

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! LG hoists National...

I join every citizen in paying homage to our freedom fighters, whose undying love for Motherland secured us our freedom. I pay tribute to civilian martyrs, who were brutally killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists in Pahalgam on April 22.

I also thank our armed forces, our brave soldiers, security, intelligence agencies Jammu Kashmir Police and every personnel involved in 'Operation Sindoor' & 'Operation Mahadev' for their bravery and commitment to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack.

My heart also goes out to the families affected by cloudburst in Chashoti, Kishtwar. I am devastated by this natural calamity and express my condolences to the bereaved families. Relief Operations are underway on war footing.

It is our duty to wipe out every single terrorist from our sacred Motherland. While armed forces, CAPF and J&K Police are working with commitment to crush terrorism, the patriotic fervor and society's collective effort will definitely make Jammu Kashmir terror-free.

We must work with one single aim, with one single purpose to make Jammu Kashmir strong and self-reliant in every sector. We must dedicate ourselves to attain the goal of equality and prosperity for all.

Let us rededicate ourselves to build a better life for our farmers, youth and women. Let us work towards building a prosperous rural economy and empower the working classes for societal transformation.

On this Independence Day, let us take a pledge that no individual or village is left out of this historic journey of peace and progress. As we watch tricolour flying high, let us look ahead with pride, confidence and hope towards a better and brighter future for UT of Jammu Kashmir."

J&K has every...

Union Territory. This system of governance looks good on paper but fails in reality. It is a governance structure designed for failure."

He said that he was disappointed with observations made by the SC bench and Pahalgam incident being used as an excuse to delay Statehood. CM said that restoration of Statehood should be the first step to build a strong J&K. There should not be a situation where bureaucracy is not accountable to Elected Government.

Chief Minister said that no one should aspire to become CM of a Union Territory. "People will ask why did you take part in electoral process of a UT but I didn't know it will be made so difficult. The situation has come to such a pass that Cabinet decisions are stopped and not issued. What will the elected government do if its hands are tied", CM said The CM likened the functioning of the current administration to "tying a horse's front legs and then asking it to run," citing instances where Cabinet decisions were stalled, altered, or left unapproved.

Despite these hurdles, he outlined achievements over the past 10 months, including:

- " Passing a resolution in the J&K Assembly to restore special status and statehood.
- " Cabinet approval for statehood restoration.
- " Budgetary decisions benefiting education, health, social welfare, transport, tourism and agriculture.
- " Quick restoration of electricity during winter outages.
- " Expansion of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).
- " Launch of "Mission Yuva" to create livelihoods for 4-4.5 lakh youth.
- " Increasing MLAs' Constituency Development Fund to empower elected representatives.

He stressed the urgent need to restore the "triple chain of accountability" envisioned by the Supreme Court, ensuring bureaucracy is answerable to the elected government and elected government to the Assembly.

Expressing dismay over linking of statehood restoration to security incidents, the Chief Minister said:

"We are being punished for the Pahalgam attack - an attack the people of J&K themselves condemned from Kathua to Kupwara. Statehood should not be decided by those behind Pahalgam. Is this justice?"

He reminded that during previous elected governments, militancy-related incidents consistently declined and that elected leadership has proven its capability to maintain peace.

"Trust us once - we did not fail before, and God willing, we will not fail in the future," he said. Declaring a people's movement in response to the Supreme Court's eight-week timeframe for hearing the statehood case again, Omar Abdullah announced:

"We will not sit idle. Over the next eight weeks, we will reach all 90 Assembly constituencies, every village, every home, gathering signatures and thumb impressions from people on whether they want J&K to be a State again. If the people say they are satisfied with the current situation, I will accept defeat. But my heart tells me we will gather hundreds of thousands of signatures to present before the Central Government and the Supreme Court."

The Chief Minister concluded with a stirring appeal to reclaim the inclusive and equal India envisioned by the freedom fighters:

Seems some parties...

the electoral rolls with all political parties and the candidates. Had these issues been raised at the right time through the right channels, it would have enabled the concerned electoral registration officer to correct the mistakes, if genuine, before those elections," the poll panel said.

