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India asks world to hold Pak accountable for egregious abuses in PoJK

ity personnel, suspending internet services in some areas and launching a crackdown on protest leaders. The government banned the Joint Awami Action Committee and detained several of its members, while sedition charges were filed against some leaders.

India has consistently maintained that Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and has repeatedly accused Pakistan of human rights violations and suppressing the rights of people living in the region.

LG reviews rehabilitation scheme for drug abuse victims

tims. He also directed that motivated women volunteers/groups be identified, imparted appropriate training, and involved in counselling and rehabilitation efforts for the victims.

"Community participation is crucial for successful reintegration of victims into mainstream. Volunteers and interested government employees must be encouraged to actively participate in the rehabilitation process," he said.

Training and capacity building programs for the concerned staff must begin at the earliest to equip teams with the specialized skills and enhance the delivery of rehabilitation services," he added.

Earlier, social welfare department secretary Sarma Hafeez gave a detailed presentation, highlighting salient features of the proposed scheme.

The scheme envisages a structured three-year rehabilitation cycle comprising Phase I - Treatment and Stabilisation, focusing on medical treatment, counselling and preparation of Individual Rehabilitation Plans (IRPs); Phase II - Reintegration and Livelihood Activation, aimed at facilitating education, skill development, employment and family reintegration; and Phase III - Sustained Monitoring and Social Inclusion, providing continued follow-up, relapse prevention, community support and long-term social reintegration through coordinated interventions of multiple departments.

It was informed that a dedicated Rehabilitation Monitoring Portal (RMP) was being developed to facilitate digital case management, monitoring of Individual Rehabilitation Plans, inter-departmental convergence and real-time tracking of rehabilitation outcomes while ensuring confidentiality of beneficiaries.

The scheme has been prepared by a Task Force constituted under the chairmanship of the principal secretary, home department, pursuant to the directions of the chief secretary, with the social welfare department as nodal department. The task force, comprising representatives of all key stakeholder departments, was mandated to formulate a comprehensive framework for rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of drug abuse victims through a coordinated inter-departmental approach.

The meeting was also attended by chief secretary Atal Dulloo, principal secretary (home department) Chandraker Bharti, LG's principal secretary Mandeep K Bhandari and other senior officers.

Heavy rains from July 18

skies and light to moderate rain or thunder showers at many places. Isolated areas of the Jammu division were likely to see brief spells of intense heavy rainfall.

Rain activity was expected to increase further between July 20 and 22, with generally cloudy conditions and light to moderate rainfall at most places in the Union Territory. The peak of the wet spell was anticipated on July 21. Isolated locations in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions may receive heavy rains or brief intense showers.

Another spell of rain and thunder showers was likely at many places on July 23.

Issuing an advisory, the weather department warned of heavy rainfall and brief intense showers during the late night of July 18, the morning of July 19, and again between July 20 and 22, particularly during late afternoons and late night or early morning hours.

Searches launched for 2 'terrorists'

The search parties were said to have fanned out across Bhanghai, Hasplote, Karyote, Kopra top and adjoining forested villages to trace the two suspected terrorists, officials said.

Searches were continuing when reports last came in but forces were yet to find any clue to the whereabouts of the suspects, the officials added.

Fresh batch of 5,335 pilgrims leaves for holy cave shrine

of the country had so far visited the cave shrine.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine was officially flagged off by LG Manoj Sinha on July 2 morning from Bhagwati Nagar base camp here simultaneously for the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The yatra will conclude on August 28.

Authorities have put in place multi-layered security arrangements along the Jammu-Srinagar National 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 advi-

sories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

Must strengthen education system to realise vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat: Kavinder

ity digital education.

On the occasion, Gupta described Himachal Pradesh University as a premier institution of higher learning and research, serving not only the state but also the nation.

He highlighted the importance of introducing academic programmes that combine theoretical knowledge with practical skills, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Referring to emerging technologies, he said that expertise in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Cyber Security and Green Technology had become indispensable, and urged the university to promote research and development in these fields.

Calling for greater institutional accountability, Gupta directed that meetings of the University Court should be held regularly, preferably once every three months. He also stressed the need to clear all pending audit paras at the earliest to strengthen financial discipline and governance.

Emphasising the social responsibility of educational institutions, the governor suggested that every teacher should adopt a village and contribute towards promoting environmental conservation, self-reliance and community development.

