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MHA designates 23 Pak, PoJK-based operatives as terrorists

and recruits youths in south Kashmir. Ghulam Farid, alias Gulshan Kumar, a Pakistani national affiliated with JeM, previously served in the Pakistan Army from 2001 to 2005. He illegally entered India through Bangladesh in 2008, was arrested in Jammu later that year and deported to Pakistan in July 2019, the ministry said.

Haroon Rashid Ganai, an Indian national residing in Pakistan and affiliated with LeT, allegedly travelled to Pakistan in 2018, joined the organisation there, encourages recruitment from the Kashmir valley and supplies arms and ammunition to overground workers.

Indian national Bilal Ahmad Mir is based Muzaffarabad, PoJK and is associated with LeT and The Resistance Front (TRF). He is plots to incite and provoke local Kashmiri youth to jihad from across the LoC.

He is also directly involved in managing the illicit supply chain of arms, ammunition and logistics into Kashmir.

Abid Qayoom Lone, an Indian national residing in PoJK, is accused of planning attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, raising funds for LeT and smuggling narcotics from Pakistan into India through networks operating along the LoC to finance terrorist activities, the ministry said.

Another Indian Nazir Ahmed Gujjar recruited youths in Doda and Kishtwar and facilitated drone-based consignments of arms and ammunition across the Samba and R S Pura sub-sectors. He resides in Islamabad after crossing the LoC in 2006.

Among top LeT terrorists designated is Abdul Rauf, also known as Hafiz Abdul Rauf, who has served as a senior Lashkar leader since 1999, the ministry said. Authorities said he mobilises funds and public support internationally through organisations including the Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation and Al-Madina Welfare Trust.

The US has designated him as a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist".

Ashfaq Ahmed, a JeM functionary, is accused of overseeing Shuaba Hadith and the Al-Rehmat Trust in Bahawalpur. He received training in PoJK and was identified as a subscriber of Pakistani mobile numbers used during the January 2016 Pathankot Air Force station attack.

Hafiz Khalid Waleed, associated with LeT and Jamaat-ud-Dawa, is identified as the son-in-law of Hafiz Mohammad Saeed and a member of LeT's Central Advisory Committee since 2003.

The ministry identifies him as the mastermind behind the June 2016 Pampore attack. The US designated him a global terrorist in August 2012.

Maulana Imdad Ullah Makki, a close associate of Maulana Masood Azhar and Mufti Abdul Rauf Asghar, heads JeM's prisoners' wing and legal affairs. Authorities say he coordinated in real time with the terrorists involved in the January 2016 Pathankot airbase attack.

Maulana Saifullah Khalid, affiliated with LeT and the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League, serves as the party's general secretary and previously headed the Milli Muslim League. He has led multiple LeT and Jamaat-ud-Dawa wings, including propaganda and control and reform. The US had named him a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" in April 2018.

Mohammad Yaqoob, an LeT operational commander based in Islamabad, allegedly coordinates financial and logistical support for cadres operating in the Kashmir valley. A UAPA case has been registered against him at the CI Kashmir Police Station in Srinagar.

Maulana Yusuf Taibi, associated with LeT and Jamaat-ud-Dawa, is identified as a senior leader linked to the control and reform wing. He previously headed the Karachi-based Jamia Al-Dirasat Al-Islamia Trust and is currently associated with the Al-Qadisia Islamic Center in Lahore while delivering Friday sermons at the Sargodha Markaz.

Owais Farooz, an Indian national allegedly entered Pakistan through the Wagah border in 2018 and joined the LeT. The NIA court in Pulwama has issued a proclamation order against him under Section 82 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Qari Yaqub Sheikh, associated with the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League and Jamaat-ud-Dawa, is identified as a central Jud leader who contested Pakistan's 2018 general election as a Milli Muslim League candidate.

Authorities accuse him of raising funds for Lashkar and Jud in Saudi Arabia. He was designated a global terrorist by the US in August 2012.

