

Terror infra largely dismantled, will tear it down further: LG

guish and suffering. The pain lives in memories and in the quiet endurance of those who carried on despite the unbearable losses. Today's appointment letters are not just documents of employment but they are symbols of social justice, recognition and the nation's solemn promise that its martyrs will never be forgotten, nor their families abandoned," he said.

"Our commitment is reflected in decisive action. After August 5, 2019, we have dismantled the terror ecosystem to a large extent, strengthened law & order, restored equal rights and created opportunities that allow families to rebuild their lives with confidence. The transformation we witness today in J&K is due to the historic August 5, 2019 changes. That day marked a constitutional correction and a new beginning for the UT. Discriminatory barriers were removed, equal rights were extended to those who had been suffering due to discriminatory laws," he added.

"The principle of one nation, one flag, one constitution was fully implemented, and one standard of dignity, justice, and opportunity for all the Indian citizens was upheld," the LG said.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the marginalised groups, tribals, displaced persons from PoJK and Chhamb and refugees have received legal rights, such as full citizenship, voting rights and ownership rights over property, under the Constitution of India. Farmers and artisans are creating new opportunities. Our universities, colleges, research and incubation centres are preparing the new generation for global competition," he said.

"The terror victim families receiving appointment letters today are among the many beneficiaries of this new order post abrogation of Article 370. Their cases, delayed for decades, have finally been addressed. This is not compensation for the loss because no money, no job, no paper can replace a loved one. It is, however, an assurance that the nation stands beside them and we are determined to help rebuild their lives and restore their dignity," he added.

Due to Articles 370 & 35A, the terror ecosystem was operating with impunity and their aim was to fracture the society, spread fear and silence the hope and dream, he said.

"After abrogation of Article 370, the evil designs of the neighbouring country and terror ecosystem operating in the valley were foiled. The J&K people have chosen peace over violence, education over indoctrination, jobs over dependency, and dignity over despair. The young generation deserves a future free of fear and that is the future we are building together under the leadership of PM Modi," he said.

"Our work is about justice, development, and inclusion. Peace must be anchored in opportunity. A society, that trusts its institutions, becomes resilient against fear. A family, that receives services without discrimination, becomes a stakeholder in peace and progress. A youth empowered with education and employment is empowered to fight separatism and terrorism. Justice for terror victims is moving with speed and sincerity because it is a national obligation," he added.

"No grievance is being ignored, no family will be left invisible. Justice delayed has caused enough suffering. Now justice to the terror victim families is timely, humane, responsive and consistent. This day also sends a message to the enemies of peace that terrorism cannot defeat a determined nation. Its handlers from across the border may conspire in darkness, but the light of justice will find them. J&K's future will be written by its youth, its workers, its farmers, its teachers, its women and all who believe in peace and progress," Sinha said. He called upon people to remember this day as a turning point, when wounds of common man were acknowledged, suffering was met with swift action, equal rights were provided to all, discriminatory laws were revoked and the nation renewed its resolve to secure a brighter future for Jammu & Kashmir.

"We are absolutely resolved to dismantle the terror network, bring its perpetrators and enablers to justice and secure for every citizen of UT a life of peace, equality, and hope. Under the leadership of PM Modi, discrimination ended in 2019, with J&K ushering in a new era of social justice and inclusive development. Today, the UT is advancing with renewed confidence, and all-around development is driving peace and prosperity," he said.

"By ending the system that bred discrimination and terrorism, PM Modi had made it clear that in Jammu & Kashmir, lamps of prosperity would not burn only in a select few 'palaces' but also in the huts of the poor. Today, after 33 years, a lamp has been lit in the home of martyr Wali Mohammad Wani of Shopian. On July 16, 1993, Wali Mohammad was killed by terrorists. Today, not only his family but the entire Shopian feels connected to the national mainstream," the LG said.

"Industrial growth witnessed by Jammu & Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370 is unprecedented. The PM has

also fulfilled the decades-long dream of rail travel from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. In 2025-26, J&K saw an investment of Rs 5,824 cr, which is 13 times the average investment in the period before 2021. Jammu Airport and Srinagar Airport are being expanded and connectivity is being further strengthened by the GoI. The PM is committed to double hydroelectric power generation by 2028," he said.

Issuing a stern warning to conflict profiteers, he said the days of those with corrupt intentions, including individuals attempting to influence the system, were officially over. He warned that anyone trying to cause disruptions would face severe consequences.

Among those present on the occasion included chief secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, principal secretary (home) Chandraker Bharti, GAD secretary M Raju, IGP (Kashmir) V K Birdi, divisional commissioner Anshul Garg, senior officials, members of various social organisations and family members of the victims of terrorism.

