

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
Groundwork laid for...**

India's Independence. President Murmu pointed to the government's focus on infrastructure development, the adoption of cutting-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence and semiconductors, and a robust banking and financial sector as key factors that make India an increasingly attractive destination for investment.

"All these elements have set the stage for the next generation of economic reforms and growth that will propel India among the developed nations," she stated.

The President also addressed the positive impacts of high economic growth on the populace, noting that it has resulted in increased disposable income and a significant reduction in poverty levels.

"For those who still face economic hardship, we are committed to providing support and pathways out of poverty," she assured.

Citing initiatives like the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which provides free rations to approximately 800 million people, President Murmu emphasised that the government is dedicated to ensuring that individuals who have recently escaped poverty are not pushed back into it.

In her address, she commended the diligence of farmers, noting their crucial role in achieving agricultural self-sufficiency in India.

She also observed that recent years have seen significant infrastructure improvements, citing strategic planning and the effectiveness of institutions as vital to expanding the nation's network of roads, highways, railways, and ports.

She said cultivating young minds and creating a new mindset that takes the best of traditions and contemporary knowledge is priority, and the new National Education Policy (NEP) has already started showing results in this regard.

The President said the Amrit Kaal, which is the ongoing period of a quarter century leading to the centenary of the country's Independence, is going to be shaped by the youth of today.

"It is their energy and enthusiasm that will help the nation scale new heights. Cultivating the young minds and creating a new mindset that takes the best of the traditions and the contemporary knowledge is our priority. To this end, the National Education Policy, launched in 2020, has already started showing results," she said.

The president noted that to harness talent, the government has come up with initiatives to facilitate skilling, employment and other opportunities for the youth.

"The prime minister's package of five schemes for employment and skilling will benefit 4.1 crore youth over five years. Under a new initiative of the government, one crore youth will be doing internships in leading companies over five years. All this will be a foundational contribution towards building Viksit Bharat," she said.

The NEP, which was announced in 2020, replaced the National Policy on Education that was adopted in 1986.

IAS officer Govind...

as Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Home Affairs with immediate effect.

"The officer will take over as Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs vice Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS (Assam-Meghalaya: 1984) on completion of his tenure on 22.08.2024," the order stated.

Mohan, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, had served as joint secretary and additional secretary in the Union Home Ministry before being appointed as secretary in the Ministry of Culture in October 2021.

The officer, who did B.Tech from Banaras Hindu University and PG Diploma from IIM, Ahmedabad, has also served in the Sikkim government in various capacities.

After taking over as the Union Home Secretary, the immediate challenge for Mohan would be holding assembly elections peacefully in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a Supreme Court directive, Jammu and Kashmir elections have to be conducted by September 30.

Incumbent Home Secretary Bhalla had held a meeting with the Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday to discuss the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and force mobilisation.

Bhalla was appointed the Union Home Secretary in August 2019. He has had the longest tenure in the crucial post considered next to the country's top bureaucrat -- the cabinet secretary.

Overcoming challenges, new...

78th Independence Day. "Our founding fathers, brave personnel of J&K Police, Armed Forces and CAPFs, have ushered peace enabling the nation and the UT of J&K to fulfil the aspirations of the citizens and strengthen the ideals of social justice and equality," the Lt Governor said.

He also commended the role of Doordarshan in preserving the local art, culture, heritage while promoting a sense of nationalism.

The musical programme by folk artists and music-band showcased a vibrant display of music and songs on patriotic themes. The ambience was filled with patriotic fervour remembering the sacrifices and immense contributions of the martyrs and freedom fighters. During the programme, a short-film about the developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370 was shown. The event also marked the commencement of the talent hunt reality show.

The event was attended by Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor; Central University of Kashmir; PP Shukla, DDG, DD Kashmir; Prakash Veer Tyagi, DDG Global Outreach Prasar Bharati; Sanjeev Sugam, DDG (E), senior officials and prominent citizens from all walks of life.

Sinha greets people...

all those freedom fighters, whose sacrifices secured our Independence. I pay homage to all the bravehearts of J&K Police, Armed Forces, and CAPFs who laid down their lives in safeguarding the unity and integrity of the nation. I also salute the brave personnel of Army, CAPF and J&K Police, who are guarding our borders, fighting terrorists and simultaneously maintaining law and order to ensure progress and prosperity of the Union Territory. It is also an occasion to pay our gratitude to the farmers, teachers, scientists, workers, youth and women entrepreneurs, who are working with dedication and making precious contribution to peace and prosperity of the UT. This year marks a significant moment in our democratic journey and robust participation in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election is a testament to the unwavering spirit. It reaffirms that enduring peace is gradually returning to the UT.

