

COAS Dwivedi Visits Chetak Corps At Bathinda Military Station



BATHINDA, AUG 14: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday visited the Chetak Corps at the Bathinda Military Station and the iconic Nagi War Memorial at Sriganganagar, officials said.

During his visit, Gen Dwivedi was briefed by the

general officer commanding, Chetak Corps, on the operational readiness of the units and the formations deployed in the sector, the prevailing security situation, training activities, and operational logistics, an official release said.

General Dwivedi then laid a wreath at the Nagi War

Memorial, paying homage to the bravehearts who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

He commended the seamless synergy between the Indian Army and the Border Security Force (BSF) in ensuring robust border management for national security, the release said.

Gen Dwivedi appreciated the high degree of commitment and professionalism displayed by all ranks and emphasised the need for operational readiness and realistic training for successful execution of the mandated tasks.

During his visit, the COAS also interacted with force veterans, prominent citizens, and citizen warriors who actively participated in the historic Battle of Nagi in 1971.

He acknowledged their role in safeguarding the nation's frontiers and reaffirming the enduring military-civil bond.

General Dwivedi also felicitated four distinguished veterans — Colonel Satpal Rai Gabba (ret'd), Lieutenant Colonel Jagjit Singh Maan (ret'd), Craftsman Banwari Lal Swami (ret'd), and Subedar Major Sis Ram (ret'd) — for their immense contributions towards the armed forces, conservation of nature, and nation-building. (Agencies)

Lieutenant Governor Greet People on Independence Day

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 14

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has greeted the people of J&K UT on the occasion of 79th Independence Day. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor wrote:

“My dear brothers and sisters of Jammu Kashmir,

On the sacred occasion of our 79th Independence Day, I convey my heartiest greetings and good wishes to all of you. This is a day we salute our tricolor and feel pride in watching it fly high in the sky. I also join every citizen in paying homage to all the freedom fighters and founding fathers of the nation, who made great sacrifices to realize the dream of an Independent India. On this momentous occasion, let us solemnly remember all the martyrs. The remembrance of their martyrdom will forever live on in our hearts. Their sacrifices have left a lasting impression that transcends time and will always inspire us. I pay tribute to civilian martyrs, who were brutally killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists in Pahal-gam on April 22.

While the country is celebrating the festival of Independence, 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. We are working with the Whole of Government Approach to bring the situation under control and provide all the necessary assistance to the affected families.

Today, on this auspicious day of Independence, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to our armed forces, the CAPFs and



Jammu Kashmir Police whose eternal vigil and protection of every citizen under challenging circumstances have ushered in peace enabling all of us to work towards future progress, prosperity and inclusive development of this beautiful Union Territory. I also thank our armed forces, our brave soldiers, security, intelligence agencies and every personnel involved in 'Operation Sindoor' for their bravery and commitment to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack. It is also a day to salute our valiant soldiers of Army, CRPF and Jammu Kashmir Police for successful 'Operation Mahadev' and send them good wishes for their dedication in the service of the nation. India has drawn a new red line. Any act of terror will be considered as an act of war and we will give the enemy a fitting response. On this day, let us also take a pledge to foil the efforts of terrorists, dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorism to make Jammu Kashmir terror-free.

Today, I also extend my fe-

licitations to farmers, workers, teachers, professionals, scientists, business communities, youth and Nari Shakti for their tremendous contributions towards socio-economic growth of Jammu Kashmir. I have full faith in their abilities in building Viksit Bharat. The 21st Century is a century of India and Jammu Kashmir is deeply connected to the aspirations of our great nation. Tiranga Yatra is now one of our biggest festivals and entire Jammu Kashmir participates in Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan. The patriotic fervor and involvement of men, women, youths and senior citizens holding the glorious Tricolour across the UT is an inspiration for the country.

Jammu Kashmir has received a strong development thrust in the past five years and we have built a Union Territory which is prosperous, peaceful, just, humane and treating all its citizens as equal. Democracy has become stronger in the Union Territory. Today, Jammu Kashmir is on the move full of self-confidence and ready

to contribute in nation building. We are marching together with just one identity as Indian and determined to serve Mother India till the last breath.

Having walked seventy-nine long years since independence, it is time for every section of society to introspect on the goals achieved so far and contemplate future course of action. Puja Mahatma Gandhiji had once said about his dreams of an Independent India. Gandhi Ji had said, "I will work for an India where the poorest of the poor feel that this country and this nation belongs to them and that they have a major role in its construction". In the past five years, my effort was to build Jammu Kashmir of Puja Gandhi Ji's dream. We have excelled in many areas. Kashmir is now connected to India's rail network and the dream of Kashmir to Kanyakumari rail connectivity is now a reality. Industrial development has taken deep roots.

