

03 LG Kavinder calls for making Ladakh a model of women's health and empowerment

08 J&K Bank organizes Mega Financial Camp at Ambgrot

10 Young author from JKPS Kunjwani marks a remarkable debut with 'The Shadows Uncovered'

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World saw Pak terrorist crying, recounting plight: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DHAR/HYDERABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said Indian soldiers brought Pakistan to its knees "in the blink of an eye" during Operation Sindoor and the world saw a terrorist crying, comments coming after terror outfit JeM's commander admitted losses suffered by the family of its chief.

Addressing a mega gathering in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh on his 75th birthday, he asserted the "New India" does not fear any nuclear threats and enters the enemy's house and strikes.

"Our brave soldiers brought Pakistan to its knees in the blink of an eye. Just yesterday, the country and the world saw a Pakistani terrorist weeping and recounting



PM turns 75, lauds rise of New India as world leaders

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned 75 on Wednesday with a host of prominent personalities, including world leaders, lauding his leadership, while the ruling BJP organised welfare initiatives under the fortnight-long "Sewa Pakhwada" to mark the birthday of its preminent leader.

PM Modi said he was overwhelmed by the countless wishes and messages of affection from across the nation and overseas and resolved to continue working with even greater energy and devotion to realise the dream of a Viksit Bharat. Keeping with his practice of unveiling

his plight," Modi said.

He was apparently referring to a viral video in which a commander of the Pakistan-based terror outfit, Jaish-e-Mohamad (JeM), is heard explaining how the Indian armed forces entered their hideout and attacked them.

The Operation Sindoor in May saw Indian armed forces carrying out precision airstrikes on terror hubs deep inside Pakistan and also PoK in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam massacre in which 26 people, mostly tourists, lost their lives.

Months after the military action, JeM commander Ilyas Kashmiri, in a viral video uploaded to a YouTube channel on Tuesday, has admitted the family of Masood Azhar, the

Omar hopes Centre will grant relief package for flood relief

Visits Kalaban, Poonch to review land subsidence damage; sanctions immediate relief for affected families

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KALABAN: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday reached out to the people of land subsidence-hit Kalaban border area in Poonch district, and hoped the Centre will extend a good package to the Union Territory on the pattern of the one given to Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

Abdullah said the administration has been asked to prepare a rehabilitation plan, including the grant of five marlas (one marla = 272.251 sq ft) of land under the existing policy, for the approval of the Cabinet.

"We also maintain communication with the central government, and they have constituted a team which visited different areas of Jammu

CM visits Udhampur; oversees restoration of NH-44 at Thard

UDHAMPUR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday visited the affected stretch of NH-44 at Thard Udhampur to take stock of the ongoing restoration works.

He was accompanied by Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs; Balwant Singh Mankotia, MLA Chenani; Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur; Amod Ashok Nagpure, SSP Udhampur; Adil Hamid, SSP Traffic; besides senior officers and members of the local public. During the visit, R.S. Yadav, Regional Officer J&K NHAI, briefed the Chief Minister



CM Omar Abdullah overseeing restoration of NH-44 at Thard.

and Kashmir. We will present our demands in front of them and hope that a good package will be given to Jammu

and Kashmir, just as Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand," Abdullah told reporters here.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister for Jal Shakti, Forests

Former Hurriyat Chief Abdul Gani Bhat passes away

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Former Hurriyat Conference chairman Abdul Gani Bhat died at his Sopore residence in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday at the age of 90, his family said.

Bhat, who was largely confined to his residence at Sopore in Baramulla district due to ill health over the past few years, breathed his last this evening, Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said. "I just

received a call from Bhat Sahib's son confirming the sad news about the demise of the veteran leader," the Mirwaiz told PTL. Born in 1935, Bhat graduated from Sri Pratap College in Srinagar in Persian studies.

He went on to obtain post graduate degrees in Persian and a Law degree from Aligarh Muslim University. Bhat is likely to be buried in his ancestral graveyard in Sopore, sources close to the family said.

Peace can only be achieved by completely dismantling terror ecosystem: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday attended the "Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan- Healthy Women, Empowered Families", a national health campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The 16-day campaign will strengthen screening, maternal health services, lifestyle counselling, yoga and Ayush-based interventions for women, adolescent girls



LG Manoj Sinha addressing at event to mark Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan at Srinagar.

Search operation launched near IB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Security forces on Wednesday launched a search operation in a dense nursery near the International Border (IB) in Kathua district, officials said.

The search operation was jointly launched by Special Operations Group (SOG) of local police and CRPF in the area of Dholka-Sanyal nursery along the possible infiltration route around 3 pm, the officials said.

