appraisal.

Regarding other departmental measures, it was reported that Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) deployment is underway at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu and Srinagar, with 4011 EDR and 1789 UEM installations completed. VPN access has been restricted to users with Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), and all routers have been configured to accept requests only from India. Furthermore, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been mandated for opening IP/Ports via firewalls only.

The meeting was also informed that compliance with CERT-In and OWASP top 10 guidelines is being strictly enforced for all websites and web applications. To ensure public convenience and data security, the audit of critical applications such as Land Records, NGDRS, and CVS Portal has been initiated, and reports have been shared with respective departments for mitigation actions and necessary source code patching as required under the cyber security framework.

Recruitment process for...

"It is hereby informed that in view of the interim direction passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal Jammu... the process of inviting applications for the post of Naib Tehsildar (issued on June 9) is hereby deferred till further intimation/orders," the JKSSB said in a notice.

The earlier order mandating Urdu as a compulsory language for the naib tehsildar recruitment examination sparked outrage in the Jammu region over the past one month with the BJP leading the protests and rallies, seeking revocation of the "discriminatory order".

Army distributes solar lights, power banks to nomad families

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: As part of ongoing outreach efforts to assist the local population, Army's Rashtriya Rifles located at Bhaderwah initiated the distribution of Solar Lights and Power Banks to the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities in Bihota area of Doda.

This initiative aims to enhance the living standards of these nomadic and marginalized groups by addressing their critical need for reliable lighting and mobile charging solutions in remote, electricity-deficient areas. The camp was inaugurated by an Officer of the Indian Army, who assured the locals of the Army's unwavering and continuous support.

This step has brought smiles to many faces, demonstrating the power of compassion and community service. The initiative has not only improved living conditions and enhanced safety but also enables children to study after dark. Additionally, it has strengthened the bond between the local community and the Indian Army. A total of 247 individuals from the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities attended the event from nearby villages. A total of 64 Solar Lights and 64 Power Banks were distributed to those in need.

The communities expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for its concentrated efforts and assistance in providing Solar Lights and Power Banks directly to their doorstep in the far-flung area of Bihota.



Robbery case solved within hours; accused arrested, looted items recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Demonstrating swift and strategic action, Police Station Satwari, Jammu successfully solved an armed robbery case within just 12 hours of the incident, apprehending the accused and subsequently recovering the costly looted items.

On 14th July 2025, Rajeev Khajuria, s/o Om Parkash Khajuria, R/o Babliana, Gangyal Jammu, reported that while passing near Raina Colony, Babliana, he was stopped by an unidentified assailant. The accused, wearing a face mask and brandishing a Tokka (sharp-edged weapon), forcefully robbed him of a gold chain weighing approx. 5 grams, a silver ring, and ₹550 in cash before fleeing the scene.

Acting with promptness and precision, the police registered a case under Section 309(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 4/25 of the Arms Act. A dedicated investigative team was promptly constituted under the leadership of Inspector Jai Paul Singh (SHO, PS Satwari) and PSI Aadarsh Thakur. The investigation was carried out under the close supervision of SDPO City South Sunil Singh Jasrotia and SP City South Jammu.

Relying on CCTV surveillance and technical tracking, the team swiftly identified and apprehended the accused-Paramjeet Singh alias Pammi, s/o Teja Singh, R/o Upper Gadigarh, Babliana, Jammu-on the same day. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the robbery, and the stolen chain, ring, and cash-collectively worth around ₹5 lakh-were recovered from his possession.

Further investigations revealed that Paramjeet Singh is a habitual offender with a known criminal history within the jurisdiction of PS Satwari. Authorities are now probing his involvement in other similar criminal activities across the region.

Absconder wanted in heinous crime apprehended

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a major breakthrough, the Police party of Border Police Post (BPP) Bandichechian today apprehended a long-time absconder, Basharat Hussain, son of Mohd Sahbir, aged 37 years, resident of Bandichechian, Tehsil Haveli, District Poonch.

The accused had been evading arrest since 2022 and was wanted in connection with FIR No. 14/2018 registered at Police Station Mandi, under serious charges of Sections 366, 376, 343, and 109 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Despite repeated efforts, the accused remained untraceable and had gone into hiding to escape legal proceedings. Subsequently, an arrest warrant under Section 512 CrPC was issued against him by the Hon'ble Sessions Court, Poonch.

Based on credible inputs and persistent efforts by the police team of BPP Bandichechian, the accused was located and successfully apprehended, bringing an end to his prolonged period of absconding.

Missing woman traced, re-united with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: A missing report of a woman resident of Kurmail Baggar Tehsil Assar, District Doda was entered at PS Assar on 21-06-2025 and now she has been traced and re-united with her family. Official sources while giving details has said that Foziya W/O Mudassar Hussain R/O Kurmail Baggar Tehsil Assar, District Doda had gone missing and her missing report was entered at Police Station Assar on 21-06-2025.

Soon after registration of the missing report, search of the said lady was started. On the directions of SSP Doda Sh Sandeep Mehta JKP S, a team was constituted from PS Assar led SHO PS Assar DySP (P) Wasim Shah under the supervision of Dy SP DAR Doda in search of missing lady. The Police team by using all possible means as well as technical help, succeeded in tracing her out today on 15-07-2025 from Bilal Abad Kishwar. Accordingly, after completing all codal formalities, the lady has been handed over to her family and missing report has been closed.

Udhampur police busts inter-state gold fraud; accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police busted an inter-state gold fraud by arresting the accused within 24 hours.

