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Day after cop's killing, LG orders swift action on security risks

He also asked for comprehensive department-wise review of all amenities including rigorous audits of fire & emergency services, power grids, and water supply infrastructure.

More than 3,91,000 pilgrims had darshans of the naturally formed ice-Shivalingam at the holy cave of Baba Amarnath in South Kashmir Himalayas in the first 20 days of the yatra.

On the occasion, the LG made it clear that the resumption of the pilgrimage depended strictly on the improvement of weather conditions.

As the torrential rains led to flash floods and landslides at multiple places across the UT, he directed officials to strengthen flood protection measures and immediately clear debris from all nallahs along the pilgrimage tracks.

To meet any eventuality, Sinha said there was an emergent need for continuous operational readiness, focusing on round-the-clock disaster response preparedness, and ensuring clean tracks, well-maintained sanitation facilities and adequate reserves of rations, LPG, kerosene, & emergency medical supplies.

He also issued instructions to strictly prohibit unregistered service providers along the route and enforce a mandatory 100 pc prepaid service system.

Keeping in mind the well-being of pilgrims, the LG also asked the officials concerned to set up additional power DG sets, and ensure round-the-clock healthcare services, adequate availability of manpower, oxygen cylinders, & ambulances.

To ensure a swift response to potential incidents, he instructed officials to maintain active traffic management, conduct regular vehicle inspections, ensure that all equipment was functional, and issue timely weather alerts.

"Every tent must have a fire extinguisher, and specialised wildlife units be stationed along the tracks," he asserted.

Sinha, however, commended the hard work and dedication of Army, police, civil administration, security forces, shrine board, service providers, volunteers, stakeholders, and citizens for making the holy Shri Amarnathji pilgrimage safe and successful.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Northern Command GOC-in-C, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, chief secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, special DG Coordination (PHQ) S J M Gillani, 15 Corps GOC, Lt Gen Balbir Singh, 16 Corps GOC Lt Gen P K Mishra, principal secretary (home) Chanderkar Bharti, IB's Additional Director Pankaj Thakur, LG's principal secretary & SASB CEO Manddeep K Bhandari, ADGP (CID) Nitish Kumar, PDD's Additional Chief Secretary Ashwani Kumar, Public Works (R&B) Department's Additional Chief Secretary Anil Kumar Singh, Tourism Department's Additional Chief Secretary Ashish Chandra Verma, Commandant General (Home Guard/CD & SDRF) A G Mir, Pahalgam Axis's Nodal Officer Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Baltal Axis's Nodal Officer Rahul Yadav, administrative secretaries, divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, IGP's, senior officials of civil administration, police, Army, security forces, intelligence agencies, SASB and senior officers of all line departments.

India slams Pak at UN over cross-border terrorism

and will remain an integral and inalienable part of India. This is the constitutional and legal reality that Pakistan deliberately chooses to ignore," the Indian envoy said while exercising India's right of reply during the UN Security Council open debate.

"The only outstanding issue with regard to Jammu and Kashmir is the naked aggression and illegal occupation of India's sovereign territory by Pakistan. Instead of pointing fingers at India, Pakistan would serve itself and its people far better by putting its own house in order," he added.

During his address, Parvathaneni said the "illicit exploitation and trafficking of natural resources can, in certain situations, contribute to the financing of armed groups and prolong conflict," but stressed that natural resources should primarily serve as an engine of development and prosperity for sovereign states.

He also highlighted that the primary responsibility for the governance and management of natural resources rests with sovereign states and called for transparent, accountable and nationally owned governance, along with responsible supply chains, greater transparency and stronger international cooperation to curb illicit exploitation of natural resources.

Schools to reopen only after safety inspections

Chief Education Officers that a number of buildings housing educational institutions have sustained structural damage, rendering them unsafe for occupation by students and staff," a DSEJ circular said.

"In these prevailing circumstances, the safety, security and well-being of students, teachers and all personnel shall remain the paramount consideration in the resumption of academic activities," it said.

"Accordingly, no government/private educational institutions, including coaching institutes/centers shall resume physical classes unless the structural integrity and overall safety of its premises have been thoroughly assessed and found satisfactory," the circular added.