The EC said it continues to welcome a scrutiny of the electoral rolls by political parties and any elector. "It will help EROs to remove the errors and purify the electoral rolls which has always been the objective of EC," it said.

HC of J&K...

Nehru, B. R. Ambedkar and several other leaders, were lawyers who used the power of law, advocacy and constitutional vision to challenge the colonial rule and lay the foundations of a sovereign, democratic nation. This legacy continues to inspire the legal community to protect the rights of citizens and uphold the rule of law.

Throughout the event, the premises of the High Court resonated with the values of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. The presence of the Judges and the enthusiastic participation of the Bench and Bar highlighted their shared dedication towards safeguarding the constitutional principles and serving the people.

The celebrations concluded with a solemn reaffirmation that the nation's strength lies in justice, unity and the protection of citizens' rights. The judiciary and the legal fraternity pledged to continue working hand in hand for justice, equality and the progress of the nation.

CM visits cloudburst...

Development Council Pooja Thakur, MLA Inderval Pyarelal Sharma, MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju, former minister Sajjad Ahmad Kitchloo, besides Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Inspector General of Police Jammu, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, SSP Kishtwar, and other senior civil and police officers.

Expressing profound sorrow over the tragic loss of lives and widespread damage, the Chief Minister assured the people that the Government stands firmly with them in this hour of grief.

As a measure of solidarity and immediate relief, the Chief Minister announced ex-gratia assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

He said the families of those who lost their lives would receive financial support of Rs 2 lakh each, while those who sustained severe injuries would be given Rs 1 lakh and those with minor injuries Rs 50,000. Similarly, for structural damages, he announced Rs 1 lakh for fully damaged houses, Rs 50,000 for severely damaged ones, and Rs 25,000 for partially damaged structures.

He also issued directions for the immediate restoration of essential infrastructure in the affected areas. During the visit, the Chief Minister met the bereaved families and those affected by the tragedy, prayed for the departed souls, and assured the people that his Government will extend not only immediate assistance but also long-term rehabilitation to help them rebuild their lives.

Terrorists, those providing...

Munir's threat of using nuclear weapons.

The prime minister also justified New Delhi's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) following the Pahalgam terror attack as he described the over six-decade-old pact as "unjust and one-sided", asserting that "blood and water" will not flow together.

Explaining the impact of Operation Sindoor, Modi said Pakistan is still "sleepless" and that the devastation in that country has been so huge that every day brings new revelations and fresh information.

India responded to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 with several punitive diplomatic and economic measures, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.

On May 7, India launched Operation Sindoor to target terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, triggering four days of hostilities that ended with an understanding between the two sides on May 10.

"Our nation has endured terrorism for many decades. The heart of the country has been pierced time and again. Now, we have established a new normal: those who nurture and harbour terrorism, and those who empower terrorists, will no longer be seen as separate," he said during his 103-minute address.

"They are all equal enemies of humanity, with no distinction between them."

Highlighting India's "new normal" in dealing with cross-border terrorism, Modi said the armed forces accomplished something that had not happened in decades as they reduced

terrorist headquarters to dust and turned terror infrastructure into ruins in response to the Pahalgam attack.

"I feel great pride that today I have the opportunity to salute the brave warriors of Operation Sindoor from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Our courageous soldiers punished the enemies beyond anything they could have imagined."

"On April 22, terrorists crossed the border and committed a massacre in Pahalgam, killing people after asking their religion, shooting husbands in front of their wives, and executing fathers in front of their children. The entire nation was filled with outrage, and the whole world was shocked by such a massacre." Twenty-six people, mostly tourists, were killed in the attack.

Modi said Operation Sindoor was the expression of that outrage, adding the government gave the military complete freedom to decide on the strategy, targets, and timing of India's response to the Pahalgam attack.