Political leaders should...

these are highly sensitive times. Pakistan has upped its terrorism in J&K, and it wants to cast its shadow over the coming elections. That is what it tries to do all the time. This time, too, it is not an exception. Pakistan has raised the tensions on borders by infiltrating terrorists of a different make. This has made things hot on the LoC, where Indian soldiers battle life and death each and every minute. The infiltration has become a major issue, because without infiltration terrorism cannot sustain itself in J&K. Former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah's remarks that "sab miley hue hai," (everyone is mixed up) at the border is a tragic commentary on his political thinking. He has made suggestions that the guardians of the borders and the infiltrating terrorists have some understanding is unbecoming of a leader who has been chief minister, union minister and whose political career is well over 40 years. At this point in time, his comments are unwarranted. It may help him and his party politically or not cannot be predicted at this point in time, but what is certain is that the statement would have long-term security implications. The issues concerning national security should be avoided in the pre-election narratives. Other leaders may pick up this kind of narration to bolster their political fortunes during the elections. That would be unfortunate. The political leaders who had been pitching for elections with the clam that only the elected legislators can form a connect with the people, particularly in a hyper-sensitive place like Jammu and Kashmir, but they should know that elections have their own sanctity and that must be maintained through time honoured protocol. All the national security issues should be addressed with extreme care, any wrong word or usage of it, can bring serious problems in its wake. Pakistan can exploit, and as is its wont, it will do so, washing its hands off running terror factories and sending its products to this side of the border. Farooq Abdullah should have thought about all this before making the unfortunate remarks.

Captain martyred, terrorist...

ongoing," the Army said in a post on X. Police also confirmed the killing of a terrorist. Four blood-soaked rucksacks were seized from the site of the encounter; leading officials to initially believe that a total of four terrorists were killed. M-4 carbines were also found, the officials said. However, the death of only one terrorist has been confirmed. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Anand Jain reached the Assar area along with top officers to supervise the operation. Ahead of his visit to Doda, the ADGP told reporters in Jammu around 2 pm that the operation was still underway. "The operation is going on. Efforts are on," he said. The Army expressed its deepest condolence on the officer's martyrdom and said the force stands with the bereaved family. All ranks of the White Knight Corps salute the supreme sacrifice of braveheart Captain Deepak Singh, it said. The terrorists crossed into Doda from a forest area near Patnito in adjacent Udhampur district after a brief exchange of fire between security forces and the ultras there on Tuesday evening, officials said. They said the security forces established contact with the terrorists in Udhampur around 6 pm on Tuesday. An encounter broke out about half an hour later and continued intermittently until both sides paused. A cordon was established overnight. The search was resumed at dawn. At about 7:30 am on Wednesday, there was a renewed exchange of fire in Doda where the terrorists had fled to, the officials said. Two encounters between security forces and terrorists were reported on Sunday in the remote forest areas of Nownatta in Kishtwar district and Basantgarh in Udhampur district. Following these encounters, the terrorists had fled to the Doda hills. On June 26, three ultras, suspected to be affiliated with the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), were killed in a gunfight in Doda's Gandoh area.

NSG DG Nalin...

and ordered his deputation from the Andhra Pradesh cadre to the AGMUT cadre. An order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) said it was approving a proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to "curtail" the tenure of the 1992-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) as DG of the National Security Guard (NSG). The ACC has also approved the "inter-cadre deputation of Prabhat, IPS from Andhra Pradesh to AGMUT cadre initially for a period of three years from the date of joining the AGMUT cadre or until further orders, whichever is earlier, in relaxation of inter-cadre deputation guidelines", the order stated.

It is understood that the IPS officer could be given a new task. The AGMUT stands for Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory cadre for which the controlling authority is the MHA.

JKCA case: HC quashes complaint, ED charge sheets against Farooq, others

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday quashed the case and charge sheets filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah and others in connection with its money laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

In its 13-page order; Justice Sanjeev Kumar came down heavily on the ED saying it "is not an authority or investigating agency in any manner superior to CBI, nor is vested with or conferred the power and jurisdiction to sit in appeal against the investigation made and the conclusion drawn later."

The judge, who had reserved his judgement on August 7, said that going by the CBI charge sheet, it is evident that the offence of money launder-

ing is not made out.

"The complaint, the charge sheet and the charges framed by the designated court are quashed," the judge said but asked the ED to appear before the designated CBI court and argue on money laundering charges.

If the designated CBI court agrees, the ED can file a fresh case.

"The ED cannot be permitted to preempt the outcome of an exercise, which is yet to be undertaken by a competent court of law at the state of charge/discharge.

"As on date, the charge sheet presented by the CBI is only with respect to section 120-B, 406 and 409 RPC, which are admittedly not the scheduled offences," the court said.

The ED had named National Conference chief Abdullah, Ahsan Ahmad Mirza (former treasurer of JKCA), Mir Manzoor Gazanffer (another ex-treasur-

er of the JKCA) and some others as accused in the charge sheet.

