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Death toll nears 1,000, over 50,000 reported missing

temporary shelters and humanitarian aid for the affected families." The United States said earlier it was sending a disaster response team of more than 250 personnel, including three special search-and-rescue units with dogs trained to locate people trapped beneath the rubble.

A senior US military official landed in Caracas to oversee Washington's relief efforts.

"Even before the earthquakes, millions of people across Venezuela were facing food insecurity, collapsing health services, protection risks, and limited access to basic services," the UN and other aid agencies said in a statement.

"The international community must not allow this emergency to deepen into a larger human tragedy."

Earthquakes of similar magnitude claimed more than 200,000 lives in Haiti in January 2010 and 73,000 lives in Kashmir in October 2005.

Those killed included 28 Portuguese nationals, five Spaniards, two Brazilians, seven Chinese nationals, one Chilean and one Italian-Venezuelan.

85 Portuguese nationals and 119 Spaniards were missing or otherwise unaccounted for, according to their respective governments.

The quakes were the most powerful to hit Venezuela since a 7.7-magnitude tremor struck offshore in 1900.

Venezuela's northern coast sits on a boundary between the Caribbean and South American tectonic plates, but had not experienced a major quake since 1997.

Minutes of silence preceded Friday's World Cup 2026 matches to honor the victims of the tragedy.

Hinduism embraced diversity, never imposed itself: LG

has always seen diversity not as division but as a blessing. This outlook is reflected in the crown jewel of India - Jammu & Kashmir - where for centuries the spirit of harmony and coexistence has been part of life," he said.

"People often use the word 'Kashmiriyat', which actually springs from the philosophy of 'Indianness' - 'Bhartiyata' and symbolises the fundamental sentiment India has taught the world since the Vedic age, equal respect for all religions, cultures, and traditions," he added.

When Islam came to India in the 12th & 13th centuries, and many Sufi saints & Islamic scholars came here, they found unique Indian culture rooted in love, spirituality and compassion, and equality, he said.

"Sufi saints were inspired by the vision of Vedas, Upanishads, Buddhism, and Jainism and they learnt the ideals of co-existence from Indian scriptures. Moreover, numerous repositories of Sanskrit knowledge were translated into Arabic. Our ancestors prayed, 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina?', 'Sarve Santu Niramaya?' - may all be happy, may all be free from illness. This prayer is not for one religion or sect but it is a prayer for the welfare of all humanity. I believe this is India's identity," he added.

"India and its ancient philosophy have never told anyone to abandon their faith. India has always said to the people to bring your faith with you, bring your traditions, and live with us in harmony. That is India's distinctiveness. That is the greatness of the Indian spiritual tradition," the LG said.

Dr Karan Singh, former Union Minister; Prof Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Dr Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmed, President, Inter-Faith Harmony Foundation of India; Dr Md. Shams Equebal, Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi; Dr Jyotsna Singh, Founder Director, Dara Shikoh Centre, Srinagar; Dr Nasreen Shama, Director, Operations, Inter Faith Harmony Foundation of India; Fida Firdous, President, Kashmir Writers Association; Navaid ul Islam Khan; National Coordinator, Inter Faith Harmony Foundation of India, Dr G V Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; senior officials, prominent citizens and literary personalities were present.

1 killed in blast near LoC

son of Mohammad Rafiq Bajad of Galibal, Chandoosa, in Baramulla district.

The injured were admitted to a hospital, officials said. Police had taken cognizance of the incident.

ACB attaches assets in DA case

legations that he had amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, according to officials.

The attached properties included a residential house at Firdousabad, three land parcels at Nambal, Nowgam, registered in the names of his wife & daughter, and gold ornaments weighing around 1,266 grams.

Investigations revealed that he had accumulated substantial movable and immovable assets allegedly beyond his legitimate income. Following approval from the competent authority, two teams headed by DSPs attached the properties at Batamaloo and Nowgam after completing legal formalities, officials said.

Signboards were erected at the attached properties, with ACB advising public not to purchase or enter into any transaction involving the attached assets.

SIA executes court proclamation

stantial quantity of heroin during a naka checking at

Barthana. During investigation, the case was transferred to State Investigation Agency which uncovered an organised cross-border narco-terror network engaged in trafficking narcotics to finance and facilitate terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) were invoked during investigation, the officials added.

"SIA Kashmir has since filed a charge sheet against seven accused, who are currently facing trial before the competent court, while further investigation into the wider conspiracy is underway," officials said.

AIIMS Jammu performs first vulvar cancer brachytherapy

uncommon in young patients.

The case was extensively reviewed by a multidisciplinary tumour board comprising experts from the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Radiation Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Radiodiagnosis, and Pathology to formulate an individualized treatment strategy, the AIIMS Jammu said in a statement.