He underlined that higher education must not be confined to technical and professional disciplines alone but should also nurture moral values, ethical conduct and India's rich cultural heritage.

He called for meaningful efforts to integrate the country's ancient knowledge traditions with modern education in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy-2020.

Highlighting the employment challenges facing the youth, he urged the university to promote skill-based education, entrepreneurship and the start-up ecosystem through incubation centres, industry-academia partnerships and internship programmes, enabling students to become job creators rather than job seekers.

He also stressed the importance of research and awareness in areas such as environmental protection, climate change, water conservation, waste management and sustainable development.

Referring to the rapid transformation in the education sector, Gupta called for strengthening online education, virtual classrooms, digital libraries and the use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and cloud computing to make education more accessible and effective.

He emphasised the need to enhance the university's research ecosystem through state-of-the-art facilities, stronger collaboration with industry and greater efforts to secure national and international research grants.

He appealed to the teaching fraternity and the university administration to work with greater dedication, discipline and innovation. "The true objective of education is not merely to award degrees but to prepare responsible citizens capable of contributing meaningfully to society and nation-building," he said.

Earlier, Vice-Chancellor (Prof) Mahavir Singh welcomed the governor and presented a report on the university's major achievements and initiatives during the past year.

He highlighted the establishment of five new centres, including the Centre for Green Energy and Nanotechnology, Centre for Artificial Intelligence on Cyber-Physical Systems, Centre for Pahari Culture and Heritage, Himalayan Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, and the Ramanujan Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems and Indian Mathematics, which are expected to strengthen the University's academic profile.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the National Education Policy-2020. MLA Shri Suresh Kumar was unanimously elected as a member of the Executive Council. MLAs Shri Harish Janartha, Shri Suresh Kumar and Shri Chandra Shekhar also shared valuable suggestions during the deliberations.

Registrar Jyoti Rana conducted the proceedings and presented vote of thanks.

Secretary (Education) Rakesh Kanwar was also present on the occasion.

Mustafa Kamaal passes away

political landscape. His demise was widely mourned by political leaders, NC workers and people from different sections of society.

Soon after his death, leaders cutting across party lines expressed grief and extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

NC also expressed profound sorrow over the demise of its senior leader, describing his death as a great loss to the party and the people.

EAM puts maritime security at centre of India's UNSC campaign

itime commerce," he said, adding that nations with requisite capabilities must also cooperate to combat piracy.

"The safety of seafarers is another major concern thrown up by developments in the Gulf," he said.

Promoting search and rescue missions, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and encouraging capacity building while sharing best practices have all been facets where India has long been active, he said.

"We will endeavour to ensure that these issues get the attention they deserve in the Security Council," he said.

He said in maritime security, India makes wide-ranging and regular contributions, including in anti-piracy, counter-narcotics and anti-trafficking operations. "Our forces are protecting sea lanes across the Indo-Pacific, specifically in the northern and southern Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Malacca Straits and even in the Gulf of Guinea."

India's focus on securing maritime commons comes amid challenges unleashed by the US-Israel conflict against Iran,

with closures and blockades of the critical chokepoint Strait of Hormuz adversely impacting global fuel prices, critical supply chains and endangering the lives of seafarers.

Amid the West Asia conflict, 11 Indian nationals have lost their lives, and several seafarers have been rescued as ships and tankers have come under attack in the conflict.

Another key priority area for India for its UNSC campaign will be countering terror financing through effective and sustained efforts, the external affairs minister said.

"Even as the world strives to sustain growth and promote prosperity, some long-standing challenges continue to confront us. Significant among them is terrorism," Jaishankar said.

"For far too long, our efforts have concentrated on counter-ing its symptoms, but that would only give us limited results unless we are focused on constricting its resource base. Our commitment is to concentrate on countering terror financing and encourage objective and evidence-based proposals for listing of terrorist groups," he said.

Elections for the 2028-29 term will be conducted in June next year, when India and Tajikistan will compete for the sole seat in the Asia-Pacific Group category.

India last sat at the UNSC horseshoe high table in 2021-22, its eighth time in the powerful 15-nation UN body after tenures in 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992 and 2011-2012.

On the occasion, a special video highlighted India's growing role and contribution on the global stage and its priorities for the UNSC campaign.

"For a world in disorder, one civilisation has always answered with a single word -- Shanti (peace)," the video says, as footage of cities bombarded with missiles and natural disasters wreaking havoc is shown, with India reaching out with relief and humanitarian efforts.