Shariq Reyaz, representing Mirza and Gazanffer, had moved the high court saying that the ED had no jurisdiction over the case and the charge sheets filed against his clients should be quashed.

The ED was represented by Additional Solicitor General S V Raju through virtual mode.

"The ED... must accept the investigation carried out by another investigating agency and the conclusion drawn by the said agency in respect of commission of the offences other than the offence under PMLA," the order said.

In conclusion, the judge said that "with a view to maintaining harmony and to avoid contradictory stand by the two investigating agencies operating in their independent fields, it is necessary that the ED respects the decision of the CBI..."

Mirza was arrested by the ED in September, 2019 and a charge sheet was filed against him in November that year and the trial in that complaint is going on.

Abdullah has been questioned multiple times by the agency in the case.

The federal probe agency had attached assets belonging to Abdullah and others worth Rs 21.55 crore under three separate orders issued by it in the past.

The agency's case is based on a 2018 charge sheet filed by the CBI against the same accused.

The CBI charge sheet filed against Abdullah, Mirza, Gazanffer and former accountants Bashir Ahmad Misgar and Gulzar Ahmad Beigh alleged "misappropriation of JKCA funds amounting to Rs 43.69 crore" from grants given by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to promote the sport

in the erstwhile state between 2002 and 2011.

The ED had earlier said its probe found that JKCA received Rs 94.06 crore from BCCI in three different bank accounts during financial years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012 (up to December 2011).

It had alleged that several other bank accounts were opened in the name of the JKCA into which the funds were transferred. The bank accounts along with the existing bank accounts were later used for laundering JKCA funds.

The court was hearing arguments on whether a case for offence under money laundering was made and whether the ED can examine and register a case already being pursued by another agency.

Govt approves restoration, preservation work of Poonch Fort

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a move to preserve the rich historical heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory (UT) government has approved the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of the iconic Poonch Fort.

The decision was taken during a meeting chaired on Wednesday by the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, where several projects aimed at reviving local heritage were discussed and approved.

The District Administration Poonch has already made a number of efforts to enhance the beauty and attractiveness of the historic Fort. The encroachment and unauthorised construction around the fort have been removed besides the face lifting of the Fort.

The proposed restoration work will be carried out with a focus on maintaining the local ethos, culture, and aesthetic appeal, ensuring that the fort's historical essence remains intact.

The project is expected to contribute to the overall development and progress of Poonch, further strengthening its position as a prominent tourist destination in Jammu and Kashmir.

Home Secy on board with EC's security assessment of J&K for assembly polls: Sources

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Home Ministry is learnt to have conveyed to the Election Commission its readiness to provide adequate security personnel for assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, PTI quoted sources stating on Wednesday.

The assurance was given by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla when he held a meeting with the election commissioners here.

Last December, the Supreme Court directed the poll panel to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30.

The Home Secretary, the sources said, was "on board" with EC's security assessment of Jammu and Kashmir relating to adequate security for contesting candidates as well as ensuring peaceful conduct of the democratic exercise.

He agreed to whatever the EC had sought for ensuring peaceful polls there, they said.

The Union Home Ministry is ready to provide sufficient number of security personnel proposed by EC to ensure the

safety of candidates and for holding peaceful polls in the Union Territory, the sources said.

The poll panel on Wednesday afternoon held a detailed review meeting with Bhalla on the security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

The sources described the meeting as "good" and said the home secretary was on board with the EC's security assessment for holding assembly polls in the UT.

The EC flagged the issue of the security of candidates and polling stations while seeking forces for peaceful polls.

The last assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir in 2014, when Ladakh was its part, were held in five phases. This time too the number of phases could be the same.

The electoral exercise in Jammu and Kashmir is usually spread over a month.

It was not yet clear whether polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held along with other states where assembly elections are due or separately.

Last time, Haryana and Maharashtra polls were held

together and Jharkhand elections were announced later.

So far the EC has visited J&K and Haryana to assess poll preparedness. It is yet to visit Maharashtra.

The terms of the legislative assemblies of Haryana and Maharashtra end on November 3 and November 26 respectively.

The term of the Jharkhand assembly ends on January 5 next year.

After a record turnout in the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir, CEC Rajiv Kumar had said, "This active participation is a huge positive for assembly elections to be held soon so that the democratic process continues to thrive in the Union Territory."

Whenever assembly elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir, they will be the first since provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated and the erstwhile state was divided into two Union Territories in 2019.

Following a delimitation exercise, the number of assembly seats has gone up

from 83 to 90, excluding those allocated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In a fresh indication that assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir are imminent, the EC had last month asked the Union Territory administration to transfer out officers posted in their home districts, an exercise it holds ahead of conducting elections.