It said the interstitial brachytherapy procedure was successfully performed by the Department of Radiation Oncology under the leadership of Prof (Dr) D N Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu.

This highly specialised technique allows precise delivery of radiation directly into the tumour, maximizing treatment effectiveness while minimizing exposure to surrounding healthy tissues, the institute said.

It said a significant advantage of this approach is that it enabled the patient to avoid a mutilating surgical procedure, which is particularly important in young women.

This organ-preserving treatment offers the potential for excellent disease control while maintaining the patient's quality of life.

Prof Sharma highlighted that this landmark procedure marks a significant step towards introducing advanced, organ-preserving cancer treatment modalities in the region.

This achievement reinforces AIIMS Jammu's commitment to delivering state-of-the-art oncology services and ensuring that patients in Jammu & Kashmir have access to the latest cancer treatment options within the Union Territory itself, the statement said.

Govt to launch cloud-based HMIS for small clinics

concerns that existing hospital management software is often too expensive and complex for smaller healthcare facilities, forcing many to continue relying on manual processes.

According to the officials, several states and Union territories have also expressed interest in deploying a lightweight HMIS for public health facilities.

The cloud-based platform has been designed to automate routine clinic operations such as patient registration, billing, management information system (MIS) reporting, speech-to-text documentation and clinical decision support, while requiring minimal technical expertise from users.

The software also integrates key Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) features, including speech-to-text capabilities and clinical decision support systems.

Officials said only healthcare professionals registered under the Health Professional Registry (HPR) will be able to use the platform, with HPR and Health Facility Registry (HFR) integration forming part of the onboarding process.

More than 800 health facilities have already been onboarded on e-Sushrut clinic, generating over 680 health records, according to official data.

C-DAC is also implementing the full-scale e-Sushrut hospital management software across more than 15 AIIMS and several state government hospitals.

As part of the rollout, the National Health Authority (NHA) will sign a memorandum of understanding with C-DAC under which the agency will provide financial and operational support for the platform's expansion.

Under the agreement, C-DAC will be responsible for software maintenance and upgrades, while the National Health Authority (NHA) will bear expenses related to cloud hosting and SMS notifications sent to patients regarding ABDM services and other updates.

The NHA will also extend its call centre services to provide first-level customer support, while C-DAC will train call centre personnel and monitor service quality.

The software is priced at Rs 499 per month for up to five users. Under the NHA-C-DAC partnership, users will receive a subsidy of Rs 200, reducing the effective monthly subscription to Rs 299. The platform will also be offered free of cost for the first three months.

Additional users beyond the five-user limit will be charged Rs 50 per user per month, officials said.

Modi hands over 'Made in India' patrol vessel to Seychelles

Stronger as one," the MEA said in a post on X, adding that the two countries continue to deepen their defence partnership under India's Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), contributing to security and stability in the Indian Ocean region.

India has been a longstanding partner in strengthening Seychelles' defence and maritime capabilities through the supply of patrol vessels, aircraft and training support.

In Seychelles, he would attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the island nation's National Day as the Guest of Honour at the invitation of President Dr Patrick Herminie.

The visit comes as India and Seychelles mark 50 years of diplomatic relations. In his departure statement, Modi de-

scribed Seychelles as a valued maritime neighbour.

The Prime Minister said he looked forward to holding talks with President Herminie to further strengthen bilateral ties, building on the Seychelles President's State visit to India in February this year. The discussions were expected to focus on expanding cooperation for the progress of the two countries and promoting security and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region.

A key highlight of the visit will be Modi becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to address the National Assembly of Seychelles, a move he said reflected the strong democratic values and parliamentary traditions shared by the two countries.

He was also scheduled to interact with members of the Indian community in Seychelles, whom he described as a living bridge between the two nations.

2 killed, 4 injured as car falls into gorge

hospital by rescuers. They included Imam Din, Zaytoon Bibi, Bashir Mohammad, Masoom Bi, Badar Din and 12-year-old Yaseen.

While Zaytoon was declared brought dead, Imam succumbed to his injuries during treatment, officials said.

Tanker struck in Hormuz as Iran, US launch attacks

itime security agency said the tanker hit on Saturday had sustained damage to its bridge, with all crew reported safe. The Joint Maritime Information Center, run by a coalition of navies protecting shipping, said it had raised its security threat level as a result of recent incidents.

Iran has not directly commented on reports of specific attacks on ships. But Iranian state television reported that the Revolutionary Guards had fired "warning shots" towards unspecified vessels attempting to pass through channels not approved by Iran, and that this was now prompting other ships to seek Iranian permits before attempting to cross the strait.

Earlier, Iran's foreign ministry said it had launched "defensive" attacks on US-linked military targets, while Bahrain, which hosts the U.S. Navy's regional headquarters, reported an Iranian drone attack. The U.S. military did not immediately respond to the reports.

