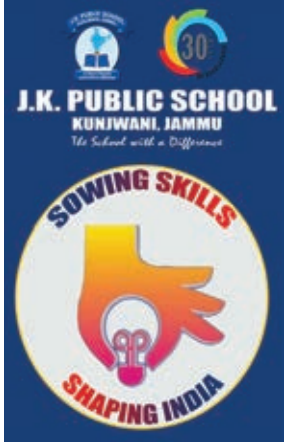




STATE TIMES

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03 Dr Jitendra chairs joint meeting of union Secretaries, emphasises Industry-led innovation

03 Initiative a step toward creating future-ready, skilled graduates aligned with NEP 2020: VC

10 Tennis Ball Cricket selection trials on July 27, 28

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigns, citing medical reasons

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a sudden move, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday evening resigned from his post citing medical reasons.

He has sent his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu and said he was stepping down with immediate effect.

"To prioritise health care and abide by medical advice, I hereby resign as Vice President of India, effective immediately, in accordance with Article 67(a) of the Constituton," Dhankhar said in his letter to the President.

Dhankhar, 74, assumed office in August 2022 and his tenure was till 2027. He is also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and his resignation came on the first day of the Monsoon session of Parliament.

He had recently underwent angioplasty at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences



(AIIMS), Delhi.

In his eventful tenure as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dhankhar has had several run-ins with the Opposition, which had also moved a motion to impeach him. The motion to remove him, the first time ever in independent India to remove a sitting Vice President, was later rejected by Rajya

Sabha Deputy Chairman Hariyansh.

Dhankhar is the second Vice President to resign while in office, after V V Giri resigned from his post on July 20, 1969 to contest the presidential elections as an independent candidate.

Dhankhar's abrupt resignation follows a day of surprising development in the

Rajya Sabha for the government, as an Opposition-sponsored notice for a motion to remove Justice Yashwant Varma was submitted to him and he mentioned it in the House.

The development came as a jolt to the ruling alliance, which had sponsored a similar notice in the Lok Sabha and taken the Opposition on board.

He was the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's candidate in the election for Vice President, who is the ex-officio Chair of the Rajya Sabha, in 2022.

In his resignation letter, Dhankhar thanked President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the council of ministers and all MPs for extending support to him during his tenure.

"I extend my deepest gratitude to Your Excellency the Hon'ble President of

Salaries of 4 JEs withheld for poor performance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: To assess the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Nidhi Malik on Monday chaired a high-level review meeting with senior officers of the Power Development Department (PDD) and other stakeholders, on Friday. During the

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3.1 magnitude earthquake hits Kishtwar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An earthquake hit Kishtwar district in the early hours of Thursday, officials said. There were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, they said. The earthquake, with its epicentre near Kishtwar and a magnitude of 3.1, occurred at 1.36 am on Monday, the National Centre for Seismology said.

The depth of the earthquake was 10 km below the surface at latitude, 33.17 degrees north and longitude 75.87 degrees east, it said.

LG, CM express grief over deaths Landslide hits Mata Vaishno Devi track; pilgrim dies

Student dies as landslide hits Govt school in Poonch; DySP injured near Ban Toll Plaza

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/POONCH: As monsoon rains lashed the Jammu region, a pilgrim and a student died on Monday due to separate incidents of landslides in Katra and Poonch while a police officer was injured near Nagrota.

A 70-year-old pilgrim was killed while nine others were injured when a massive landslide struck the old track to the Vaishno Devi shrine, officials said.

They said a booking office and an overhead iron structure caved in under the weight of the landslide, triggered by heavy rains which lashed Katra town, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the shrine atop Trikuta hills.

The yatra remained suspended for several hours as a precautionary measure following the landslide.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief



over the death of the pilgrim and wished speedy recovery to the injured.

The incident occurred around 8.30 am at Gulshan Ka Langar near Banganga, the starting point for the yatra where mostly pony riders gather along the old track and register before taking the pilgrims to the cave shrine, 12 km from the town.

The landslide resulted in critical injuries to three persons and minor injuries to seven others. All the injured were taken to a hospital, officiating Chief Executive Officer of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sachin Kumar Vaishya told reporters. Vaishya, who is also the District

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Police, JDA demolish illegal property of woman narco-smuggler

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant move to reclaim encroached government land and reinforce the crackdown on drug peddlers, the Jammu Development Authority

(JDA) and Jammu Police on Monday carried out a demolition operation against an illegally constructed residential structure at Rajeev Nagar, Tehsil Bahu. The operation was supervised by Vice Chairman JDA Rupesh Kumar, Director Land Management Garbi Rashid Dar and Tehsildar JDA, Zone C/D, Megha Gupta along with the team of JDA officials in presence of senior

police officers including SP South Ajay Sharma, SDPO South, and SHOs/ICPPs of Sub-Division East, who ensured law and order during the demolition drive.

The demolished property belonged to Reena alias Roopa, wife of Bobby, a notorious drug peddler from Rajeev Nagar. It is important to highlight that Reena has a criminal background and multiple criminal cases have been registered against her, including FIR 220/2017, U/S 8/20 NDPS Act, PS Bahu Fort; FIR 67/2019, U/S 8/20 NDPS Act, PS Bahu Fort; FIR 199/2018,

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Constitution winning over violence: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday set the ruling alliance's tone for an expected discussion in Parliament's Monsoon session on Operation Sindoor, describing this sitting of parliamentarians as a "Vijay Utsav" and expressing confidence that MPs will articulate this sentiment in one voice.