With 4,300 personnel currently deployed across 10 of the 11 active UN peacekeeping missions, Jaishankar said "few countries would have our experience in preparing peace-keeping to be future-ready".

India has also put forward a human-centric vision of AI that draws on both its capabilities and on the country's traditions, Jaishankar said, adding, "As a nation that has contributed to bridging the global digital divide, we stand equally committed in respect of AI."

Jaishankar emphasised that in a world with too many conflicts and tensions, India has consistently espoused dialogue and diplomacy. "We have sought to bridge differences, we have sought to find common ground. Our focus has been on mitigating the impact of these developments for the Global South."

Rs 25.36 cr released for census functionaries

eligible census functionaries by July 31, 2026.

The order states that honorarium will be paid as per the norms laid down in Census Circular No 7 dated December 24, 2025.

However, enumerators and supervisors under the reserve quota, outsourced personnel, including Technical Assistants and Multi-Tasking Staff, and other ineligible functionaries will not receive the honorarium.

The government has directed that the funds be used strictly for census operations, with separate accounts to be maintained, quarterly utilisation certificates submitted, and all records kept open for audit and inspection.

Kargil Victory shows our resolve to respond with full might: Rajnath

During the expedition, riders will carry "an urn containing the National War Memorial's sacred soil", which will be offered at Kargil in memory of the fallen heroes, the defence ministry said.

Singh paid glowing tributes to the gallant soldiers of the country, who, he said, "wrote a golden chapter of courage, patience, discipline, and unmatched patriotism that mili-

ties across the world still study and regard with respect".

"At an altitude of nearly 20,000 ft and temperatures plummeting to minus 40 degrees Celsius, our soldiers achieved their objectives with courage and resilience. They reclaimed every peak, hill and bunker from enemy control and upheld the honour of the tricolour," he asserted.

"The victory (in Kargil war) represents India's enduring resolve to respond with full might to any hostile gaze upon our land, identity and honour," he said.

The minister expressed deep gratitude to all Indian bravehearts, including Param Vir Chakra awardees Capt Vikram Batra, Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey, Sub Maj (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (ret'd) and Sub Maj (Honorary Capt) Sanjay Kumar (ret'd), for their invaluable contribution in ensuring victory in the war.

He said these valiant soldiers serve as an inspiration to the youth, and will continue to motivate future generations.

En route, the riders will pay homage to bravehearts at prominent military memorials, including the Chandimandir War Memorial, Rezang La War Memorial and Leh War Memorial.

They will also interact with and felicitate 'Veer Naris', recognising their courage and resilience. The expedition will culminate at the Kargil War Memorial on the Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26.

Operation Vijay was the name given to India's limited war against Pakistan after the neighbouring country's infiltration in 1999. Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorates the culmination of Operation Vijay in the 1999 conflict.

Highlighting a key aspect of the expedition, Singh said, it brings together serving officers, veterans and civilians from different parts of the country.

"Diverse backgrounds, languages, and traditions, yet one tricolour, one nation, and a shared reverence for our heroes -- this is the very identity of our country," he said.

With National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets in attendance at the flag-off ceremony, Singh exuded confidence that the expedition will awaken a renewed sense of patriotism among the people, especially the youth.

He said it will convey a message to future generations that the defence of the nation's freedom and honour takes place not only at the borders, but also in our memories and values.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen N S Raja Subramani, Chief of Army Staff, Gen Dhiraj Seth, and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

'Shaurya Vijay Yatra' reflects the Indian Army's commitment to carrying forward the values exemplified during Operation Vijay. By retracing this journey of courage, the expedition seeks to inspire future generations to uphold duty, honour and selfless service, the ministry said.

Indian killed in Iranian strike in Hormuz

One Indian crew member aboard the Mombasa tanker was killed, the ministry said, while eight others sustained injuries. Of the eight people injured, four are said to be serious.

The injured comprise six Indian nationals and two Ukrainian nationals, the ministry said.

"The attack also caused material damage to both tankers as a result of the fires that broke out on board, which have since been brought under control," it added.

The UAE Ministry of Defence said it condemned the "blatant attack", which it considered a "serious violation and a clear breach of international law".

"The UAE reserves its full right to respond to this escalation and to take all necessary measures to protect its territory, its citizens and residents," it said.

The ministry said it remains on the "highest level of readiness and preparedness" to address any threats.