Iran has accused the United States of failing to uphold the interim agreement, in particular by failing to sustain a promised ceasefire in Lebanon, which US ally Israel invaded in March in pursuit of the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah.

Israel and Lebanon have repeatedly agreed the US-brokered ceasefires, the latest of which was announced on Friday. But these have so far had only limited overall impact, with Israel insisting it will not withdraw from a swathe of territory it has seized and Hezbollah repeatedly rejecting calls to give up its arms as long as Israeli troops remain in place.

Lebanese state television reported an Israeli drone strike on Saturday in the Nabatiyeh area in the south, which has seen Israeli strikes throughout the conflict. The Israeli military said it had targeted a person who posed a threat to its forces.

Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem rejected the day-old Israel-Lebanon agreement as surrender, and said it was "null and void".

Mohsen Rezaei, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, said Washington had violated the war-ending memorandum of understanding by supporting what he called proxy forces in the region and creating tensions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Stay vigilant, mission-ready: Army Chief to troops

tional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) said in a post on X.

"The COAS was briefed on the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness, infrastructure development and ongoing initiatives to enhance surveillance, mobility and integrated operational capabilities," the post said.

ADGPI said during the visit, the COAS commended all ranks of the corps for their exceptional professionalism, unwavering dedication and steadfast commitment while operating in one of the world's most challenging terrains.

He exhorted them to remain mission-focused, operationally agile and ever prepared to meet emerging security challenges.

The Veterans Achievers Awards were presented to Col Tondup Wangail, Maj Rinchen Dolma Kolto, Sub Maj (Honorary Capt) Sonam Morup, Sub Maj (Honorary Capt) Tashi Chhepal, Vir Chakra, and Naik Gulam Haider, all retired, for their dedicated services and continued efforts towards the welfare of ex-servicemen and society.

"Through their selfless initiatives, the awardees have transformed healthcare delivery in remote regions of Ladakh, expanded outreach to ex-servicemen and veer naris, promoted skill development and self-reliance, secured land and welfare measures for veteran families, strengthened community welfare, and provided steadfast support to veterans requiring medical care," ADGPI said in a separate post.

NIA chargesheets 3 in Red Fort blast case

This takes the number of persons chargesheeted in the case to 13, which includes prime accused Dr Umer Un Nabi, driver of the explosive-laden car who died in the blast, officials said.

Muzafar Ahmed, a pediatrician (MBBS, MD), has been identified as elder brother of co-accused Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather and a founding member of "AGuH (Ansar

Ghazwat-ul-Hind) Interim" -- an offshoot of the Al-Qaeda, a statement issued by the NIA said.

NIA investigation has found Muzafar to be one of the prime architects -- along with co-accused Umer, Muzammil, Adeel, and Mufti Irfan -- of the conspiracy that led to the deadly vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) blast near the Red Fort on November 10, 2025, killing 11 people.

NIA's probe has revealed that Muzafar had attended the secret Eidgah meeting in Srinagar in June 2022, during which AGuH Interim was established, the statement said, identifying Muzafar as one of the founding members of the terror module.

Muzafar was deeply involved in the manufacture, testing and safekeeping of TATP-based improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at a clandestine facility run by Umer and Muzammil at Al-Falah University, Faridabad, the statement said.

TATP or Triacetone Triperoxide is a homemade explosive.

A Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) has also been issued against Muzafar and efforts are on to track and arrest him, the probe agency said.

As per NIA investigations, Zameer, an Overground Worker (OGW) of AGuH Interim, was actively in touch with handlers, and acted as a courier for arms, ammunition, and cash for the terror module.

Tufail, a former OGW of Pakistan-based proscribed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), served as the module's arms supplier.

He had procured one AK-47, one Krinkov rifle, one pistol, magazines and live ammunition through dead drops orchestrated by a handler, and delivered them to the deceased main accused Dr Umer Un Nabi for Rs 3 lakh, the anti-terror agency said.

NIA, which established the linkages between various accused through multi-disciplinary investigation, including detailed forensic testing, geo-location mapping of conspiracy sites and granular financial-trail analysis, is continuing its probe in the case, the statement said.

Alert issued over Khalistani terror threat to Delhi, Uttarakhand

ing that terrorists may target a temple in the Chandni Chowk area.

According to intelligence sources, key religious places, including areas around the Red Fort and parts of Chandni Chowk, remained on the radar of the Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

SFs comb Anantnag woods ahead of Amarnath Yatra

part of the enhanced security for the safety of pilgrims who would be visiting the holy cave shrine of Almighty Shiva in South Kashmir Himalayas.