"And our military accomplished something that had not happened in decades. Penetrating hundreds of kilometres into enemy territory, they reduced terrorist headquarters to dust and turned terrorist headquarters into ruins."

The prime minister said India has now decided that it will no longer tolerate nuclear threats.

"The nuclear blackmail that has gone on for so long will no longer be endured. If our enemies continue this attempt in the future, our army will decide on its own terms, at the time of its choosing, in the manner it deems fit, and target the objectives it selects and we will act accordingly. We will give a fitting and crushing response," he added.

Rescue ops continue...

the third consecutive day on Saturday. The 8.5-kilometre trek to the 9,500-foot-high shrine starts from Chisoti, located about 90 kilometres from Kishtwar town.

Rescue efforts were intensified with the deployment of nearly a dozen earth-movers by the civil administration and the use of specialized equipment and dog squads by the NDRF.

"After a long, tedious uphill drive, managed to reach the site of the cloudburst disaster in Kishtwar... very late, around midnight," the Union Minister said in a social media post after the visit. He was accompanied by the DGP and was briefed on the ongoing rescue and relief operations.

Man running Langar...

God saves, no one can kill is a saying here. Subhash, who has been serving devotees for so many years, feeding them selflessly, was protected by Mata herself," said Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, who had been overseeing the rescue operations in the village.

He said that it is a matter of great happiness that Subhash will again be able to set up the langar and serve Mata's devotees. "The greatest gift of his life is that Mata saved him." After being rescued, Subhash was admitted to the hospital and later shifted to the Kishtwar district hospital for specialised treatment. He was eventually discharged as his injuries were not serious, Naib Tehsildar Sushil Kumar said.

Anxious relatives cling...

number of 60 missing people.

Four people each from Haryana and Madhya Pradesh and one person from Himachal Pradesh are also among those reported missing by their relatives, while the rest belonged to Doda, Reasi and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The disaster struck Chisoti -- the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple -- at around 12.25 pm on August 14, leaving 60 persons dead and over 100 others injured.

The deluge flattened a makeshift market, a langar (community kitchen) site for the yatra, and a security outpost. At least 16 residential houses and government buildings, three temples, four water mills, a 30-metre-long bridge, and over a dozen vehicles were also damaged in the flash floods.

In Benagarh village on the outskirts of Jammu, the bereaved locals are waiting eagerly for any news of the seven residents, including four children, who had gone missing after the calamity. They were among the eight villagers from different households who had gone on the yatra. While body of Mamta was retrieved and handed over to her relatives in the village, the rest remain untraced.

"The entire village is in grief. We are hopeful that the rescuers will find them alive," said Ajay Kumar, one of the relatives. He said they have not eaten since the news of the incident. "The yatra should have been stopped in view of the weather forecast to avoid human loss," he said. The visibly shaken parents of Vanshika and Disha, who are among the missing, reached Jammu from Kishtwar. They broke down on seeing their relatives, who tried to console them. "I saw my world crashing before my eyes. My daughters have gone away from me," the weeping mother said.

The father of the girls said he went to every hospital and the mortuary looking for her daughters. "I have seen a headless body, but that did not belong to my daughters," he said in a quivering voice.

The body of Happy Sharma, who was also reported missing along with three others, reached his home in Jammu's Bishnah area on Friday. His last rites were performed at Parmandal, said Darshan Lal, a relative.

Lal added that six other people including five children from the area are missing. Surinder Singh, a former sarpanch from Sarai village in Samba district, said that a woman named Poonam and her daughters Rashika and Namika are missing.

Imposing fixed timelines...

constitutional disorder not envisaged by its framers," it has said.

The note filed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta has argued that the apex court imposing fixed timelines would dissolve the delicate equilibrium that the Constitution has established and negate the rule of law.

"The perceived lapses, if any, are to be addressed through constitutionally-sanctioned mechanisms, such as electoral accountability, legislative oversight, executive responsibility, reference procedures or consultative process amongst democratic organs etc. Thus, Article 142 does not empower the court to create a concept of 'deemed assent', turning the constitutional and legislative process on its head," the note says.

