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**Venezuela hit by powerful quakes; 164 killed, 971 injured**

While Venezuela sits near multiple fault lines, its position straddling the South American and Caribbean plates makes strong earthquakes much less common than in other parts of Latin America.

Rodriguez appealed to businesses to make heavy construction equipment available for rescue operations, adding that search and rescue teams certified by the United Nations were on their way to Venezuela to assist.

During the quakes, people ran from swaying buildings in Caracas, many visibly shocked when they turned back to see destroyed walls that left furniture visible from the street. Columns of dust rose in two typically busy neighbourhoods in the capital.

"It started off gently and then gradually grew, and in the end, we all had to leave our houses, go outside and gather together," Caracas resident Hector Ricci said.

Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello urged people to remain outside as aftershocks could further damage structures, and many people stayed on the streets for hours, some sitting on the ground hugging pets as dust gathered around them. Others spent the night in parked cars, subway stations and other public places.

Parts of the capital lost power and cellphone coverage, and the earthquakes damaged and closed Simon Bolivar International Airport, the country's main airport, Rodriguez said.

In Caracas, subway services were suspended and natural gas shut off, she said. Classes will also be cancelled for several days, and the Ministry of Education said some school buildings would be used as shelters and donation centres.

Roberto Gamas, another Caracas resident, said the building he was in "shook from side to side. Unreal. The force was incredibly strong."

The lack of cellphone signal in parts of Venezuela deepened the distress of many families, particularly those among the more than 7.7 million people who have left the country during its protracted crisis and who struggled to reach relatives inside the country.

On Thursday, scores of people took to social media asking for help finding loved ones, posting pictures of missing relatives and their last known location.

Venezuela opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, herself in exile, sent wishes on X for "strength, serenity, and solidarity."

The US Geological Survey said the first earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.2, hit west of Moron on the Caribbean coast, about 170 kilometres west of Caracas. It had a depth of 22 kilometres.

The USGS reported a 7.5 magnitude earthquake just a minute later, with a depth of 10 kilometres and an epicentre 16 kilometres southwest of Moron.

Rodriguez declared a state of emergency in an address to the nation late Wednesday. She said the government was creating a USD 200 million reconstruction fund for hospitals and homes damaged by the earthquakes, and had instructed the economy and finance ministers to oversee the effort.

Offers of help poured in from countries around the world. US Secretary of State Rubio said in a post on X early Thursday that the United States is "immediately deploying search and rescue teams, medical resources, and humanitarian assistance to Venezuela."

Rodriguez -- who became acting president after an American military operation captured her predecessor, Nicolas Maduro, and brought him to the US to stand trial -- thanked US President Donald Trump. She said in an X post later that she spoke with Rubio by phone without sharing details. She also expressed thanks to the leaders of various nations who have sent messages of support and offers of help.

Ecuador ordered the delivery of humanitarian aid, and Rodriguez said Qatar, Mexico and El Salvador had already sent rescue personnel.

"We send you all our solidarity and our prayers. Stay strong, Venezuela," El Salvador President Nayib Bukele, once diametrically opposed to Venezuela's government, wrote in a post on X.

Buildings in Manaus, Belem and Macapa in Brazil's Amazon were evacuated, according to reports on TV Globo. The quakes also were felt in Colombia's Caribbean and north-east regions.

The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre issued several tsunami alerts that were quickly lifted.

While uncommon in Venezuela, earthquakes are frequent along the Pacific coast, including in Mexico and Chile, which both sit along the seismically active tectonic belt known as the Ring of Fire, an area that the USGS says is responsible for 90 per cent of earthquakes.

**In high-level meeting, LG reviews preparations for Amarnath yatra**

ery and close coordination for timely completion of works and better delivery of services.

He directed the BRO to complete all the allotted works

**Dy CM reviews development works, public services in Sunderbani, Kalakote**

**RAJOURI, JUNE 25:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today reviewed the status of developmental activities and public service delivery in Sunderbani and Kalakote during his visit to Rajouri district.

While proceeding towards Kalakote, the Deputy Chief Minister held an interaction with the officers at Sunderbani and assessed the progress of ongoing developmental works and implementation of various public welfare initiatives. He emphasized the need for efficient service delivery and timely completion of development projects to ensure that the benefits reach the people at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Chief Minister also visited the Sub-District Hospital, Sunderbani, where he inspected the ongoing renovation works being undertaken to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and improve patient facilities. He directed the concerned officials to maintain quality standards and ensure timely completion of the works.