On 14/07/2025, PS Majalta received a complaint from Smt. Bandana Rajput R/O Majalta, alleging that an unknown person posing as a gas stove repairman duped her by offering to clean her gold ornaments using chemicals, causing loss in weight.

Acting swiftly, FIR No. 59/2025 U/S 316(2), 318(2), 318(4), 324(4) BNS was registered at PS Majalta and investigation was taken up. During the course of investigation the police team of PS Majalta led by SHO Majalta arrested the accused namely Subodh Sah R/O Bhagalpur Bihar within 24 hours.

Investigation revealed his modus operandi involved extracting gold content by dissolving it chemically while pretending to clean it causing loss in weight and secretly extracting the dissolved gold for himself. He is suspected to be part of an inter-state gang. Further investigation is underway.

Notorious bovine smuggler booked under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: In a significant move to curb criminal activities in the District, Udhampur Police have booked and detained Mohd. Saleem O/Bachu S/O Hashim Din R/O Baishty Tehsil Chenani a habitual bovine smuggler under the J&K Public Safety Act (PSA). The detention order was issued by the District Magistrate Udhampur.

Mohd. Saleem has been involved in several bovine smuggling cases registered in the district. Despite multiple FIRs and previous arrests, he continued his illegal activities, posing a serious threat to public peace. Consequently, he has been booked under the PSA and lodged in jail.

His persistent criminal behavior has disrupted the peaceful atmosphere of the region, prompting the authorities to take strict action under the Public Safety Act.

Movable property worth Rs 20 lakh of notorious bovine smugglers attached

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: As a part of its relentless effort against bovine smuggling in the district, Udhampur Police has attached 02 vehicles in 02 days involved in bovine smuggling. Both attachments have been done by the team of PS Rehambal.

In one case, Vehicle bearing Regd. No. JK02DA-8994 worth Rs. 10 lakhs owned by habitual Bovine smuggler namely Murad Ali S/O Nek Alam R/O Kadyal, R.S Pura, Jammu.

The case pertains to FIR No. 92/2025, registered under Section 223 BNS U/S 11 PCA Act of PS Rehambal. During the investigation of the case, the movable property was identified as proceeds of crime and was thus attached under section 107 BNSS after obtaining orders from the Hon'ble Court of DMM Udhampur.

In another case, one more vehicle (Mahindra Bolero Pick-Up) bearing registration number JK02CR-6093, valued at around ₹10 lakhs linked to bovine smuggling case has been attached. The vehicle was involved in FIR No. 96/2025, registered under Sections 223 BNS and 11 PCA Act at Police Station Rehambal. During the course of investigation, it was found that the vehicle was being used in bovine smuggling and was deemed to be a proceed of crime. Acting on this, the property was attached under Section 107 BNSS following due court orders from the Addl. Special Mobile Magistrate Udhampur.

5 tractor alongwith trolleys indulged in illegal mining seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Cracking a whip on illegal mining and transportation of minerals, J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Sh. Shobhit Saksena IPS interecepted/seized 05 Tractor (Trolleys) indulged in illegal mining in the jurisdictional area of PS Billawar. On 15.07.2025 A Police team of P/S Billawar led by SHO PS Billawar Insp. Zaheer Mushtaq under the guidance of SDPO Billawar Sh. Neeraj Padyar during patrolling/checking seized 05 Tractor alongwith Trolleys bearing Reg. Nos. i.e Tractor JK08P-2876 (loaded with sand) ; Tractor JK08D-8123 (loaded with sand) ; Tractor JK08H-8521 (loaded with Bajri) ; Tractor JK02CA-7858 (loaded with sand) and Tractor JK14H-3005 (loaded with Sand) which were indulged in illegal mining(transportation of minerals Sand & Bajri) without any legal permission. Meanwhile all the 05 vehicles (05 Tractor Trolleys indulged in illegal mining were seized & immediately handed over to the officials of the Geological and Mining department Kathua.

Reasi Police nabs seven over suspicion

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Continuing its drive against anti-social elements and maintaining law and order in the district, Reasi Police today conducted surprise raids at multiple hotspots in Reasi town. The action comes as part of an intensified crackdown on suspicious activities in the area.

During the coordinated raids carried out at various vulnerable points in town, 07 suspects were apprehended from different locations for questioning. After preliminary inquiry and identification, all seven individuals were booked under sections 129/170 of BNSS.

The apprehended persons are as Muneer Ahmed S/O Abdul Majid R/O Mansu, Tehsil & District Reasi, Sameer @ Babal S/O Bittu R/O Ward No. 02, Reasi, Anil Kumar @ Ganji S/O Shinder Kumar R/O Ward No. 02, Reasi, Manhor Singh S/O Baldev Singh R/O Mari, Reasi, Pankaj Kumar S/O Nek Ram R/O Gun, Tehsil & District Reasi, Raj Kumar Sharma S/O Om Prakash Sharma R/O Seela, Reasi and Balvinder Singh S/O Parkash Singh R/O Mari, Reasi.

The raids were conducted under the close supervision of SHO Reasi Insp Ranjeet Singh Rao under the overall supervision of Dy SP Hq Reasi Vishal Singh and Addl SP Reasi Ifthkar Ahmed and more such actions are expected in the coming days as part of the ongoing preventive policing measures. While sharing the details, SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh conveyed that Reasi Police has reiterated its commitment to ensure peace and safety in the district and has warned of strict action against habitual offenders, mischief-mongers, and those indulging in activities detrimental to public order.