The positions of the governor and president are "politically plenary" and represent "high ideals of democratic governance". Any perceived lapses, the note says, must be addressed through political and constitutional mechanisms, and not necessarily through "judicial" interventions. The perceived issues, if any, deserve political answers and not necessarily judicial, Mehta has submitted. Challenging the decision of the apex court, Mehta has contended that Articles 200 and 201, which deal with the governors' and president's alternatives after receiving a state bill, deliberately contain no timelines.

LG Kavinder vows to regulate Airfares, Accelerate Tourism Development in Ladakh

Assures all-out efforts for tourism growth, connectivity, welfare of locals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, has assured that the Union Territory Administration will take concrete steps to regulate airfares so that airlines do not burden passengers with exorbitant charges, particularly during the harsh winter months.

He reiterated the Administration's firm resolve to promote tourism in Ladakh, affirming that "no stone will be left unturned in boosting tourism and strengthening connectivity."

During his interaction with the Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Mohmad Haneefa Jan, and representatives of the All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA), the Lt Governor underlined the urgent need to expand tourism opportunities in Kargil. He stressed on organising cultural events such as the Suru Festival and facilitating the introduction of private aircraft services in Kargil to enhance connectivity, thereby ensur-



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta interacting with delegation.

ing greater convenience for tourists. He asked tour operators and other stakeholders to extend full cooperation and adopt flexible approaches to collectively strengthen Ladakh's tourism ecosystem while safeguarding the interests of local communities. On the occasion, MP Ladakh raised several pressing issues, including the operation of 19-seater aircrafts in Kargil under the UDAAN scheme, upgradation of District Hospital Kargil, provision of advanced medical services in Leh and Kargil district hospitals, etc. The ALTOA delegation sought the Lt

Governor's intervention in ensuring a uniform process for tour operator registration, LRC, provision of funds for aggressive tourism promotion, etc.

The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to all issues raised and assured that every effort would be made to address the concerns in coordination with the concerned Ministries and Departments. He reiterated that the Ladakh Administration remains committed to strengthening connectivity, promoting sustainable tourism, and ensuring the overall welfare of the people of Ladakh.

Ashok Sharma awarded Police Medal for meritorious service

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a proud moment for the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Ashok Kumar Sharma, JKPS (SSP), Commandant of JKAP 4th Security Battalion, Jammu, has been conferred with the prestigious "Police Medal for Meritorious Service" on the occasion of Independence Day 2025. The honour comes in recognition of his exemplary service, professional dedication, and significant contributions to the police force. With an illustrious career marked by commitment to duty.



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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Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital	2577444
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Emergency	2549669
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012
Dental Hospital	2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar	2430041
Emergency	2431740
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AMBULANCES	
Indian Red Cross Society	2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248
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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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Udhampur	270897
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JKSRTC Bus Stand	2577475
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Company Bagh	2542582
Parade	2544979
Bakshi Nagar	2543557
Panjtirthi	2547501
Narwal	2430031
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Canal	2554147, 2554199
Parade	2542289, 2543398
Nanak Nagar	2430776
Gandhi Nagar	2430180
Shastri Nagar	2430781
Janipur	2543828, 2579258
Satwari	2452816
FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)	
101	
CIVIC SERVICES	
Municipality	2547846, 2542192
Health Officer	2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal	2547440

FIND CINEMA	
WAR 2 HINDI	
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	9:00 AM / 10:00 AM / 12:20 PM / 1:20 PM / 3:45 PM / 4:00 PM / 7:10 PM / 08:00 PM / 09:50 PM /10:40 PM/ 11:20 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	9:00 AM / 12:40 PM / 3:35 PM / 4:20 PM / 8:00 PM / 10:05 PM / 11:40 PM
COOLIE THE POWERHOUSE HINDI	
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	10:05 PM / 4:00 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	12:00 PM
MAHAVATAR NARSIMHA HINDI	
PVR KC JAMMU	9:00 AM / 7:15 PM