Rana Iftikhar, an associate of Hafiz Saeed, allegedly manages finances for LeT's Kashmir operations and heads the organisation's prisoners' welfare wing. He was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir in 1993, remained imprisoned in India until 2004 and was subsequently released.

Wasim Noor Jat, also known as Qari Wasim, is identified as a JeM launching commander responsible for the Kotli area. Authorities accuse him of overseeing drone-based weapons drops into India during 2021-22. He was deported to Pakistan after serving a prison term in Jammu.

Mohammad Shahid Faisal, originally an Indian national and now active in Rawalpindi, is affiliated with LeT, Al-Qaeda and ISIS, according to the ministry.

The MHA said he was the handler behind the 2012 Bengaluru LeT conspiracy case and the 2013 Nanded LeT case. The ministry says he is an online handler in the 2024 Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, the Mangaluru cooker blast and the Al-Hind ISIS module case, while recruiting youths through jihadist content circulated on social media and messaging platforms.

Travel only after obtaining valid registration: LG to pilgrims

mir. Pilgrims are requested not to travel without confirmed registration, as they shall not be permitted to proceed on the yatra, the meeting said.

The LG reviewed the security and logistic arrangements for the yatra and directed all the concerned departments

and security agencies to keep working in close coordination and maintain continuous liaison with all stakeholders, including langar organisations, service providers and other NGOs for a safe, seamless, spiritually enriching and fulfilling yatra.

Among others, the meeting was attended by chief secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, special DG (coordination, PHQ) S J M Gillani, principal secretary (home department) Chandraker Bharti, joint director (IB) Pankaj Thakur, LG's principal secretary & SASB CEO Mandeep K Bhandari, senior officers of civil & police administrations, security forces, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and other concerned departments.

DGP reviews Amarnath Yatra security

hensive review of the security arrangements, traffic management plan and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure safe, secure and smooth conduct of the yatra.

Directing all agencies to maintain the highest level of operational preparedness, he emphasised seamless inter-agency coordination and intensified area domination and night domination exercises, particularly along the National Highway, critical road corridors and yatra routes.

The DGP also directed field formations to enhance surveillance and maintain a close watch on inimical elements across Jammu and Kashmir to prevent any attempt to disrupt peace.

He instructed officers to ensure strict verification of identity credentials and effective utilisation of the RFID-based tracking system for real-time monitoring of registered yatis.

He directed that issues relating to unregistered yatis be handled proactively and humanely in close coordination with Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, while ensuring that only duly registered pilgrims were permitted to undertake the yatra in accordance with the prescribed protocols.

Leopard captured at Doda

the villagers, the officials surveyed the area and laid a trap. The leopard was successfully captured early today without the use of tranquilisers, officials said.

Officials said the animal was being safely transported to the Wildlife Rescue and Trauma Centre at Kishtwar for a medical examination, after which it would be released into its natural habitat.

Govt forms committee to review treasury deposit system

sury, the Accounts Officer, Treasury Administration (DGAT), and a representative from the NIC (JKIFMS Project).

The committee has been tasked with reviewing the existing framework governing treasury deposits, including security, revenue and other deposits, examining accounting provisions under the General Financial Rules, Treasury Code and other regulations, reviewing procedures for receipt, refund, adjustment, reconciliation and accounting of deposits, identifying long-pending and unclaimed deposits and recommending their disposal.

It will also examine the functionality of JKPAYSYS/Treasury Net, suggest IT-enabled reforms for end-to-end digital management of treasury deposits, recommend amendments to existing rules and submit its report with actionable recommendations within 15 days from the date of the order.

Omar thanks Gol for suspending airport runway closure

proposed runway closure at Srinagar Airport, stating that the decision to suspend the closure would ensure uninterrupted air connectivity to Jammu & Kashmir and provide much-needed relief to passengers and the tourism sector.

He had personally taken up the matter with the central government to safeguard the interests of passengers, the tourism industry, trade, and the people of Jammu & Kashmir, who would have been adversely affected by the proposed closure.