The benefits of unprecedented economic growth have reached all sections of society. Ease of living has been ensured for both urban and rural population. Women, youth and farmers have been empowered. The entire world is witnessing the transformation of Jammu Kashmir and it is my firm belief that with collective participation of people we will create a bright and peaceful Jammu Kashmir.

Let all of us reaffirm our commitment to work shoulder to shoulder and build a Viksit Bharat. I appeal to all to contribute their fullest to this momentous task. With these words, I once again greet everyone on the occasion of Independence Day".

Operation Sindoor A Landmark In India's Defence History: President Murmu

NEW DELHI, AUG 14: In a stirring address to the nation on the eve of India's 79th Independence Day, President Droupadi Murmu reflected on the country's developmental strides, its resolute response to terrorism, and the imperative of environmental stewardship.

Her speech blended pride in national achievements with solemn recognition of recent challenges, notably the Pahalgam terror attack.

"This year, we had to face the scourge of terrorism," President Murmu said, referring to the brutal killing of innocent holidaymakers in Kashmir. "It was cowardly and utterly inhuman."

She lauded the swift and decisive response through Operation Sindoor, which she described as a landmark in India's defence history.

"Our armed forces, with strategic clarity and technical capability, destroyed ter-



rorist hubs across the border. Operation Sindoor will go down in history as an example in humanity's fight against terrorism." President Murmu emphasised that India's unity was its greatest strength, visible not only in the public's response but also in the multi-party parliamentary delegations that engaged with foreign governments to explain India's position.

"The world has recognised; we will not be the aggressor, but we will not hesitate to retaliate in defence of our citizens."

She also highlighted Operation Sindoor as a test case for the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission in defence.

"Our indigenous manufacturing has reached a critical level, making us self-sufficient in meeting many of our security requirements."

Turning to development, President Murmu praised India's progress in digital payments, urban infrastructure, and agricultural reform.

She noted the success of schemes like AMRUT and the expansion of 4G connectivity, which have improved lives across rural and urban India.

On climate change, she issued a heartfelt appeal, "We must change our habits and our worldview. We must redefine our relationship with land, rivers, mountains, and all living beings. Together, we can leave behind a planet where life flourishes in natural order."

President Murmu concluded by extending greetings to soldiers, police, civil servants, judiciary members, diplomats, and the Indian diaspora.

"Let us move forward with compassion, courage, and collective resolve," she said.

People Of J&K Hope SC Will Restore Statehood: Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR, AUG 14: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah Thursday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have hope that the Supreme Court will restore their "right to statehood".

He, however, said not restoring the statehood to J-K because of incidents like the Pahalgam attack was wrong. "People here have hopes that the Supreme Court (SC) will restore their right - ? a promise the Government of India has made both inside and outside Parliament, and in the SC as well," Abdullah told reporters here.

The Supreme Court on Thursday sought a response

from the Centre in eight weeks on a plea seeking the restoration of statehood to J-K.

"You also have to take into consideration the ground realities — you cannot ignore what has happened in Pahalgam," Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai, on a bench comprising Justice K Vinod Chandran, said when counsels, including senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, sought an early hearing.

Abdullah claimed statehood was not responsible for terror attacks. "Saying that statehood cannot be restored to J-K because of the Pahalgam attack is wrong. They

should remember that many such incidents happened during my time (as chief minister) when we had a state and we used to tackle them.

"When there was a state, these (attacks) used to happen then also. It is not that statehood is responsible for that. These (attacks) will take place because our relations with our neighbour are not good. They (terrorists) come from there only," he added.

The NC president said the reports of a massive cloudburst in the Kishtwar district in the Jammu region were very painful. "Cloudbursts have become a routine in hilly areas. They happen in

Uttarakhand. Ramban also witnessed one recently. Today, it has happened near the temple where the Machail Yatra takes place. Lakhs of people undertake the yatra there," Abdullah said.

"We still do not know how many people have lost their life. I got a phone call from someone who told me that around 400 people were injured, and they need urgent medical assistance. The weather is not good. I hope air force helicopters could reach there and take the injured people out," he said.

Abdullah requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take the issue of global warming seriously.