2 trapped in Tawi, rescued

After receiving information, police immediately alerted SDRF through PCR. Acting promptly, police personnel and SDRF team rushed to the spot and rescued the trapped persons, officials said.

People have been asked to avoid going near the river banks in view of the inclement weather.

Privileges Committee to hear motion against PDP MLA

opposition MLA of making derogatory remarks and levelling false allegations during his speech on the Motion of Thanks to the LG's address on November 8, 2024.

The PDP MLA had responded to the initial notice issued by the Speaker, denying any wrongdoing.

IMD forecasts widespread rains in J&K

Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad, and Uttarakhand from July 23 to 28. Ladakh will likely experience isolated to scattered light to moderate rainfall over the next two days.

The IMD has forecast widespread rainfall in Punjab on July 23 and July 27-28, with lighter, scattered rainfall from July 24-26. Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi are likely to receive widespread rainfall on July 27-28 and scattered rainfall from July 23-26. East Uttar Pradesh is expected to see widespread rainfall on July 27-28, with scattered rainfall earlier in the week.

The bulletin warns of isolated thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph, gusting up to 50 kmph, over J&K-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad from July 23-28. West Rajasthan may experience thunderstorms, lightning, and winds of 40-50 kmph, gusting to 60 kmph, on July 23, with similar conditions in East Rajasthan.

Isolated thunderstorms and lightning are also forecast for Uttarakhand from July 23-28 and for East and West Rajasthan from July 24-28. Heavy rainfall over Himachal Pradesh and J&K-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad during July 23-28; over Uttarakhand during July 23-28; over Punjab on July 23 and July 25; over Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi on July 23; over East Rajasthan and West Uttar Pradesh during July 27-28; over East Uttar Pradesh during July 26-28; and over West Rajasthan during July 23-26.

Foundation stone laid for transformation of old Leh town

the project seeks to seamlessly integrate modern civic infrastructure with heritage conservation, ensuring that old Leh town retains its priceless legacy, unique architecture and vibrant cultural identity while embracing the needs of a modern urban centre.

The project envisages the construction of a Multipurpose Trench & Common Utility Duct for underground shifting of water supply, sewerage, electricity, telecommunication and other essential public utilities through a common corridor. It also includes creating pedestrian-friendly pathways, heritage-sensitive streetscaping, improved drainage, ornamental lighting, heritage-style wayfinding signage, ample parking, landscaping, benches, upgraded public amenities and enhanced urban aesthetics, creating a cleaner, safer and visually appealing heritage precinct.

Just two days after assuming charge as LG on March 15 this year, Saxena walked through the historic lanes of old Leh town, along with Leh Main Market, to experience the ground realities firsthand. During the visit, L-G Shri Saxena observed that Leh Old Town, the historic heart of Ladakh, was facing several challenges, including unregulated construction, overhead hanging utility cables, drainage channels running through the middle of roads, repeated road cutting, inadequate public amenities and deteriorating urban spaces, all of which were affecting the heritage character and visual appeal of the centuries-old town.

The LG, immediately after the visit, had directed the concerned departments to prepare a comprehensive plan for the heritage-led transformation of Leh Old Town, ensuring that every intervention respects and preserves its historical and cultural essence while introducing modern civic infrastructure. He informed that the project, which represented the fulfilment of a dream very close to his heart, took nearly four months of detailed planning, consultations and design, and has now taken shape and is expected to be completed by the end of September.

He said the project is a practical manifestation of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi," where development and heritage conservation progress together. He observed that Ladakh has witnessed unprecedented infrastructure development after becoming a Union Territory, along with efforts to preserve its unique cultural identity and fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

The LG said the project would not only improve the quality of life of residents of the Old Town but also significantly enhance the experience of tourists by creating an attractive, organised and pedestrian-friendly heritage precinct. He added that the initiative would further strengthen heritage tourism while creating new livelihood opportunities for local artisans, shopkeepers, homestay owners, guides and others associated with the tourism sector.

Modi's outreach to protesters: Welfare of youth govt's top priority

when he spoke about the issue at a meeting of the NDA Parliamentary Party.

There was no live telecast of this speech, nor was there any statement. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and some MPs shared what Modi said at that meeting.