Terrorist hideout busted

rounds of ammunition, and 17 rounds of 9-mm pistol ammunition. The hideout was later destroyed by the forces, officials said.

Security forces had yesterday launched massive search operations in over a dozen forested villages of Surankote, following reports suggesting the movement of two separate groups of suspected terrorists in Dhara Sangla and Gujjar Naar.

Security forces also conducted search operations in Akhnoor sector of Jammu and Hiranagar sector of Kathua, following reports of suspicious activity.

Pension rules for ex-legislators amended

Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members' Pension Act, 1984, substitutes the definition of "Presiding Officer" in the rules.

The amendment was issued by the department in exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members' Pension Act, 1984.

CB files chargesheet in 17-yr-old case

sis of reliable information regarding large-scale irregularities in the functioning of the Regional Transport Office (RTO) Jammu, resulting in a loss of lakhs of rupees to the government exchequer.

During investigation, it was found that one-time token tax collected from vehicle owners was fraudulently recorded less in cash books, leading to the alleged misappropriation of over Rs 12.97 lakh, officials said.

The investigation also unearthed the use of fake driving institute certificates, fabricated documents and forged attestations for obtaining Public Service Vehicles (PSV) driving licence endorsements, the officials added.

The investigation, supported by seized records, witness statements and the forensic opinion of FSL, Jammu, established that fake PSV driving certificates were allegedly prepared in a conspired manner by Kulbhushan Sharma, Managing Director of Shivam Institute of Driving and Maintenance, and Raj Kumar, officials said.

Officials said the beneficiaries stated that they had never undergone the mandatory training at the institute, despite certificates having been issued in their names.

Investigation also revealed that records of the institute had been destroyed to conceal the fraudulent activities, officials said.

Rs 15 lakh bounty for terrorist who killed cop

killings of a head constable at Lal Chowk in Anantnag district of the valley last month.

Police have put up his posters at prominent places in Kashmir, seeking reliable information about the terrorist who shot dead head constable Ashiq Hussain at Lal Chowk on July 22.

The law-enforcing agencies have put up photographs of Bhat, taken from CCTV screen grabs after he shot dead the cop in a crowded market area.

He is said to be a resident of Kulgam.

J&K, Ladakh witnessed huge transformation since Art 370 abrogation: Modi

On August 5, 2019, the BJP-led Centre abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"We reaffirm our commitment to the progress of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh and to ensure that every citizen has the opportunity to dream big, achieve and contribute to the making of a Viksit Bharat," he added.

PM Modi said "August 5 this year assumes even greater significance as this is the year the nation commemorates the 125th birth anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee".

"His lifelong commitment to national unity continues to inspire generations. What he envisioned decades ago found historic fulfilment on 5th August 2019," he said.

Mookerjee was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the precursor of ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. He had fought for full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India by scrapping Article 370.

Born on July 6, 1901, Mookerjee died under detention on June 23, 1953 in Srinagar.

On UT Foundation Day, Saxena highlights development journey

Addressing the gathering, he described August 5 as a defining moment in Ladakh's history, and said that "dPal rNgam Duston" had evolved into a celebration of Ladakh's identity, culture, resilience and collective aspirations while symbolising unity among its people.

"The journey of Ladakh as a Union Territory has been one of transformation, resilience and collective progress. Our endeavour has been to build an inclusive, sustainable and future-ready Ladakh while preserving its unique cultural identity and fragile ecology. The remarkable achievements across governance, infrastructure, tourism, healthcare, education, environment and sports reflect the collective efforts of our people and the unwavering support of the Government of India under the leadership of PM Modi. As we move towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, we remain committed to building a prosperous, peaceful and self-reliant Ladakh that offers equal opportunities to every citizen," the LG said.

Highlighting the remarkable transformation witnessed over the past seven years, he said the UT administration had focused on decentralised governance, sustainable development and improved public service delivery. On this occasion, he highlighted the development in various sectors/areas in Ladakh after becoming the Union Territory:

"Ladakh has emerged as one of the country's leading examples of environmentally sustainable development. The complete prohibition on chemical fertilisers to realise the vision of making Ladakh India's largest certified organic region, the launch of Project Him Sarovar for water conservation, the Green Ladakh Campaign, restoration of degraded land and the promotion of renewable energy through solar and geothermal initiatives," he said.

On the occasion, Sinha announced conferment of "dPal rNgam Award 2026" upon Gyalwang Drukpa Rinpoche in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the fields of health, education, gender equality, and environment and heritage protection.