Security beefed up ahead of Independence Day

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, AUG 14

On the eve of Independence Day, when there remain strong apprehensions that Pakistan can attempt to infiltrate terrorists, security was further intensified across Jammu region today with increased checking, patrolling and area domination.

Along the IB & the LoC, a multi-tier security grid of Army, BSF and police was put in place to foil any nefarious designs from across the border, officials said.

"Multiple ambushes have been laid in the border areas, especially those which terrorists use to sneak into the Indian territory," officials said and added that border residents too had been asked to remain vigilant and contact forces in

case of movement of suspects in their villages.

Quick Response Teams (QRTs) of police were deployed in Jammu city, officials said, adding that checking and frisking had been intensified at the entry and exit points in every district and on important roads.

Deployment of police and central paramilitary forces along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and Jammu-Kathua stretch of the National Highway had also been strengthened, officials said.

"Security has been beefed up in all the 10 districts of the Jammu region, with more focus on area domination and deployments in terrorism-infested districts of Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar, Doda and Udhampur, the officials added.

The main Independence Day function in Jammu would be held at Maulana Azad Stadium.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will preside over the main Independence Day function to be held at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar.

Special security arrangements had been put in place around the venue of the functions in Jammu & Srinagar, officials said.

"In view of the Independence Day celebrations tomorrow, police have implemented strict security measures, from the national highways to hilly areas like Basantgarh and Latti. CRPF and CISF personnel are deployed, with sniffer dogs and anti-sabotage checks in place. Security along the highway is alert," the officials added.

Border grid security had

been tightened further, and all border roads were being kept under strict watch, officials said, adding that important border roads and highways were being monitored through CCTV.

Police and Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) companies had been deployed and assigned the task of intensified checking and area domination, patrolling round the clock, officials said.

Police have issued a security advisory in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, seeking people's cooperation during checking and asking them to report to security agencies any suspicious movement or object.

Security bandobast was also further tightened on the Tawi river bed and the areas that fall along its banks, officials said.

J&K Bank Partners with Two Leading Tricity Builders in Mohali

SRINAGAR, AUG 14: In a strategic move to strengthen its retail housing portfolio beyond Jammu & Kashmir, J&K Bank has signed tie-ups with two reputed Tricity builders—Amayra Sky City and Amayra Trilium—both located at prime sites in Kharar, Mohali.

The agreements were formalized at the Bank's Cluster Office in Mohali in the presence of GM & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta, Zonal Head (Kathua) Suresh Choudhary, and Cluster Head (Mohali) Vishal Pandoh, alongside senior representatives of the



builder groups.

Ashok Gupta said the collaborations aim to tap high-potential housing markets outside J&K by offering competitive home financing options, affordable EMIs, and

quick approvals. "With prime projects like Amayra Sky City and Amayra Trilium, we want to turn homeownership in Tricity from a dream into an achievable reality," he stated. Under the

partnership, customers can avail home loans for these projects from any J&K Bank branch across the country, with streamlined processing, hassle-free documentation, and attractive interest rates.

Waging Direct Fight Against 'Vote Chori' From Bihar's Soil: Rahul On Yatra

NEW DELHI, AUG 14: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said "we are waging a direct fight against vote chori" from the soil of Bihar with the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra', and asserted that his party will ensure a clean voters' list across the country.

Gandhi said "vote chori" is not just an election issue but a "decisive battle" to protect democracy, the Constitution and the principle of 'one man, one vote'.

In a post on X, Gandhi

said, "From 17th August, with 'Voter Adhikar Yatra, we are waging a direct fight against vote theft from the soil of Bihar.'" "This is not just an election issue — it is a decisive battle to protect democracy, the Constitution and the principle of 'one man, one vote'," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

"We will ensure a clean voter list across the country. Youth, workers, farmers — every citizen, rise up and join this mass movement," he

said. "This time, the defeat of vote thieves — victory of the people, victory of the Constitution," Gandhi added.

The former Congress president also shared a video montage on the yatra that also featured visuals from his previous Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra that had passed through Bihar as well.

Gandhi along with INDIA bloc leaders in Bihar will embark on a 'Vote Adhikar Yatra' across the state starting August 17 against the revi-

sion of electoral rolls and to make the "battle against vote chori" a mass movement, the party had said on Wednesday.

The yatra will culminate on September 1 with a rally at Patna's Gandhi Maidan.

The Congress on Tuesday had claimed that "vote chori" was a "do-or-die" issue for it, and announced a roadmap to take its allegations to the people through various activities, including 'Loktantra bachao mashaal marches' on August 14 evening.