According to them, the PM said that strong action was taken against those involved in the "grave sin" of the paper leaks so that no one plays with the future of the youth.

Modi said all state governments and the Centre must join hands on the issue as it is "not a matter of party politics but a matter of national interest".

He also told NDA MPs that they should remain closely connected with the people with "warmth and affection" and that the "trust of the youth" needed to be won.

Rijiju said Modi told the MPs that the government acted immediately after reports of the paper leak surfaced, and 13 people were arrested.

"At the same time, the prime minister noted that to ensure that students' future was not affected, the NEET re-examination was given priority, conducted successfully, and the results were declared without delay," Rijiju said.

The prime minister termed the NEET paper leak "ghor paap (grave sin)", the MPs who attended the meeting said. The exam is conducted for admission to undergraduate courses in medical colleges.

The prime minister pointed out that while the NEET re-examination created inconvenience for children, not only did the re-test take place without delay, but the government also engaged renowned lawyers to ensure strict punishment for those involved.

Modi, the MPs said, conveyed clearly that there should be no injustice to students and suggested that it was easy to misguide them but difficult to show them the right path.

Modi had also stressed the need to punish the guilty and collaboratively establish a foolproof system.

The BJP, which has been spearheading protests over alleged examination irregularities since June, has demanded that Pradhan be immediately sacked and Rs 1 crore compensation be given to the families of those who committed suicide after the NEET paper leak.

Activist Sonam Wangchuk has been on an indefinite hunger strike since June 28 after he joined the BJP's agitation.

He was earlier forcibly shifted to Safdarjung Hospital by police, and was later moved to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram following a Delhi High Court order.

Two Union ministers -- J P Nadda and Jitendra Singh -- met Wangchuk at the hospital on Wednesday.

Nadda also met some of the injured protesters at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here, besides holding a meeting with two representatives of the BJP, in a bid to resolve the issue.

The government has also announced that it was ready for an intensive discussion on the NEET paper leaks on the floor of Parliament.

Both Houses of Parliament have failed to transact any business for the first three days of the Monsoon session, which commenced on July 20, due to disruptions caused by the opposition.

A government functionary on Wednesday ruled out Pradhan's resignation, saying he could not be blamed for the paper leak as he was in no way involved in it.

Kavinder visits veteran leader Ranjit Singh, enquires about his health

tion, commitment and selfless service have earned him immense respect across the region and continue to inspire many," he said.

Gupta also appreciated Singh's invaluable contribution to public life and acknowledged his role in mentoring generations through his commitment to organisational and social causes.

Wishing him a swift recovery, the governor expressed confidence that Ranjit Singh, would continue to remain a source of guidance and inspiration for society.

Ranjit Singh is father of Jasrota MLA Rajiv Jasrotia.

3,500 suspects detained after Anantnag attack

said.

"Mobile vehicle checkpoints have been established at various places to prevent the terrorist and his accomplices from escaping," the officials added.

Additional police and paramilitary forces had been deployed in Anantnag district and adjoining areas as cordon and search operations were intensified, officials said.

Officials said the searches would continue till the terrorist, who fired at the martyred cop, was eliminated.

Death toll in rain-related incidents rises to 26

She was washed away in the devastating flash floods that struck the area on the night of July 18, they said.

Officials said the decomposed body was shifted to the sub-district hospital, Surankote, where the village lambardar identified it. After completing legal formalities, the body was handed over to her family for last rites.

With the latest recovery, the death toll in the recent rain-triggered flash floods and landslides in Jammu region rose to 26, officials said.

Six persons were still missing in Poonch & Rajouri districts and a search was on for them, the officials added.

Int'l waterways must remain safe, unimpeded: Jaishankar

Indo-Pacific region.

"The world economy is today reeling under the impact of multiple conflicts; energy, food and health security cannot be taken for granted, especially by the Global South," Jaishankar noted, describing the current geopolitical landscape as "uncertain and volatile, where interdependence and common interests co-exist with competitive-ness and rivalries."

Touching upon territorial dynamics in the South China Sea, the Minister affirmed India's backing for a "substantive, effective and legally binding code of conduct, compliant with UNCLOS 1982, that does not prejudice the legitimate rights of all users."