The Commission has been following a consistent policy that officers directly connected with the conduct of elections in a poll-bound state or Union Territory are not posted in their home districts or places where they have served for a considerably long period.

It is usual for the poll panel to issue instructions related to transfers of officers ahead of Lok Sabha and assembly elections. Recently, it had ordered the updation of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir and three other states. In June, it decided to accept applications seeking allotment of 'common symbols' from registered unrecognised parties in the Union Territory.

Modi set to deliver 11th I-Day address in row

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the national flag for the 11th time in a row on Thursday on Independence Day -- the centrepiece annual event where he lays out his government's agenda, presents its report card, makes important policy and programme announcements and speaks about burning issues.

His first Independence Day address of his third term will take him past Manmohan Singh, who unfurled the tricolour 10 times from the ramparts of Red Fort during 2004-2014, and place him behind Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira

Gandhi, who did the honours 17 and 16 times respectively.

While the theme of 'Viksit Bharat' is expected to animate his address, there is a view that the crisis in Bangladesh, especially the targeting of minority Hindus, may find a mention in his speech, more so as Hindutva groups have strongly taken up the issue and hit the streets.

Modi may also speak about the mandate for his government for a third straight term, though with a reduced majority, and dwell at length on how reforms, development programmes and welfare measures rolled out in the last 10 years have

impacted the lives of the people.

It will be eagerly seen if the prime minister announces any new initiative or expand the ambit of some ongoing welfare programmes at a time when a combined opposition, at its strongest in the last 10 years, has pivoted to populist welfare promises to draw support.

Jammu and Kashmir has often figured in his August 15 speeches as the government has worked overtime to reconfigure the security and development paradigms in the erstwhile state, now a Union territory, since scrapping Article 370 in 2019.

Kashmir sees several Tiranga rallies ahead of I-Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A festive spirit reigns in Kashmir ahead of Independence Day with several 'Tiranga' rallies being organised and tricolour fluttering proudly from key buildings.

The rallies are being taken out in the valley under the Centre's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, officials said.

One such rally was carried out by the Central Reserve Police Force on the road along the famous Dal Lake here Wednesday morning.

The rally, organised by the Srinagar Sector CRPF, commenced from the SKICC and concluded at Ghat No 13 on Boulevard Road, officials said.

The 3km Tiranga walkathon witnessed an enthusiastic participation from the force's members, including the Mahila personnel of all battalions of Srinagar Sector CRPF, they said.

The march was flagged off and led by IG Srinagar Sector CRPF Ajay Kumar Yadav.

The Sashastha Seema Bal (SSB) also organised a Tiranga bike rally in Batamalo area of the city.

The rallies were also held in Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara, and Shopian districts.

In high-level meeting on J&K, Rajnath issues directions to strengthen security grid

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath

instructions to further strengthen the security grid in Jammu and Kashmir and underlined the need for improving coordination among various security and intelligence agencies, sources said.

The meeting also focused on enhancing security apparatus in Jammu as the region faced a number of terror attacks in the recent months. The meeting came just a day ahead of Independence Day. The government is committed to root out terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir, said a source.



NORTHERN RAILWAY
INDICATIVE NOTICE
Railway Recruitment Cell, Northern Railway
Employment Notice No. RRC/NR 04/2024/S&G Quota
RRC website: www.rrcnr.org

Online Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizen for 18 vacancies in level 01 and 05 vacancies in level 2 of Pay Matrix 7th Pay Commission against Scout & Guide Quota recruitment for the year 2024-25 in Northern Railway. Separate application, if eligible, is to be filled with examination fee for each level.

IMPORTANT DATES
Date of Publication of Detailed Notification on RRC website 13.08.2024
Date & Time of Start of Online Application At 00:00 Hrs on 16/08/2024
Date and Time of Closing of Online Application At 00:00 Hrs on 16/09/2024
Expected Date of Online Written Examination October 2024.

For Chairperson/RRC
2540/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Sr. DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 05.09.2024 at 15:00 hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered

Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (in ₹)	Cost of Tender Form (in ₹)	Date & Time for submission of Tender	Earnest money (in ₹)	Opening of tender
611-TRD-FZR-2024-25	TRD work related BPCL Sliding at Suchi Pind station Yard over Firuzpur Division.	2,77,26,178.48	Nil	Upto 05.09.2024 at 15:00 hrs.	2,88,600/-	05.09.2024 after 15:00 hrs.
612-TRD-FZR-2024-25	TRD work in c/w Provision of Automatic Block Signalling on LDH-JUC Section of Firuzpur Div.	1,70,28,820.60	Nil	Upto 05.09.2024 at 15:00 hrs.	2,35,200/-	05.09.2024 after 15:00 hrs.

Completion Period Twelve(12) Months Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

Note: # Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No.: 611 & 612-TRD-FZR-2024-25 Dated: 12.08.2024
2542/2024

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