Expressing his appreciation, the CM said, "Grateful to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu for acceding to our request and suspending the airport closure order. This closure had created a lot of difficulties for regular travellers and forced tour groups and tourists to cancel their planned visits."

He said the decision to suspend the proposed runway closure would ensure uninterrupted air connectivity to the region, preventing disruption to travel, tourism, and economic activity.

He said maintaining seamless air connectivity was vital for Jammu & Kashmir's economy, particularly during the peak tourist season, and thanked the Government of India for responding promptly to the concerns raised by the Jammu and Kashmir government.

India navigated energy crisis with little burden on citizens: Modi

the country has become the world's fourth-largest in refining capacity and continues to expand.

He also credited his government's long-term policies with overcoming global disruptions in fuel and fertiliser supply caused by the war between Iran and the US-Israel combine.

On a different note, Modi said self-respect of an individual or a nation can remain high only when they are self-reliant.

He said the BJP governments do not simply lay foundation stones for projects and leave them.

"We work day and night to ensure their completion," he said.

Modi on Saturday inaugurated the country's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex in Pachpadra.

The refinery is also Rajasthan's first of any kind.

Modi inaugurated the project by pressing a remote button after touring the refinery complex.

The prime minister said the work on the refinery remained virtually at standstill when Congress was in power in Rajasthan from 2018 to 2023.

Monsoon session of Par from Jul 20

ing recognition as separate groups is awaited.

In the Rajya Sabha, after newly elected and re-elected MPs took oath, the political numbers further tilted in favour of the ruling NDA.

Three rebel TMC MPs from the Upper House have quit and bypolls will help the BJP gather more strength in the Rajya Sabha.

In a post on X, Rijiju said on the recommendation of the government, President Draupadi Murmu has summoned both the Houses of Parliament for the Monsoon Session 2026.

"The Session will commence on 20 July, 2026 and continue till 13 August, 2026 for meaningful debate, discussion and decisions on issues of national importance," he said.

The last session ended in disappointment for the BJP-led NDA government as a Constitution amendment bill to implement reservation for women in legislatures in 2029 and increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha was defeated in the Lower House.

The government is now redrafting the bill to possibly increase Lok Sabha seats of all states uniformly by 50 per cent. The population-linked increase in seats has been a major concern for southern parties.

Books 'glorifying' terrorists, separatists banned; 8 suspended

artists and terrorists by portraying them as "great personalities" and "legends" of Jammu and Kashmir.

The issue gained further momentum after Leader of Opposition in Assembly, Sunil Sharma, raised the matter at a press conference earlier in the day, alleging that the publication promoted an anti-national narrative and demanding its immediate withdrawal, a high-level probe, and action against those responsible and sacking of education minister.

"The book has been withdrawn. Action is being taken against all concerned," a senior official said.

The order says that eight officials and supervisory staff of the school education department have been placed under suspension with immediate effect in terms of Rule - 31(1)(a) of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.

Meanwhile, keeping in view the seriousness of the matter and misconduct of the suspended officials, Ashwani Kumar, financial commissioner (additional chief secretary), power development department, is appointed as Inquiry Officer to conduct a probe into the matter, says the order.

Rohit Sharma, additional secretary, general administration department, is appointed as Presenting Officer in the case.

The Inquiry Officer shall submit his report to the Competent Authority within 30 days.

It is ordered that the authors and publishers of the books are banned and blacklisted, henceforth, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Any printed material authored and/or published by them shall also be withdrawn from the territory of Jammu and Kashmir, says the order.

SIR made voter rolls more accurate: CEC

Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)," he pointed out.

International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization of 35 leading democratic countries that supports democracy worldwide.

The Chief Election Commissioner said that despite voluntary voting in India, voter turnout remains higher than in many countries with compulsory voting, "which is a testimony to the public's faith in Indian democracy."

Empowered voters are the foundation of a strong democracy, he stressed.

He described BLOs as "true sentinels of democracy" and praised their role in the electoral process. BLOs, who work in difficult conditions in remote tribal areas and forested regions, deserve special appreciation, Kumar said.