During his visit to Kalakote, Surinder Choudhary paid obeisance at the revered Barohi Darbar and prayed for peace, harmony and prosperity for all. He highlighted the importance of preserving the region's rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

The Deputy Chief Minister also held an extensive interaction with the local residents, public representatives and party leaders in Kalakote. He patiently listened to their concerns, suggestions and developmental demands, assuring them that their genuine issues would be addressed on priority.

Later, at Dak Bungalow Kalakote, the Deputy Chief Minister interacted with the officers and members of the public to review the ongoing development works and discuss the issues related to public welfare. He stressed the importance of responsive governance, transparency and people-centric administration.

before the commencement of the pilgrimage.

He also directed the officials concerned to conduct regular work monitoring and on-ground inspections to resolve gaps immediately. Additionally, he emphasised that transit camps and halt points must have trained manpower, along with reliable water and power supplies, to ensure the convenience of both pilgrims and service providers.

The Anantnag deputy commissioner briefed the meeting on the overall preparations being made for the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

SSP, Anantnag, delivered a detailed presentation on the multi-layered security framework and the comprehensive measures in place to ensure pilgrim safety along the entire route.

Later, speaking to the media persons, the LG said: "The Jammu & Kashmir administration, police, security forces, Government of India, and the shrine board have finalised all preparations to ensure a safe and spiritually enriching experience for the devotees of Baba Amarnath. Local residents and all stakeholders are eager to welcome pilgrims arriving from across the nation."

Among others, the meeting was attended by LG's principal secretary and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) CEO Mandeep K Bhandari, Youth Services & Sports Department secretary and Pahalgam axis nodal officer Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, divisional commissioner (Kashmir) Anshul Garg, IGP (Kashmir) V K Birdi, IG (traffic, J&K) M Suleman Choudhary, deputy commissioner (Anantnag) Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Anantnag SSP Amod Nagpure Ashok, and senior officers of civil administration, police and security forces.

**DGP reviews Amarnath Yatra security**

proof security arrangements.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of Kilo Force, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Border Security Force (BSF) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), reflecting the coordinated approach being adopted to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

During the meeting, SSPs of Srinagar, Budgam, Bandipora and Ganderbal presented detailed briefings on the yatra security architecture. The presentations covered deployment plans, route domination, surveillance measures, emergency response mechanisms and inter-agency coordination aimed at providing comprehensive security to pilgrims.

Reviewing the overall security scenario, the DGP directed all security agencies to maintain round-the-clock vigilance, strengthen intelligence sharing and ensure seamless coordination at every level.

He stressed that all agencies must remain on high alert to facilitate the peaceful, secure and incident-free conduct of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra while sustaining the momentum of ongoing counter-terror operations across the Valley.

The DGP reiterated that robust security arrangements, effective intelligence coordination and close cooperation among all stakeholders remain essential for safeguarding the annual pilgrimage and maintaining peace and stability across Kashmir.

**Deadline for filing APRs extended**

Circular No 26-JK(GAD) of December 17, 2025, to submit their property returns for the year 2025 on the PRS Portal between January 1 and January 31, 2026.

The department observed that a number of employees either failed to submit their property returns within the stipulated period or registered on the portal without completing the submission process, resulting in default.

In view of these pending cases, the GAD has now extended the submission deadline by seven days from the date of issuance of the notification, allowing defaulting employees to complete the mandatory online filing process.

The notification further advises employees facing OTP-related issues to update their current mobile numbers and email IDs on the CPIS Portal. For any other technical difficulties, employees have been asked to contact the PRS support team through the official email support-prs@jk.gov.in for prompt resolution.

The government has urged all defaulting employees to avail of the extended period and ensure timely compliance with the mandatory property return filing requirement.

**Emergency dark period which saw democracy brutally crushed: Modi**

which there was "gross abuse of power by the government of the day and people of India were subjected to ex-

cesses and atrocities".

In another post on X, the prime minister said the 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' also reminds every one of that "dark period" when "Indian democracy was brutally crushed".

"It inspires us to always remain committed to protecting democracy, the Constitution, and citizens' rights. My respectful salutations to all the luminaries who opposed the Emergency," he said in the post in Hindi.

