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vulnerable sections. "I am confident that in this important conference, along with solutions to the challenges being faced at the district level, the necessary interventions to make the common citizens aware of their rights under the Constitution will also be discussed," the LG said.

On the occasion, NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana 2025, a dedicated legal services scheme for defence personnel, ex-servicemen and their families, was launched. The scheme provides for establishing legal services clinics within Rajya and Zila Sainik Boards for rendering legal services and assistance to Veer Parivar.

The event also witnessed the launch of various initiatives including Defence Personnel Case Management System; Special Samvad Legal Units for tribal communities; Legal Services support centres at Rajya Sainik Boards of all states and UTs and Zila Sainik Welfare Boards across the Districts of UT of J&K and Ladakh; Unveiling of Logo and Tribal kiosks at Leh airport; Mobile medical camp for tribal population of Ladakh. Certificates of engagement as Para legal volunteers by Legal Services Authorities of J&K and Ladakh were also handed over to Veer Naris and ex-servicemen. Former Chief Justices, serving and retired Judges, senior officials of Legal Services Authorities, Security Forces, Police and Civil Administration, Veer Naris, ex-Servicemen, members from Legal fraternity, and prominent citizens from different walks of life were also present.

HIGHLIGHTS

Addresses North Zone Regional Conference of Legal Services Authorities at Srinagar.

Calls upon SLISA to ensure that all possible legal aid reaches the army personnel, tribal community, deprived and vulnerable sections of society on time so that their lives become easier and their rights granted by the Constitution are protected.

Observes that before 2019 various central laws including two important central legislations namely the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 were not applicable to J&K.

Now, these laws have become applicable and tribal community has been empowered. We are extending all constitutional guarantees and protections to the members of Tribal population including access to justice by providing free and competent legal aid to them.

Amendment in J&K Legal Services Authority, Rules 2020 to include Secretary, Zila Sainik Board as member of DLISA to provide legal aid to soldiers.

Lieutenant Governor's Sainik Sahayta Kendra established, dedicated institutional mechanism for facilitating the redressal of civilian grievances faced by soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces, who are posted in the J&K, or who belong to the UT and are presently serving in other parts of the country.

I am confident that in this important conference, along with solutions to the challenges being faced at the district level, necessary interventions to make the common citizens aware of their rights under the Constitution will also be discussed.

CJ J&K-Ladakh...

The programme was presided over by Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA. Dignitaries present included Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Justice, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, Justice Arun Palli-Chief Justice High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister, Justice Sanjeev Kumar-Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sindhu Sharma Executive Chairperson Ladakh Legal Services Authority, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command and other sitting Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, senior military leadership, and members of civil society.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, in her welcome address, introduced the twin objectives of the conference - justice for the defence families and tribal communities as moral and constitutional imperatives. She described the Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana as a symbol of national gratitude and empathy, designed to provide legal support through legal clinics operated by trained ex-servicemen acting as Nyaya Mitras. Chief Justice Arun Kumar Palli, in his keynote address, highlighted the neglect of protective provisions under the Army, Navy, and Air Force Acts, calling for their urgent revival and institutional implementation. He announced the development of a digital case management system (DTCMS) tailored to address the needs of defence personnel.

Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, delivered an emotionally resonant address highlighting the practical and psychological burden borne by soldiers due to legal proceedings during deployment. He praised the judiciary's move as a transformative and morale-boosting reform.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar emphasized the constitutional imperative of tribal inclusion and access to justice. He announced the establishment of 22 Samvad Units under Samvad Scheme-2025, a NALSA initiative to ensure legal services reach Scheduled Tribes and other nomadic groups. Innovations under the scheme include mobile legal vans, tribal paralegal volunteers, and mobile hospital partnerships.

In a key highlight, engagement letters were handed over to Veer Naris and ex-servicemen formally joining the scheme as paralegal volunteers.

The logo of the NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana - 2025 was unveiled, and a special kiosk promoting traditional Ladakhi handicrafts was inaugurated by Justice Surya Kant and accompanying judges.