He also announced conferment of "dPal rNgam Lifetime Achievement Award 2026" upon Late Col Sonam Wangchuk, Maha Vir Chakra, in recognition of his unparalleled courage, distinguished military service and enduring contribution to the nation.

Cabinet Secy, Home Secy get one-year extension

the Tamil Nadu cadre, was appointed to the post for two years in August 2024.

The ACC has also approved a one-year extension in the service of Home Secretary Mohan beyond August 22, 2026, that is up to August 22, 2027, in relaxation of the provisions of Fundamental Rule (FR) 56 (d) and Rule 16 (1A) of the All-India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, the order said.

The rules have a provision to extend the services of the defence secretary, foreign secretary, home secretary, director of the Intelligence Bureau, secretary of the Research and Analysis Wing, and a few others beyond the retirement age of 60 years.

Mohan, a 1989-batch IAS officer of Sikkim cadre, was appointed Home Secretary in August 2024.

India rejects Pak's 'Day of Exploitation' observance

He said the constitutional changes introduced in 2019 had "brought unprecedented socio-economic development, good governance, and democratic empowerment to the people of the region," adding that "Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on matters that are strictly internal to India."

The spokesperson accused Islamabad of attempting to divert global attention from its domestic record.

"Pakistan's desperate attempts to peddle falsehoods are intended solely to deflect international attention from its own dismal human rights record and its status as the global epicentre of terrorism," he said.

Jaiswal also criticised Pakistan's handling of the situation in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), alleging that its security forces had used excessive force against protesters in recent weeks.

"The international community is currently witnessing the brutal suppression of fundamental rights in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)," he said, adding that "in recent weeks, Pakistani security forces have resorted to lethal violence, targeted killings, and draconian bans to silence peaceful civil rights protests led by the local populace."

Referring to reports of casualties during the protests, Jaiswal said, "Such state-sponsored violence against unarmed civilians exposes the profound hypocrisy of the Pakistani establishment."

He urged Pakistan to "stop the bloodshed in PoJK, take credible, verifiable, and irreversible action against terror networks operating from its soil, and immediately vacate all Indian territories under its illegal and forcible occupation."

News outlets can use audio-video clips of proceedings for reporting: SC

on the court proceedings, they shall nonetheless remain bound by the restrictions set out in paragraph 10," the bench said in its order passed on July 31.

The news organisations, however, will have to follow the restrictions set out in paragraph 10 of the July 24 order. "As an interim measure, it is directed that there shall be no extraction, modification, dissemination, monetisation, posting, reposting and uploading of audio-video recordings of judicial proceedings on social media or other digital platforms without prior permission of the secretary general of this court or the registrar general of the jurisdictional high courts," the bench had said.

The top court had also issued notices to the Centre and others, including some social media platforms, seeking their responses on the plea filed by journalist Harshita Grover. Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioner, said the issue raised in the petition was very important.

Dwivedi appointed as NDMC chief

ing the reorganisation of the former state, will assume charge on the date of his joining and will continue in the post until further orders.

In a separate notification, the ministry said the central government had made the appointment in exercise of its powers under the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has also sought publication of the notification in the Delhi Gazette (Extraordinary).

Earlier, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved his repatriation from his post as Additional Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances

and Pensions, to his parent AGMUT cadre on the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The repatriation was approved with the imposition of an extended cooling-off period.

Amarnath Yatra suspended; no fresh batch allowed to leave for valley

cially 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 also been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra had marked the beginning of the country's one of the 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 when the pilgrimage would come to an end, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

Omar announces 5-marla plots for flood-hit Poonch families

ble loss.

At Surankote, the chief minister interacted with affected families and a delegation from Sangla, Darra Sangla and Lower Sangla. The delegation apprised him of the extensive damage caused to residential houses, agricultural land and infrastructure, besides the tragic loss of lives.

Abdullah also visited Arigam-Loran, where he met the family of Mohammad Rafiq and Riaz Ahmed, who lost seven members of their family in the flash floods. He prayed for the departed souls and conveyed his profound condolences to the grieving family.

Interacting with the affected residents, the chief minister patiently heard their grievances and hardships arising from the natural calamity. He assured them that the government stands firmly with every affected family and would ensure all possible relief, rehabilitation and assistance.

Announcing a major rehabilitation measure, he said that families, who had been rendered landless due to the disaster, would be provided 5-marla plots for their resettlement.

Referring to the unprecedented nature of the disaster, he said it was unfortunate that cloudbursts remain difficult to predict with the existing technological capabilities.