The formal declaration of Emergency marked a turning point in Indian constitutional history. The executive acquired overriding powers, and state authority was brought under central control.

Following the proclamation, constitutional safeguards were systematically suspended.

The Emergency saw strict control over the press and public information through institutional mechanisms and administrative orders.

Parliament passed a series of constitutional amendments during the Emergency that weakened judicial review and institutional checks. One of the most controversial aspects of the Emergency was the forced sterilisation campaign.

The Emergency came to a formal end in March 1977, following a political shift triggered by general elections.

**Flood-hit bridges on NH-44 restored: Gadhkari**

between Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.

The bridges had sustained extensive damage during last year's flash floods, severely disrupting traffic along the strategically important highway, he said in a post on X.

Gadhkari said the restoration work was taken up on priority in view of the highway's strategic and economic significance and was completed within the stipulated timeline.

"The reopening of these bridges will ensure seamless connectivity and facilitate the smooth movement of passengers and freight," the minister said.

He said the restored infrastructure would also provide a major boost to travel during the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra by improving connectivity along the route.

He added that the restoration would strengthen regional mobility, enhance logistical efficiency and support economic activity across the region.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) is the only all-weather road linking J&K with the rest of the country and serves as a crucial lifeline for the movement of passengers, goods and essential supplies.

**Shah calls on Prez as buzz over Union Cabinet reshuffle grows**

for Railways Raveet Singh, whose Rajya Sabha term also ended on June 21, has not been re-nominated by the BJP to the Upper House either.

Singh, who had been a Rajya Sabha member from Rajasthan since August 2024, also holds charge as the minister of state for food processing industries.

A few Union ministers have been given key organisational responsibilities in their home states. Their appointment fuelled the buzz of a possible reshuffle.

BJP national president Nitin Nabin had on May 28 appointed Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra as Delhi BJP chief.

In December last year, Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary was the new president of the BJP's Uttar Pradesh unit.

**Jaishankar urges closer cooperation in defence, ship-building**

South should be provided greater capacity and opportunities. This would also create new factors of global growth."

"As the interests of a few are openly prioritised, the costs to the many are less considered. This can only be countered by cooperation on more issues with greater players. At the end of the day, we will see whether multi-polarity really delivers," the foreign minister said.

Calling for stronger global cooperations, Jaishankar said, "Whether it is pandemics like Covid-19, acts of terrorism or the impact of extreme climate events, these cannot be contained within political jurisdictions. International cooperation is a must."

Jaishankar also met the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and former Mongolian Prime Minister Gombojav Zandanshatar on the sidelines of the Jeju Forum.

Earlier, on Wednesday, Jaishankar held talks with his South Korean counterpart Cho Hyun, focusing on bilateral cooperation and the rapidly changing global situa-

tion.

The talks focused on follow-up measures in the key areas of trade, investment and finance, agreed during South Korean President Lee Jae-myung's state visit to India in April.

**Indian philosophy offers timeless path to global peace: Kavinder**

in the timeless ideals of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah".

"These principles are not merely philosophical concepts but practical foundations for building a peaceful and inclusive global order," he said.

He underscored the contributions of great Indian spiritual leaders and thinkers including Lord Buddha, Lord Mahavira, Guru Nanak Dev, Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi, whose teachings of compassion, non-violence, service and human unity continue to inspire the world.

Referring to Ladakh as a land of spirituality, peace and cultural harmony, Gupta said that the region had for centuries served as a beacon of Buddhist philosophy, spiritual wisdom and harmonious coexistence.

"Ladakh's rich cultural heritage demonstrates how diversity can become a source of strength through mutual respect and cooperation," he said.

He highlighted the relevance of Indian knowledge traditions in addressing contemporary challenges such as environmental degradation and climate change. He said that Indian culture regards nature as sacred and promotes a sustainable lifestyle rooted in respect for the environment.

Speaking on the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, Gupta said that a developed India must be economically strong, technologically advanced, environmentally conscious, culturally confident and morally grounded.

He stressed that educational institutions have a vital role in preserving and promoting India's rich intellectual and cultural heritage, in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy-2020.

He called upon the youth to draw inspiration from India's civilizational values and develop a strong sense of nationalism, social responsibility, environmental awareness and commitment to human welfare. He remarked that true peace begins within individuals and radiates outward to illuminate society and the world.