J&K Sports Council commences selection trials for Sub-Junior Girls Football Team

SRINAGAR, JULY 14:

The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council on Monday commenced the selection trials for the formation of the J&K Under-14 Sub-Junior Girls Football Team that will represent the Union Territory in the forthcoming AIFF Sub-Junior Girls National Football Championship 2026.

The opening day of the trials witnessed around 75 footballers participating from across the Union Territory. Approximately 60 players from the Kashmir Division and 15 players from the Jammu Division showcased their skills in pursuit of a place in the J&K team. The selection process was conducted by a technical committee constituted by the J&K Sports Council, comprising experienced football experts and qualified coaches.

The committee evaluated the participants on various parameters, including technical ability, tactical aware-



ness, physical fitness and overall game understanding, to identify the most promising talent.

As per the notified schedule issued by the J&K Sports Council, the divisional selection trials are being held on July 13 and 14, 2026, at the Mini Stadium, Parade Ground, Jammu, and the Synthetic Turf Football Sta-

dium, TRC, Srinagar. Short-listed players from both divisions will participate in the final selection trials, scheduled to be held on July 16 and 17, 2026, at the Synthetic Turf Football Stadium, TRC, Srinagar.

The players selected through the trials will represent Jammu & Kashmir in the AIFF Sub-Junior Girls

National Football Championship 2026.

The initiative is part of the Sports Council's sustained efforts to strengthen women's football in the Union Territory by providing equal opportunities to young athletes and creating a robust pathway for talented footballers to compete and excel at the national level.

CS chairs maiden UTLSC on Vibrant Villages Programme

SRINAGAR, JULY 14: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the maiden meeting of the Union Territory Level Screening Committee (UTLSC) under the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), convened by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD), to review and finalize the development roadmap for the identified border villages across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments and Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts. Taking a comprehensive re-

view of the district-wise proposals, the Chief Secretary undertook a first-hand appraisal of the projects envisaged under the programme across the identified border villages spread over eight districts of the Union Territory. He emphasized that all developmental interventions should be implemented in a mission mode, ensuring optimum utilization of resources and coordinated execution by different departments for creating tangible improvements in the quality of life of the people residing in these remote border areas.

He observed that the Vibrant Villages Programme offers a

unique opportunity to transform the socio-economic landscape of the strategically important villages through integrated planning and timely execution of projects. He called upon all departments and district administrations to ensure seamless coordination so that the benefits of various Central and UT schemes reach the targeted population in an effective and time-bound manner.

Introducing the agenda of the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, R. Alice Vaz, highlighted the vision and objectives of the Vibrant Villages Programme. She informed

that the programme envisages focused interventions in selected border villages aimed at creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through the promotion of tourism and cultural heritage, skill development, entrepreneurship, cooperative development, agriculture and horticulture, besides encouraging the cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs.

She further stated that the programme also prioritizes strengthening basic infrastructure by improving road connectivity to unconnected habitations, providing quality housing and village infrastructure, enhancing energy access including

renewable energy, and ensuring television and telecom connectivity. The overarching objective of these interventions, she said, is to generate adequate economic opportunities and improve living standards, thereby encouraging people to continue residing in these border villages.

Giving a detailed presentation, Nodal Officer, Vibrant Villages Programme in PD&MD, Owais Ahmad, informed the Committee that the district administrations have formulated a comprehensive portfolio of development projects aligned with the thematic focus areas of the programme. He informed that the proposed interventions in-

clude 83 projects in Baramulla, 57 in Bandipora, 526 in Jammu, 117 in Kathua, 195 in Poonch, 92 in Rajouri and 121 in Samba district, covering a wide spectrum of infrastructure creation, livelihood generation and public service delivery.

The meeting was further informed that, under PMGSY-IV, road connectivity is proposed to be extended to 24 presently uncovered villages under the programme. Additionally, 8,513 households are proposed to be provided on-grid electricity connections, while 16,702 households will be covered with Direct-to-Home (DTH) television connectivity through the provi-

sion of set-top boxes, significantly improving access to information, education and entertainment in these remote areas.

The meeting concluded with detailed deliberations on the proposed projects, with the Chief Secretary directing all the concerned departments and district administrations to ensure meticulous planning, inter-departmental coordination and timely implementation so that the objectives of the Vibrant Villages Programme are achieved in letter and spirit, making the border villages economically vibrant, socially resilient and better connected with the mainstream.