Pilgrims from across the country and abroad visit the holy cave shrine annually to have a glimpse of the naturally formed ice-Shivalingam.

Karan Singh bats for statehood

"I think it should happen. The government of India has promised that it will restore the state. See, we were the biggest state, so we should not have to beg for the state. They have to give it. Now, when they want to give it, it depends on them; we cannot force them," he said while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of 'Interfaith Dialogue' in Srinagar.

The former Union minister appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to maintain harmony.

"They should also maintain the relations between (two regions) Jammu and Kashmir, which sometimes become a little fragile, so that this state of ours grows and represents the whole of India and shows a path to the entire country," he said.

Singh said it was very important for all religions to live together.

"It is very important, otherwise discords increase. You have seen that India was divided into three parts. Therefore, we have to keep everyone together, and the purpose of interfaith dialogue is precisely this, that people of different religions should sit together and try to understand each other," he added.

Haryana couple wanted in Uttarakhand murder case arrested from Katra

wordy quarrel with him. Pandey suffered multiple injuries, including serious wounds to the head.

A report quoting police said that the accused and his wife then locked Pandey's wife and children inside a room and fled the place.

Later in the evening, family members and villagers broke open the room and found Pandey lying critically injured. He was immediately rushed to the Community Health Centre in Dhauladevi and was later referred to Sushila Tiwari Hospital in Haldwani. However, he succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital.

Acting on the intelligence, a team from Katra police station, led by PSI Shubham Sharma, launched a search operation. After sustained efforts, the team traced and apprehended the couple from a hotel in Main Bazaar, Katra.

The concerned police station in Uttarakhand was informed immediately, and after completing legal formalities, both the accused were handed over to them for further action, officials said.

J&K Bank marks International MSME Day with nationwide entrepreneurship outreach across its cluster network

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 27:** Reinforcing its steadfast commitment to entrepreneurship development and inclusive economic growth, J&K Bank today joined the nationwide observance of International MSME Day by organising a large-scale MSME Awareness Campaign across all its 35 operational Clusters through customer outreach programmes spanning its branch network across the country. Organised in association with local business groups, trade bodies, Byopar Mandals and other recognised institutions, the campaign engaged directly with local business communities through awareness sessions and structured deliberations with prominent trade organisations, regional business leaders and aspiring entrepreneurs. During these interactions, Bank officials underscored the pivotal role of the MSME sector as a primary engine of innovation, employment generation,

economic growth and sustainable development while highlighting the importance of timely institutional finance in fostering enterprise. The programmes showcased J&K Bank's comprehensive suite of MSME products and customised financial solutions tailored to meet the evolving needs of small businesses. The campaign also highlighted various flagship Government initiatives including Mission YUVA, PMEGP, PM Vishwakarma, PM SVANidhi, Stand-Up India and other entrepreneurship-oriented schemes, with presentations on Mission YUVA drawing significant interest from participants. Bank officials also guided prospective entrepreneurs on accessing institutional finance and transforming viable business ideas into successful enterprises. Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Today, as we observe MSME Day, we recog-



nize and celebrate the spirit of enterprise and extraordinary contribution of millions of entrepreneurs who form the backbone of our economy and whose enterprise, innovation and resilience drive growth, employment and prosperity across the nation. As the leading financial institution of Jammu

& Kashmir and Ladakh with growing presence in strategic locations across the country, J&K Bank remains deeply committed to empowering entrepreneurs through timely credit, customised financial solutions and continuous handholding at every stage of their growth journey."

Highlighting the Bank's developmental role, he further said, "Our active participation in transformative initiatives such as Mission YUVA, PMEGP, PM Vishwakarma and other Government-sponsored programs reflect our conviction that entrepreneurship is one of the strongest catalysts for economic progress and livelihood creation. Beyond financing businesses, we are nurturing aspirations, enabling self-employment and contributing to the creation of a vibrant and resilient MSME ecosystem." Reiterating the Bank's commitment on the occasion, MD & CEO further stated, "As we celebrate MSME Day today, let us reaffirm our collective commitment towards building an entrepreneurial economy. Let us create an environment where every aspiring entrepreneur has access to opportunity, every viable enterprise has access to finance, and every successful business

becomes a catalyst for community development." As part of the observance, the Bank intensified its outreach to encourage enterprise creation, facilitate access to institutional credit and identify viable MSME proposals under various lending programmes, with special focus on Mission YUVA, ECLGS and other MSME financing initiatives. Business owners were also apprised of the recently launched ECLGS 5.0, the rehabilitation framework designed to provide timely liquidity support and facilitate long-term business recovery for eligible enterprises. The campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Bank's officers and staff across all its 35 operational Clusters, who actively engaged with entrepreneurs, business owners and aspiring borrowers through awareness sessions and one-to-one interactions.