Regarding the crisis in Myanmar, Jaishankar urged a "political solution" and reiterated New Delhi's ongoing assistance towards ASEAN-led initiatives. He also called for unified international action to combat illicit cyber fraud syndicates that have targeted and affected numerous Indian citizens.

On the Palestine issue, the External Affairs Minister reiterated New Delhi's stance of supporting a two-state framework to achieve long-term stability in the region.

"India has made notable relief and rehabilitation contributions and is a top emerging donor of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East)," Jaishankar said.

The East Asia Summit serves as a premier annual Indo-Pacific platform bringing together leaders across East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Oceania, traditionally convened following the annual ASEAN leadership summits.

Will continue backing StartUps, ready to invest in innovative ideas: Omar

mit as a vibrant platform where ideas, innovation, investment, mentorship and government policy converge to foster entrepreneurship and accelerate economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Acknowledging that governments are traditionally cautious about investing in ventures without guaranteed outcomes, the Chief Minister said that building a robust startup ecosystem requires a fundamental shift in approach.

Reiterating the government's commitment, the chief minister said it was prepared to take that risk.

"We are not afraid to fail. The only thing we are afraid of is not putting enough support behind all of you," he said, adding that the government would do everything possible to strengthen both the startup culture and the ecosystem that sustains it.

On the occasion, the chief minister distributed seed fund cheques of Rs 5 lakh each to seven startups to support their entrepreneurial ventures.

Highlighting the innovative spirit of Jammu and Kashmir's youth, he said he draws hope from the practical, ground-level solutions being developed by young entrepreneurs to address everyday challenges.

He cited innovations ranging from sensor-based systems that prevent water pipes from freezing during winter to digitally connected water-usage meters designed to curb wastage, as well as hailstorm protection nets, carbon monoxide detectors and automatic gas regulator shut-off devices.

"ASCEND 2026 is about telling our youngsters that no idea is a bad idea. Every idea has potential; it simply needs refinement," he said, adding that promising concepts should be nurtured until they are ready to attract venture capital investment.

Noting that Jammu and Kashmir currently had around 1,300 to 1,400 registered startups, he expressed confidence that the number would double-and double again-by the time ASCEND 2027 was held.

Referring to a local solar energy entrepreneur as an example, he said timely support to promising startups can help create many more success stories from Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence that ASCEND 2026 would become the launchpad for some of Jammu and Kashmir's future unicorns.

The chief minister also appreciated the young entrepreneurs who showcased their innovations at the exhibition and thanked the delegates and industry experts from outside Jammu and Kashmir for sharing their expertise and supporting the region's growing startup ecosystem.

He also launched the Junior Level Idea Challenge 2026 for the Under-18 school category, Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 for college and university students, the Compendium of Business Opportunities in J&K, the Himalayan Journal, and the Startup Coffee Table Book.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Vikramjeet Singh, thanked participants from across the country for attending the summit, saying their presence reflected growing confidence in Jammu and Kashmir's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir's startup ecosystem has witnessed remarkable growth, with a significant increase in registered startups and MSME registrations, while the government continues to improve the ease of doing business and expand opportunities for entrepreneurs. Describing Jammu and Kashmir as a frontier market with immense potential across multiple sectors, he said investors undertaking due diligence stand to reap substantial returns.

Sharing his views, MLA Pampore Hasnain Masoodi described unemployment as a major challenge and stressed the need to promote entrepreneurship as a means of generating employment. He urged young entrepreneurs to

persevere despite challenges, called for simplifying procedures to encourage innovation, and appreciated JKEDI's role in nurturing startups and strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his address, Director JKEDI, Mohammad Younis Malik, said ASCEND 2026 is more than just a summit and reflects the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence that the event would open new avenues for the startup ecosystem and pave the way for meaningful collaborations in the years ahead.

Committed to betterment of youth: Shah

paper leak cases through the establishment of fast-track courts by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a reflection of this very commitment," he said in a post on X.

"This important step by Prime Minister Narendra Modi against those who toy with the future of the youth due to paper leaks will prove to be a milestone," he said.

Earlier in the day, the PM said the welfare of the country's youth is the top priority of his government and asserted that anyone trying to harm their future will not be spared.