Praising the work done under SIR in Madhya Pradesh, he said the state has set an ideal example for the entire country by conducting this process in an excellent, transparent, and systematic manner.

Kumar said, "The efficiency and transparency with which the SIR has been carried out in Madhya Pradesh is rare in other states of the country."

State Chief Electoral Officer Sanjeev Kumar Jha was also present at the event.

SPO among 4 killed in road accidents

Kumar and daughter Swati Choudhary, who survived with critical injuries, were undergoing treatment at a hospital, officials said.

In another incident, a man and his son lost their lives and two other persons sustained injuries after a load carrier plunged into a deep gorge at Gulabgarh in Kishtwar district.

The dead included Anurudh Singh and his son Deepak Kumar. The injured were admitted to hospital.

On day 3, 4,812 pilgrims leave for holy cave shrine

Highway and at all transit camps to ensure the safe and smooth movement of the yatra convoys. A multi-tier security setup has been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra marks the beginning of one of the country's most revered spiritual pilgrimages and reflects the coordinated efforts of the administration and all stakeholder departments to facilitate a secure, seamless

and memorable pilgrimage experience for every devotee.

Traffic restrictions will remain in force on various stretches of the highway till August 28, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

Report on Justice Verma to be tabled in LS: Birla

However, President Droupadi Murmu is yet to accept the resignation of Justice Verma and the possibility of his impeachment is still open.

The removal of Justice Verma was sought following the discovery of burnt currency notes from his residence here when he was a judge of the Delhi High Court.

The committee was reconstituted on February 25. While two members - Justice Aravind Kumar of the Supreme Court of India and Senior Advocate of Karnataka High Court, B V Acharya, continued to be members of the panel, a new member, Justice Shree Chandrashekar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, had been appointed in place of Madras High Court Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava.

Birla set up the committee after he received a proposal from 146 Lok Sabha members, including BJP member Ravi Shankar Prasad and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, seeking removal of Justice Verma on July 21, 2025.

Justice Verma was repatriated from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court after the discovery of burnt wads of currency notes following a fire incident at his residence.

After referring to relevant laws and judgements of the Supreme Court, the Delhi High Court chief justice found the charges against Justice Verma were of a serious nature and followed it up with the "in-house procedure".

Birla had said unblemished character and financial and intellectual integrity were the foundation of the trust a common person has in the judiciary.

"The facts connected in the present case point towards corruption and are eligible for action as per Article 124, Article 217 and Article 218 of the Constitution of India. Parliament needs to speak in one voice on this issue and every citizen of this country should send a clear message about its commitment to zero tolerance to corruption," Birla had said.

The Lok Sabha Speaker said he has accepted the proposal and constituted a three-member committee for the removal of Justice Verma from his post in accordance with Section 3(2) of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

Earlier, then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna had initiated an in-house probe into the allegations and set up a three-member committee in March 2025 to conduct the inquiry.

The committee comprising Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia and Karnataka High Court Justice Anu Sivaraman submitted its report on May 4, 2025.

After receiving the report, the CJI asked Justice Verma to resign or face impeachment proceedings.

However, since Justice Verma had initially declined to quit, CJI Khanna forwarded the report and the judge's response on it to the President and the Prime Minister for removal of the judge.

The Supreme Court had also dismissed Justice Verma's plea against CJI Khanna's recommendation for his removal.

Man murdered over land dispute

ment, the officials added. After the incident, police carried out multiple raids and arrested the accused who were identified as Ajay and Vijay, sons of Darshan Kumar of Gaiyan.

A case was registered against them under relevant provisions of law at the concerned police station.

Trust in 'Made-in-India' def platforms has increased: Rajnath

ages to self-reliance, from self-reliance to self-confidence, and from self-confidence towards building a Viksit Bharat," Singh said.

He said India lays emphasis on both technological development and celebrating its traditions, and this confluence of "tradition and technology" is the "biggest strength of the country in the 21st century".