They said the search operation was continuing when the last reports were received.

In March, security forces intercepted a group of heavily-armed terrorists in the same nursery after their infiltration from across the border, leading to a prolonged operation which culminated with the

Operation against terrorists not suspended due to intervention of anyone: Rajnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HYDERABAD: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday virtually rejected US President Donald Trump's claims of intervening to stop the Indo-Pak conflict following Operation Sindoor, saying the action against terrorists was not suspended due to any third-party mediation.

Speaking at the 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' celebrations organised by the union government here, he said 'Operation Sindoor'



would resume if any terrorist attack took place in the future.

"There are some people who ask whether the

SIA arrests narcotic smuggler absconding for 3 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) Wednesday said it has arrested a notorious drug smuggler who had been absconding for the last three years in a narco-terror case.

Zafraan Khan, a resident of Mohra Dawran area of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, was arrested on Tuesday, a spokesperson of the SIA said. He said Khan, who was evading arrest for the

Excise Deptt nabs man with 1,464 IMFL liquor bottles imported from Chandigarh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A team of Excise Department at Lakhampur under the overall supervision of Excise Commissioner J&K Subhash Chibber recovered 122 cases/ 1464 Bottles of IMFL for sale in Chandigarh, at Erstwhile Toll-post Lakhampur.

Lakhampur Excise team under the close supervision of DEC(Accounts) Jammu Additional Charge, DEC, Toll Post Lakhampur, Tinna Mahajan established a late night naka at Lakhampur,

Kathua area to keep a check on inflow of illicit liquor smuggling.

During Naka duty, Lakhampur excise team consisting of Inspector Razi Ahmed, Inspector Dharamvir, SI Akhil Kanathia, SI Atul Jamwal along with HG Rakesh Kumar, EG Hans Raj, Kanwar Dutt, Gulshan Kumar, Akeel Ahmed, Mohinder Kumar, noticed one vehicle Mahindra Bolero-PIK UP bearing number LA02 5488 under suspicious

manner. On being stopped was questioned, and the vehicle on being checked was carrying illicit liquor for sale in Chandigarh.

The recovery include Royal Stag Superior Whisky 750 ml 25 Cases (300 Bottles); Old Monk Extra Special XXX Classic Rum 08 Cases (96 Bottles); 111 Ace Rum 750 ml 36 Cases (432 Bottles) and 999 Powerstar Fine Rum 750 ml 53 Cases (636 Bottles). Accordingly, the excise team taking

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.9°C Min: 24.5°C

Humidity
Max: 80 Min: 76

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 30.6°C Min: 15.6°C

Humidity
Max: 72 Min: 51

Sunset : 18:35 Hours
Sunrise : 06:15 Hours

Vaishno Devi pilgrimage restarts after 22-days pause, halted again due to bad weather

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA/JAMMU: After a 22-day suspension due to a deadly landslide and continuous heavy rainfall, the pilgrimage to revered Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district resumed on Wednesday, bringing smiles on the faces of the devotees.

However, the respite was short-lived, as the shrine board once again suspended the yatra amid inclement weather this evening after allowing 2,500 pilgrims during the day, the officials said. The Shri Mata Vaishno



Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) announced the reopening of the yatra subject to favourable weather conditions from this morning, much to the relief of hundreds of devotees who

were camping in Katra town -- the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the shrine.

Chanting slogans like 'Jai Mats Di', the enthusiastic pilgrims gathered at Banganga Darshani gate,

the starting point of the yatra, in the early hours of the day, much before the start of the yatra.

Shrine board officials said the yatra began at 6 am from both the routes leading to the hilltop shrine after a temporary suspension necessitated by inclement weather conditions and essential maintenance of the track leading to the shrine.

However, the shrine board used public address system to announce the immediate suspension of the yatra around 5.30 pm after dark clouds covered the

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of commencement of fortnight-long 'Sewa Pakhwada', the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha virtually inaugurated Bailey Bridge on the Ramban-Gool Road. The Lieutenant Governor dedicated the bridge to the people of Ramban. He expressed gratitude to the brave engineers of the Army who had worked tirelessly and under challenging conditions to build the Bailey Bridge.

"The bridge is a symbol of hope and lifeline for around 1.5 lakh people living in



Ramban, Sangaldan, and Gool areas. It will boost connectivity and enhance the ease of living.

Recent natural calamities had severely impacted lives,

leading to infrastructure damage, economic hardships and disruption on important route connecting Gool, Sangaldan and surrounding