Modi's outreach to the youth came three days after thousands of students led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) took part in the 'Sansad Chalo' march against irregularities in the NEET exam and to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

During the march, police resorted to lathi-charge and lobbed tear gas shells, injuring scores of students. Over 100 policemen were also injured while trying to stop the protest march.

In his message on X, Modi also said that the government has decided to set up fast-track courts to ensure swift and stringent punishment for those involved in paper leaks.

Oppn trying to run away from NEET debate: Rijiju in LS

other Opposition parties on having the debate. Rijiju made these remarks after the House reconvened at noon following an earlier adjournment.

Amid the ruckus over the NEET paper leak issue, the proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm.

As soon as the House met again at noon, Opposition members started shouting slogans and displayed placards. Many of the members were in the Well of the House.

Dilip Saika, who was in the Chair, urged the protesting members to go back to their seats and said that it was not right to disrupt the proceedings.

With the protests continuing, the House was adjourned within 10 minutes after the laying of papers listed for the day.

Earlier during the Question Hour, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urged members to let the House function, describing it as an important part of the day's business.

"The Question Hour is the most important. After the Question Hour, the House is ready to discuss every issue. I will speak to the government, and the government is also ready for discussions. I appeal to all members to participate in the discussion after the Question Hour," Birla said.

For the fourth straight day on Thursday, Question Hour and Zero Hour were disrupted in the Lok Sabha due as Opposition parties pressed for discussions on the NEET paper leak controversy and the demand for the resignation of Pradhan.

Top opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Akhikesh Yadav, on Thursday met Birla amid repeated disruptions of House proceedings over the demand for a debate on the NEET paper leak issue.

TMC leaders Saugata Roy and Mahua Moitra were also present at the meeting.

India adopts declaration on resilient public health systems

BRICS Chairship theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", the minister emphasised that the future of global health depends on building resilient health systems capable of anticipating and responding effectively to emerging public health challenges.

Nadda said that the highest purpose of public health is not merely to treat illness but to prevent disease and promote overall wellbeing.

Presenting India's health priorities under its BRICS Chairship, Nadda highlighted that BRICS countries collectively account for nearly half of the global tuberculosis burden and emphasised that continued strengthening of BRICS TB Research Network would accelerate collaborative research, innovation, operational research and equitable access to new diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines, thereby contributing significantly to global TB elimination efforts.

He also underlined the importance of strengthening collaboration among BRICS Medical Products Regulatory Authorities and welcomed the release of BRICS GxP White Paper, describing it as an important step towards enhancing regulatory excellence, harmonisation, capacity building and ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of medical products.

Stressing the importance of preparedness against future health emergencies, the minister welcomed the establishment of Sub-Working Group on BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for Prevention and Response to Mass Infectious Diseases and the adoption of its Terms of Reference as a significant milestone towards reinforcing regional and global health security.

Highlighting the transformative role of digital technologies in healthcare, Nadda noted that India's experience through Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and e-Sanjeevani telemedicine platform has demonstrated the immense potential of digital public infrastructure to democratise healthcare delivery and improve access, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

He also welcomed the release of BRICS Compendium on Digital Health Architecture for Continuum of Care, including Access to Healthcare in Remote Areas, describing it as a valuable knowledge resource for facilitating co-operation, exchange of best practices and mutual learning among BRICS countries.

The minister further noted that the growing burden of lifestyle-related diseases and non-communicable diseases calls for greater emphasis on preventive healthcare and welcomed the launch of BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle along with BRICS Roadmap for Joint Initiative on Healthy Lifestyle Promotion (2026-2029), which seeks to promote healthy diets, regular physical activity, preservation of traditional food cultures and evidence-based behavioural change across BRICS nations.

Recognising mental health as an essential pillar of Universal Health Coverage, Nadda announced the establishment of BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Mental Wellness, to be coordinated by NIMHANS, as a major institutional initiative to strengthen research, promote mental well-being and narrow treatment gaps across member countries.

He also highlighted the adoption of the operational framework to fight against Diseases Driven by Social Determinants of Health (DD-SDH) and for BRICS Network of National Public Health Institutes, which will provide a durable institutional framework for scientific collaboration, public health intelligence and multi-sectoral action to advance health equity.