Additionally, three Mobile Hospital camps launched by the Ladakh Legal Services Authority was virtually flagged off by Justice Surya Kant, Justice Sindhu Sharma, and the Northern Command Commander.

These camps were organized by the District Legal Services Authority Kargil, in collaboration with the District Health Department and Army Medical Corps, to serve nomadic and remote populations in the region. A special message of blessings from His Holiness the Dalai Lama was also received for the programme, adding a deeply spiritual note to the day's proceedings. Prior to the vote of thanks, the NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana - 2025 was officially rolled out by all present Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, senior defence officials, and dignitaries. Dr. Ajit Atri, Director NALSA delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the collective efforts of the judiciary, government, legal services institutions, and military leadership in building a future-focused, inclusive, and compassionate justice delivery framework.

The programme was followed by two technical sessions: one focused on the rights of Armed Forces personnel, and the other on expanding legal access for tribal communities. Both sessions featured leading judges, military officers, and senior advocates and bureaucrats.

Collective responsibility to...

full embrace." Addressing the audience at SKICC, CM said that this Regional Conference was of great significance to deliberate and collectively reflect on the foundational promise of our Republic for realization of justice-social, economic, and political which is enshrined in the preamble and concretised in Article 39A of our Constitution, which enjoins the State to

ensure that access to justice is not curtailed by economic or other disabilities.

Paying tribute to the service and sacrifices of defence personnel, many of whom hail from Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister emphasized the need for swift, compassionate legal redressal for those serving in inhospitable terrains under difficult circumstances. He highlighted the systemic legal barriers faced by defence personnel in matters such as pension disputes and service-related grievances owing to their geographic remoteness, and the distinct constraints of military life. CM commended the J&K State Legal Services Authority for its initiative in amending its legal aid rules to expressly include serving and retired defence personnel. CM said that establishment of dedicated legal aid clinics in cantonments and in districts with significant ex-servicemen populations should be prioritised. "Equally important is the need to ensure that families of defence personnel-particularly widows, aged parents, and dependent children-receive empathetic, expert, and timely legal support," CM said, adding that para-legal volunteers trained specifically in military legal issues should be deployed in areas with high defence populations. Simultaneously, technology must be harnessed to democratise access-through mobile apps, virtual consultation platforms, and user-friendly legal information portals. Justice, in our times, must not merely be available-it must be accessible.

On tribal communities, CM said that they were custodians of rich cultural and ecological heritage. Jammu & Kashmir is home to several Scheduled Tribes, including Gujjars, Bakarwals, Pahadis, Gaddis and Sippis, who have preserved ancient traditions while braving difficult terrains.

"Our Government has correspondingly augmented its developmental efforts. This year, the capital expenditure for tribal welfare has been raised to 198 crores. Six Eklayva Model Residential Schools have been made operational, 222 smart classrooms have been established in tribal-dominated schools, and healthcare services have been expanded through mobile medical units. The Tribal Research Institute has also been commissioned. These interventions reflect our commitment to combine dignity with development. Yet, development alone cannot substitute justice. Structural barriers to legal literacy, representation, and redressal continue to persist among tribal populations-owing to linguistic, cultural, and geographic factors. CM noted that the Legal Services Authority has commendably operationalised 255 legal aid clinics, including in tribal villages and correctional institutions, supported by 527 panel lawyers and 561 para-legal volunteers.

CM said that Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms also offer immense promise. Lok Adalats, mediation centres, and village-level panchayat forums, when duly sensitised, can provide swift, culturally respectful adjudication-especially in matters related to land rights, service entitlements, and local grievances. These models need to be institutionalised and resourced accordingly.

CM stated that capacity-building is essential for Judicial officers, legal aid lawyers, and field functionaries who must be trained in tribal customary law, military jurisprudence, and the ethics of constitutional service. Only through sustained cross-learning can our justice system be truly responsive to the diversity it is meant to serve.