Expressing confidence in the outcome of the seminar, Gupta said that deliberations on world peace, Indian philosophy and cultural values would generate meaningful ideas and contribute towards nation-building and global harmony.

He congratulated the University of Ladakh, the faculty members, researchers and organizers for hosting the important seminar and urged all stakeholders to work collectively towards promoting the enduring values of truth, non-violence, compassion, service, harmony and universal brotherhood for the welfare of humanity.

"Let us together reaffirm the timeless ideals of Indian philosophy and contribute actively towards global peace, human welfare and international harmony," the governor said.

Indresh highlighted India's timeless civilisational wisdom as a guiding force for global peace, social harmony and sustainable development.

He stressed the need to preserve India's rich cultural heritage, strengthen national unity and inspire the younger generation to embrace values-based leadership, selfless service and active participation in nation-building for the greater welfare of humanity.

**VP administers oath to newly elected RS members**

Pradesh, two from Jharkhand, one each from Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. Five newly-elected members took the oath in Hindi, one in English, one in Tamil, and three in Telugu.

The newly inducted members are: Sana Sathish Babu (TDP), Vijay Chintakayala (TDP), Bhashyam Rama Krishna (TDP) and Lingamaneni Ramesh (JSP) (all from Andhra Pradesh), Tai Tagak (BJP) from Arunachal Pradesh, Rajesh Parmanad Shukla (BJP) from Gujarat, Parimal Nathwani (IND) and Baidyanath Ram (JMM), both from Jharkhand, Debashish Samantaray (BJP) from Odisha and Praveen Chakravarty (INC) from Tamil Nadu.

Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal and Secretary General of Rajya Sabha P C

**Power shutdown**

**JAMMU, JUNE 25:** Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Kathua, Mahanpur, Sewa, HEP, Samba, Billawar, Ghatti, Dyalachak Hiranagar and adjoining areas and Railway Traction Supply Manwa will remain affected on June 28 from 6 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Chatroo, Mugalmidan, Khala, Dachhan and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 27 from 8 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Dhanna, Thein, RTIC Basantpur, MES Lakahnpur and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 28 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Battal Ballian, Industrial Estate Rathian, Malhar, Loundana Airforce installation, Shakti Nagar, Dhar Road, Pine Villa, Kallar, Hospital, DC Office and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 27 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Sheetli, part of Sidhra, Bamyal, MES Nagrota, PHE Sheetli and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 27 from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Transport Nagar, Narwal, Railway Colony, Part of Channi Himmat, Malik Market, Bathindi, Sunjwan Boria and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 27 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Bathindi, Sunjwan and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 27 from 6 am to 6:30 am and 9:30 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Sarore, Gowal, Patti, Barodhi and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 27 from 6 am to 12 noon.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Koulpur, Vijaypur Industry and its adjoining areas will remain affected on June 27 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Bandral and its adjoining areas will remain affected on June 28 and 30 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Ansal, Birpur and its adjoining areas will remain affected on June 28 from 7 am to 1 pm.

**Batote deputation calls on Jitendra Singh, highlights key development issues**

**RAMBAN, JUNE 25 :**

Former District President of Minority Morcha Ramban, Tariq Lone, met Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, at the PMO in New Delhi on Thursday and expressed gratitude for several major development initiatives approved for the region.

During the meeting, Lone, on behalf of the people of Batote and Ramban district, thanked Dr. Jitendra Singh for the approval of the second tube of the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, terming it a significant infrastructure milestone that would improve connectivity, enhance road safety, promote tourism and contribute to the overall development of the area.

He also appreciated the release of ₹500 crore by the Central Government for the development of Patnitop tourism, stating that the investment would strengthen tourism infrastructure, cre-



ate employment opportunities and provide a boost to the local economy.

Lone further welcomed the approval and tendering process of the Sawalkote Hydroelectric Power Project, describing it as a transformative initiative with the potential to generate employment, attract investment and open new economic av-

enues for the youth of the region. While appreciating the developmental initiatives, Tariq Lone highlighted the role of Dr. Jitendra Singh in promoting infrastructure and economic growth in the Doda-Kathua-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency and Ramban district. He said that ongoing projects are expected to bring visible

benefits to the people, especially through improved connectivity, business opportunities and employment generation.

Lone also conveyed his appreciation for the continued efforts of Dr. Jitendra Singh towards the development of the region and extended his best wishes for his continued service to the people.