In his customary remarks in Parliament complex before the session's start, Modi lauded a number of positive developments for the country and asserted that the Constitution is prevailing over bombs and guns.

As naxalism's footprint



PM Narendra Modi addressing media ahead of Monsoon Session in Parliament House, New Delhi on Monday.

shrinks fast, red zone is turning into green growth zone, he added.

"This Monsoon session is a very proud session for the

country. It is like a 'Vijay Utsav' (celebration of victory) for the nation. The world witnessed the capability of armed forces. They achieved

their targets 100 per cent," he said.

He also noted that the Indian flag was unfurled recently at the International Space Station, a reference to Shubhanshu Shukla becoming the first Indian to set foot on the facility.

The prime minister said economy was getting a boost from bountiful rains, while peace and progress have marked this decade amid low inflation and high growth. The water reservoir level has tripled compared to the past ten years, which will significantly benefit economy, he added. With the INDIA bloc uniting to demand a

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20 killed, 171 injured as Bangladesh Air Force training jet crashes into school building

■ AGENCY

DHAKA: A Bangladesh Air Force training fighter jet crashed into a school building in Dhaka shortly after takeoff on Monday, killing at least 20 people, mostly students, and injuring 171, in one of the deadliest aviation accidents in the country's history.

The F-7 BGI aircraft, a training fighter jet manufactured in China, experienced a "mechanical fault" moments after takeoff and crashed into the two-storey building of Milestone School and College at Diabari in Dhaka's Uttara area, officials said.

The pilot, Flight Lieutenant Mohammad Towkir Islam, was killed in the crash.

"Twenty people, including Flight Lieutenant Towkir Islam, have so far been killed and 171 others injured in the crash," according to an updated statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) - the media

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Govt seeks inputs from states, central ministries on 8th pay commission

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government has sought inputs from major stakeholders, including the Defence and Home ministries, the Department of Personnel and Training, as well as states, on setting up the 8th Central Pay Commission, Parliament was informed on Monday.

In January, the Cabinet approved setting up the 8th Pay Commission to revise salaries of nearly 50 lakh central government employees and allowances of about 65 lakh pensioners.

To a question on the reasons for not setting up the

Commission even after six months, Minister of Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said: "Inputs have been sought from major stakeholders, including Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Personnel & Training and from States".

The Chairperson and members of the 8th CPC will be appointed once the 8th Central Pay Commission is notified by the government, Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

Asked when the revised pay scales will be implemented for the employees and pen-

sioners, Chaudhary said: "The implementation would be taken up once the recommendations are made by the 8th CPC and are accepted by the Government".

Usually, the pay commission is constituted by the central government every 10 years to revise the remuneration of government employees. The 7th Pay Commission was constituted in February 2014. Its recommendations were implemented from January 1, 2016.

The 8th Pay Commission is due for implementation on January 1, 2026.

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Man killed after being hit by train

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: A 25-year-old man was killed after being hit by a Delhi-bound train in Samba district, an official said on Monday.

Efforts are underway to identify the deceased, who was crossing the track when the Yog Nagari Rishikesh Express hit him in the Bari Brahmana area late on Sunday, a Government Railway Police (GRP) official said.

The mutilated body of the deceased has been shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) here for legal formalities and identification, the official said.

Search operation to track down terrorists resumes in Kishtwar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Security forces on Monday resumed a search operation to track down a group of terrorists hiding in a dense forest in Kishtwar district, officials said.

The joint operation by the police and the army was launched on Sunday afternoon in Khankoo forest in Cherji area between Dachhan and Nagseni, they said.

It triggered a brief encounter with the terrorists believed to be affiliated with the proscribed Hizbul Mujahideen outfit and



included two top-ranking ultras carrying a reward of Rs 30 lakhs each, officials said.

After the gunfight, reinforcements were rushed to

the scene and a massive search operation was launched to neutralise the fleeing terrorists, officials said, adding that the

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Over 3,700 pilgrims leave Jammu for Shri Amarnathji Shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A fresh batch of over 3,700 pilgrims left Jammu on Monday for the twin base camps of the cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas amid tight security arrangements, officials said.

So far, over 3 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the ice lingam of Lord Shiva at the 3,880-metre-high shrine since the yatra began on July 3.

Escorted by CRPF and police personnel, the batch of 3,791 pilgrims -- 3,067 men, 522 women, nine children, 192 sadhus and sadhvis, and a transgender -- left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here in 148 vehicles between 3.33 am and 4.06 am, they said.

The first pilgrim convoy,

carrying 1,208 pilgrims in 52 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district, followed by the second convoy of 2,583 pilgrims in 96 vehicles, who are undertaking the yatra via the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, they said.

According to data, the number of pilgrims undertaking the yatra has been declining over the last few days. While 7,908 pilgrims left for Amarnath on July 18, the number was 6,365 on July 19, 4,388 on July 20, and today's batch of 3,791 pilgrims was the lowest so far.

The footfall at the counters for on-the-spot registration has also decreased in the

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 29.0°C Min: 26.5°C

Humidity
Max: 89 Min: 86

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 34.9°C Min: 23.8°C

Humidity
Max: 74 Min: 44

Sunset : 19:37 Hours
Sunrise : 05:37 Hours