Need to prioritise...

on a fast-track basis. "There can be a separate common service centre dedicated to providing information about legal procedures to army personnel. I will also talk within the government to see if a dedicated revenue court can be set up for serving and retired defence personnel. That can be a very good result of this conference," he said.

The Minister said that mechanisms for dedicated legal aid cells for tribal communities should be established.

At the start of his address, the minister paid tribute to the Kargil heroes on the occasion of the 26th Vijay Divas.

He also rendered a song praising Operation Sindoor, drawing applause from the audience.

"This programme is being held on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Divas and is also the biggest such programme after Operation Sindoor. We salute our armed forces. The armed forces have increased India's pride and honour," he said.

JDA retrieves 15...

will be initiated against those responsible and steps have been taken to prevent re-encroachment. Surveillance in the area has been strengthened.

Meanwhile, another team of JDA dismantled temporary structures along Ring Road at Bishnah. The JDA appeals to the public to report any instances of illegal land use and reiterates its dedication to transparent and responsible land management.

'Make in India'...

Operation Sindoor in destroying enemy targets and made enemies lose sleep.

In his address after inaugurating several projects, he promised a Viksit Bharat and Viksit Tamil Nadu and said: "Infrastructure, energy backbone of any state's development; our focus on these in last 11 years shows our commitment to TN's growth." On the FTA with UK, Modi said, "FTA with Britain adds pace to our vision of Viksit Bharat, Viksit TN."

As regards the railways, he said it is the lifeline of industrial growth.

India looks forward...

PM for India's continued assistance to Maldives in times of need," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a social media post.

Latheef said it was an honour to call on the Indian prime minister:

"As this year marks 60 years of formal diplomatic relations with India, the Prime Minister and I reflected on the journey of friendship and reciprocal support our countries have taken. I hope that the strong cooperation with India continues to grow and strengthen," Latheef said.

Modi also met Abdul Raheem Abdulla, Speaker of the People's Majlis (the Maldivian Parliament).

"Talked about the deep-rooted India-Maldives friendship, including the close relationship between our respective Parliaments," Modi said.

He also welcomed the formation of the India-Maldives Parliamentary Friendship Group in the 20th Majlis.

"India remains committed to supporting capacity building in the Maldives," the prime minister said.

The Speaker thanked Modi for India's continued commitment to enhancing ties with the Maldives and between the two democracies, Jaiswal said.

Modi also interacted with the Indian community in the Maldives and commended their contribution to the Indian Ocean archipelago's progress.

Over 2,300 Amarnathji...

said. With this, a total of 1,39,098 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the valley since July 2 when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch. The pilgrimage is scheduled to end on August 9, coinciding with the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

Dr Jitendra reviews...

the security situation in the region with district administrative and police officers. The Minister was briefed about measures taken for higher vigil and surveillance following incidents of recent armed encounters and killings.

In a major announcement , Dr Jitendra Singh issued directions for replacing of the decades old "Jhoola" bridge in the heart of the Bani town , which was in popular use despite having become unsafe with passage of time. He directed the administration to prepare a DPR and the funds can accordingly be arranged, partly from his MPLAD-Fund.

In reply to a media query on the status of Chattergala tunnel, Dr Jitendra Singh said efforts are being made to get the project included in the current plan so that work on it starts sooner than later. He said the 6.8 kilometre Chattergala tunnel will connect Lakhampur with Doda via Bani and provide all-weather alternate road connectivity between the two distant regions. It will also reduce travel time from Doda to Lakhampur to about four hours and boost tourism as well as employment in the region.

Dr Jitendra Singh expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for according priority to the project, saying that after he assumed the office, work on the project plan was expedited. He said earlier the project was given to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), but was handed over to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) at a later stage as the estimated cost of the tunnel is nearly 4,000 crore rupees. During the public interaction, Dr Jitendra Singh listened patiently to the grievances and demands raised by individual citizens and public delegations. Several issues were resolved on-the-spot, while in other cases, the Minister issued directions to the concerned district officials for swift and time-bound manner. During today's Public Durbar, the administration also provided the Union Minister with the updates on several pending matters that were raised in previous such public interactive meetings. He assured the attendees that he would personally monitor the progress of the issues brought to light today and ensure that the district administration acts upon them without delay.