Underlining that AI has touched nearly all aspects of human existence today, he cautioned that while AI can read and analyse data, it "cannot feel the pulse" of the people, which is where the human sensitivity comes into picture.

Singh pointed out that journalism too has been impacted by technological advancements such as AI, but they won't be able to surpass human creativity and intellect.

"The future success of journalism will depend on how well it establishes the balance and synergy between the capabilities of AI and human empathy. While AI will make journalism faster and more precise, emotional intelligence will ensure that it remains humane and credible," he said.

The Union minister also emphasised maintaining credibility in journalism in the era of fake news and misinformation.

Terming the media's role in the present era of, what he described as "communicative abundance", as more crucial than ever, the defence minister said the challenge today is not lack of information, but its accuracy and reliability.

Misinformation severely impacts society and the morale of defence forces, he said, adding that while being the first to report may be important in journalism, disseminating correct news is even more crucial.

"Especially when the subject concerns the defence forces, national security, or the honour of those who make the supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation, every word becomes a matter of national responsibility. The media must always uphold the values of accuracy, objectivity, and impartiality," Singh said.

2-storey building collapses in Chandigarh's Industrial Area; 2 dead, 5 rescued

CHANDIGARH, JULY 04: Two persons died after an under-construction two-storey commercial building (No. 28/8) collapsed in Industrial Area, Phase II, on Saturday afternoon. The deceased, identified as Tarun Jain and Tarun Kaushik, were business partners. Five others were rescued from the debris.

Following a six-hour rescue operation, teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Civil Defence, under the State Disaster Management Authority, extricated the two victims, who were trapped beneath the rubble. They were rushed to the Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector 32. One was declared

brought dead, while the other succumbed to injuries during treatment.

The deceased were associated with the automobile business, with operations spread across North India.

The incident occurred around 4.40 pm when the building suddenly collapsed. Eight persons were inside the structure at the time.

"One of the victims was conscious and talking to us, while the other was pulled out unconscious. Their medical condition could only be assessed by doctors. The NDRF and the local administration carried out the rescue operation successfully," said Deepak Singh, Deputy Commandant, NDRF.

According to eyewitnesses, eight per-

sons — three partners and five construction workers — were inside the building when it collapsed. Moments before the incident, one of the partners had stepped outside for some work. He heard a loud crash as the building collapsed.

Civil Defence personnel and the police were the first to reach the spot and launch the rescue operation. Within about an hour, five workers — Kuldeep, Kulbir, Umesh, Rahul and Ajeetesh — were rescued. However, Jain and Kaushik remained trapped deep under the debris.

As local authorities were unable to reach them, the NDRF was called in. The team began operations around

7.10 pm and eventually pulled out both victims after several hours of effort. Though one of them was reportedly conscious while being rescued, both later died at the Sector 32 hospital.

The four partners, including the two deceased, had recently taken the premises on rent to set up a workshop of a leading two-wheeler automobile company. Possession of the building had been taken only a few days ago, and renovation work had begun on Friday. Air-conditioners were removed the previous day, while further alteration work resumed on Saturday after being delayed by rain.

The rescue teams took nearly six hours to account for everyone inside

the building.

"The rescue operation was launched immediately after information was received, and all those trapped were pulled out. The two victims were rescued after nearly six hours. The UT Administration will ascertain the exact cause of the collapse, and a fact-finding committee will investigate the incident. We are yet to determine whether there was any illegal construction," said Paviar Singh, SDM (East).

After rescuing the victims, the NDRF personnel used sniffer dogs to comb the debris to ensure that no one else remained trapped. Nearly five fire tenders, several JCB machines and cranes were pressed into service during the

operation.

The collapse could have resulted in a much bigger tragedy as the building had earlier housed several accounts offices employing around 30 to 35 people on a typical working day. However, the premises had recently been rented out to four partners who were planning to open a two-wheeler workshop.

Three partners had reportedly reached the site to supervise the renovation work, while five labourers were engaged in construction activities. In all, eight persons were present when the building collapsed.

The impact also brought down electricity poles and overhead wires, creating panic in the area.