He said the government would explore the adoption of advanced early-warning technologies to improve disaster preparedness and help minimise the loss of lives and property in the future.

Later, the chief minister chaired a review meeting to assess the rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken by the district administration in the aftermath of the disaster. He directed officers to expedite damage assessment, ensure immediate relief and restore essential services.

He appreciated the prompt, coordinated and dedicated response of the civil administration and other agencies involved in relief operations.

He particularly commended the Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Poonch, for their proactive leadership and timely interventions that helped save lives and ensure swift assistance to the affected population.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana, MLA Poonch-Haveli Aijaz Ahmed Jan, MLA Surankote Choudhary Mohammad Akram, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, senior district officers and other concerned officials.

Jitendra briefs LS about El Nino, its impact

2027, with forecast probabilities ranging between 70 and 90 per cent.

The assessment is based on INCOIS' indigenous Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML)-based El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) prediction system together with the Global Ocean Data Assimilation System.

Singh explained that while El Nino has historically been associated with weaker Indian Summer Monsoon rainfall over parts of the country, it is not the sole determinant of the monsoon. The Indian monsoon is influenced by several interacting climate drivers, including the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) and regional ocean-atmosphere interactions.

He said that while the current outlook points to the persistence of El Niño, its eventual impact on the Indian monsoon will depend on the evolution of associated ocean-atmosphere conditions, including the Indian Ocean Dipole and prevailing wind patterns during the monsoon season. Therefore, the situation continues to be closely monitored through advanced forecasting systems.

He said the evolving El Nino may influence atmospheric circulation over the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal and could increase the likelihood of marine heatwaves because of persistent warming over these regions. These changes may affect ocean mixing, nutrient availability and biological productivity, with implications for fish distribution and coastal marine ecosystems. Variations in wave and swell conditions may also impact navigation, offshore operations and coastal activities.

Art 370 abrogation marked new era of equality in J&K: Kavinder

prived sections had long-standing aspirations for equal opportunities and constitutional safeguards. The abrogation of Article 370 ensured that the full benefits of the Constitution of India and various welfare measures reached all citizens, opening new avenues for education, employment, social justice and socio-economic empowerment, Gupta said. "Being a resident of Jammu & Kashmir, I have closely witnessed the aspirations of its people for peace, dignity, prosperity and development. The historic decision has opened new possibilities for accelerated growth, improved governance, better infrastructure and inclusive empowerment," he added.

"The rich cultural heritage, diversity and resilience of Jammu & Kashmir have always been a matter of pride for the entire nation. Today, the Union Territory is moving forward with renewed confidence on the path of peace, progress and development.

On this significant occasion, I reaffirm my commitment to the unity, integrity and progress of our nation and extend my best wishes to the people of Jammu & Kashmir for a bright and prosperous future," the governor said.

Dir Panchayati Raj reviews GPD 2026-27 progress

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 05:

Director Panchayati Raj, Jammu and Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPD) 2026-27 across all 20 districts of the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs), Block Development Officers (BDOs), staff of State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC) and District Panchayat Resource Centre (DPRC).

The Director reviewed district-wise progress, pendency status and Action Taken Reports with a focus on accelerating the completion and uploading of GPDs on the e-GramSwaraj portal.

The Director stressed the need for time-bound completion of all pending GPD parameters. He reviewed district-wise performance and sought explanations from officers wherever progress remained unsatisfactory.

He directed officers to immediately



resolve such bottlenecks in coordination with the technical teams and ensure uninterrupted uploading of plans.

During the meeting, the Director instructed district officers to pay special attention to 285 Panchayats requiring focused handholding, particularly those yet to complete basic profile updates. Officers were instructed to ensure that these Panchayats improve their planning quality and achieve scores above 80, as they are under close monitoring by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Reviewing the overall progress, the

Director noted that out of 4,291 Gram Panchayats, 3,627 GPDs had been approved while only 1,294 plans had been uploaded on the portal, indicating a significant gap requiring immediate attention.

He directed officers to convert approved plans into uploads on priority and ensure that facilitator feedback, Gram Sabha evidence and Public Information Board images are uploaded without delay.

The meeting also highlighted the need to improve the quality of uploaded plans by ensuring that activities reflected on the portal accurately match the resolutions passed during Gram Sabhas, Mahila Sabhas and Bal Sabhas.

The Director directed them to identify practical solutions rather than merely reporting problems and instructed that all pending land and infrastructure-related issues be resolved within two days. The review also covered the construction of Panchayat Ghars, availability of land, inter-departmental coordination and project implementation status.