Dr Jitendra Singh also announced the widening of the Dhar Road, a key move to ensure smooth and secure movement of commuters as well as security forces given its strategic significance. Local MLA Dr Rameshwar, former MLA Jeevan Lal, MLA Basohli Darshan Singh, DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh, DDC members Rita Thakur, Narain Dutt Tripathi, prominent local leaders Uttam Goswami and others were also present on the occasion.

Need unified political...

and goal-oriented. But before hitting the streets, the political leadership should have engaged with Delhi. We need unity, not fragmentation, on this issue," he said.

Azad emphasised that the demand for the restoration of statehood has a broad consensus across communities and regions.

"There is no opposition to the idea of statehood -- be it in Jammu, Kashmir, or among any religious groups," he said.

On the National Conference's recent call for a special session on statehood, Azad welcomed the idea, stating that the Assembly is a shared platform for all parties and the matter should not be viewed through a partisan lens.

Amid speculation about his potential appointment as the vice-president of India, Azad dismissed the reports as baseless.

"These are mere rumours. Serious constitutional posts should not be discussed on the streets. The media and public should not entertain such talks," he said.

He also parried a direct reply to questions on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, saying the issue remains under debate and is likely to be taken up in Parliament.

Azad also reiterated concern over development work in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that while central projects were progressing, state-level initiatives were "completely halted".

"Development by the local administration is negligible. Labourers could easily be employed through basic infrastructure projects like roads, water, and power supply. I have visited 15 districts. People say that not even a footpath is being built. If there is a government, why is nothing visible on the ground?" he asked.

The former leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha also criticised the repeated disruptions of Parliament proceedings.

Recalling his tenure, Azad said, "I have always supported the functioning of Parliament. Even when Lok Sabha was being disrupted, during my time as leader of the opposition, Rajya Sabha would continue its normal proceedings."

On Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks questioning the Election Commission's credibility, Azad refused to comment, calling it a matter between the Congress leader, the poll panel, and the government.

Regarding the sudden resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar from the post of vice-president, Azad said he met him recently and believed that the decision was prompted by health concerns.

"I have known him for 40 to 50 years. He has cited health reasons for his resignation. I cannot say for sure whether there was any other reason. Maybe his health is genuinely not well, and that is why he stepped down," Azad said.

Pushing for long-delayed elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Azad said panchayat, municipal, and local body polls could generate vital employment at the grassroots level and must be conducted soon.

On internal developments within the DPAP, he acknowledged that some former ministers and lawmakers had switched sides, calling it part of India's political culture, but said the party's grassroots support base has grown steadily.

Reacting to Farooq Abdullah's demand for the resignation of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha over the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Azad said that such lapses had occurred during the tenure of other leaders as well.

"Why are they forgetting those incidents now?" he asked.

Lok Sabha to...

expected to intervene in the discussion.

Special discussions, which have been held occasionally in the past on topics like the Constitution to mark the 75th year of its adoption, are not guided by any particular rule of the House.

The Rajya Sabha will take up the debate on Operation Sindoor on Tuesday.

Members of Parliament, who were part of the multi-party delegations that took India's message of zero tolerance to terrorism to 33 world capitals are also expected to participate in the discussion in both the Houses of Parliament.

The first week of the Monsoon session of Parliament was rather a tumultuous one with the surprise resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar as vice president, hours after he had kicked off a row by referring in the Rajya Sabha an opposition-sponsored notice on the impeachment of Justice Yashwant Varma.

The opposition made a strong demand for a discussion on Operation Sindoor on the first day of the Monsoon session on Monday last, which was accepted by the government.

However, the opposition stalled the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament over the issue of special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, contending that the exercise was aimed at disenfranchising genuine voters by demanding proof of citizenship.

The government has not agreed to a discussion in Parliament on the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar and the rest of the country with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju saying that a call on this issue could be taken gradually. The Opposition has alleged that the revision of electoral rolls is aimed at helping the BJP-led alliance,

which is in power in poll-bound Bihar. Terrorists linked to Pakistan had shot down 26 civilians, mostly tourists, in the popular hill station of Pahalgam, on April 22, and India retaliated by targeting terror sites in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan under Operation Sindoor, leading to a four-day conflict between the two countries.

Op Sindoor strikes...

forces and unmanned aerial units at one place to provide logistics and combat support," he said.

The army has formed a special strike force Bhairav Light Commando Unit, which is "always ready to surprise the enemy at the border." Dwivedi said, "Every infantry battalion now has a drone platoon. In the artillery, the Shaktiban regiment has been set up, which will be equipped with a drone, counter-drone, and loiter munition. Every regiment will have a composite battery equipped with these things."

The army chief said our capability will increase manifold in coming days as we are equipping the army air defence systems with indigenous missiles.

		
Jammu to Srinagar		
IndiGo		10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet		11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Air India Express		12:50 PM - 1:40 PM
Air India Express		1:35 PM - 2:45 PM
IndiGo		1:55 PM - 2:35 PM
IndiGo		6:40 PM - 7:20 PM
Srinagar to Jammu		
IndiGo		11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express		12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet		12:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express		2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo		3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo		5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE	
11078 Jhelum Express	
Departure	: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 11:15 at New Delhi
12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express	
Departure	: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 05:55 at New Delhi
12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express	
Departure	: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 06:55 at New Delhi
Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)	
Departure	: 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival	: 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop	: Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 715	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	
Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)	
Departure	: 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival	: 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 660	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	

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Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415
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Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953
HOSPITALS	
Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital	2577444
Ambulance Rajouri	257147, 257084, 257357
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637
Emergency	2549669
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012
Dental Hospital	2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar	2430041
Emergency	2431740
Child Hospital	2577023
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital	262270
AMBULANCES	
Indian Red Cross Society	2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248
FIRE STATIONS	
Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705
City	2544263
Canal	2554064
Roop Nagar	2597522
Gangyal	2480026
Bari Brahmana	220020
Akhnoor	252481
Kathua	234313
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TOURISM	
Tourist Officer, Airport	2431917
Tourist Officer, Railway Station	2430078
Tourist Reception Centre	2579554
BUS SERVICES	
JKSRTC General Manager	2435262
JKSRTC Bus Stand	2577475
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service	2576562
Punjab Roadways	2542782
WATER SUPPLY	
Company Bagh	2542582
Parade	2544979
Bakshi Nagar	2543557
Panjthirhi	2547501
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ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS	
Canal	2554147, 2554199
Parade	2542289, 2543398
Nanak Nagar	2430776
Gandhi Nagar	2430180
Shastri Nagar	2430781
Janipur	2543828, 2579258
Satwari	2452816
FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)	
CIVIC SERVICES	
Municipality	2547846, 2542192
Health Officer	2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal	2547440

FIND CINEMA	
SAIYAARA (HINDI)	
Wave one movie Jammu	10:00 AM / 10:30 AM / 1:05 PM / 1:35 PM / 4:40 PM / 7:45 PM / 9:45 PM / 11:00 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	09:00 AM/10:00 AM / 01:10 PM / 04:20 PM / 5:55 PM / 7:30 PM / 10:40 PM / 11:40 PM
THE FANTASTIC FOUR:FIRST STEP (ENGLISH)	
Wave one movie Jammu	3:20 PM /10:55 PM
SARBALA JI	
Wave one movie Jammu	10:15 AM / 4:15 PM / 07:00 PM
SUPERMAN	
Wave one movie Jammu	5:45 PM