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LG pays tributes to victims, recalls their sacrifices

The LG paid heartfelt tributes to all those citizens who had endured unimaginable suffering during the partition of 1947 and whose sacrifices continue to inspire generations.

He recalled their sacrifices and urged everyone to foster unity, peace and national integration.

"The wounds of partition continue to exist as a pain in the collective consciousness of every Indian," he said.

"Decades after the partition, their sacrifice reminds us that the wound remains unhealed, lingering as a generational pain in India's collective soul. On Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, we are not merely recalling the past but we are giving voice to those millions whose voices were taken away from them. I wish to reiterate with firm resolve that we will not allow their pain to be buried in the dust of history," he added.

"Remembering them is fulfilling our duty towards humanity. We will preserve their memories. Remembering them with complete truthfulness, honesty, and utmost sensitivity is the most sacred tribute. I believe that their stories are an indelible chapter of our national consciousness, and their sacrifices will forever remain alive in the soul of Mother India," the LG said.

He called upon the people of Jammu & Kashmir to treat this day as an occasion of introspection and national resolve. He called upon the youth, farmers, workers, and women to rise with courage and determination, and turn the pace of time towards progress and harmony.

Sinha praised the resilience of people who rebuilt their lives with courage and enriched the country's social fabric and cultural heritage with historic traditions and values.

"Today's occasion is an opportunity to acknowledge the pain of the past and strengthen our unwavering commitment to peace, harmony and national unity. This day reminds us that only the lessons of history can make the future secure and humane," he said.

He said the partition divided families and displaced communities from Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Chhamb. He paid tributes to those who faced decades-long discrimination within the UT due to Article 370.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended their suffering and granted them equal rights like any other citizen of the country.

The LG also paid tribute to the countless families who sacrificed during the tribal invasion months after partition.

"Within a few months of partition, enemies of the nation carried out terror attack under the cover of tribal invasions. Indian Army and people fought bravely. The struggle and sacrifice of countless families are an integral part of the collective memory of Jammu & Kashmir. Today, I humbly pay tributes to the patience, hard work, and unbroken patriotism of all those families," he said.

He emphasised that partition is not merely history but a living memory of millions of families. He urged them to learn from the experiences of the past, to reject enmity and communal bitterness, and to build bridges of trust. He called upon them to construct a developed India that is inclusive and empowered.

"The youth of Jammu & Kashmir must ensure that the mistakes of the past are never repeated in the future.

Where walls were once raised, you must build bridges of trust and construct a Viksit Bharat that is inclusive," the LG said.

He reminded the gathering that India's strength lies in its diversity. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Gujarat to Goa, from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh, India is a confluence of languages, cultures, traditions, and beliefs, he said.

"Through partition, enemies of the nation tried to destroy this spirit of unity in diversity, but India has continuously moved forward with pride and confidence. We must take a pledge to acquaint future generations with the pain of partition, to strengthen peace and harmony, and to ensure that such a tragedy is never repeated. Building a self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir is a shared duty and national unity remains the bedrock of our strength, security and collective progress," he said.

He visited the photo exhibition on Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. A Two-minute silence was also observed in the memory of those who lost their lives during the Partition of India.

The event also featured a moving theatrical performance by the artists that brought to light the trauma, hardship, and displacement experienced by millions during the Partition.

Among those present on the occasion included chief secretary Atal Dulloo, additional chief secretary (Jal Shakti Department) Shaleen Kabra, principal secretary (culture) Brij Mohan Sharma, senior officials and prominent citizens from different walks of life.

Op Sindoore sent firm message to terrorists: Prez

that making India Naxal-free is a major achievement of the government.

Without naming Pakistan, the President said the Indus Waters Treaty has been suspended with a country that "harbours terrorism".

She said India takes pride in its tradition of overcoming the forces hostile to humanity, for upholding truth and justice. She recalled that the country observed Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26.

The President highlighted the prowess of the Indian military and said that Operation Sindoore, carried out in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, demonstrated the capability of the Indian Armed Forces to act with precision.

"On the May 7, we commemorated the completion of one year since the launch of Operation Sindoore. We remembered the unmatched valour of our Armed Forces. That historic operation against terrorism demonstrated the capability of the Indian Armed Forces to act with precision. It sent a clear and firm message to terrorists and those who support them, that no matter where they hide, they will have to face the consequences of their actions," she said.

"Suspension of Indus Waters Treaty with the country that harbours terrorism is a decisive step in the interest of our nation, especially the farmers," she added.

Operation Sindoore was launched by India in response to the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam, in which 26 people were killed. The attack was carried out by Pakistan-backed terrorists who targeted civilians after asking about their religion. The attack was seen as an attempt to trigger communal tensions in India.

India targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoJK under Operation Sindoore to punish the perpetrators and planners of terrorism and destroy terror camps and training facilities. Following escalation by Pakistan, India pounded its airbases, forcing it to seek a ceasefire. All three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack were killed in 'Operation Mahadev' by the Army, CRPF, and J-K Police.

A decisive move under Operation Sindoore was India's termination of the Indus Waters Treaty.

The government said that the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect, until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism. This has far-reaching consequences for Pakistan, a country heavily dependent on the Indus River system for 80% of its 16 million hectares of agricultural land and 93 pc of its total water use.

In her Address, the President said that for decades, Naxalism posed a serious challenge to the nation but today enthusiasm prevails in the affected areas due to the efforts of security forces.

"Making India Naxal free is a major achievement. Today, enthusiasm prevails in the areas once affected by Naxalism. All-inclusive development is underway in these regions," she said.

President Murmu said a large number of players took part in the Bastar Olympics, and many artists showcased their talent in Bastar Pandum, which were enjoyed by large number of people.

53 police personnel among I-Day awardees

valuable service, resourcefulness and devotion to duty.

One personnel from J&K Home Guard & Civil Defence has also been awarded MSM. The medals were announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the eve of Independence Day.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Sarfaraz Bashir has been awarded the second bar to the Medal for Gallantry, while Head Constable Rayeesh Ahmad Reshi and Selection Grade Constable Ishfaq Ahmed Khan have been awarded the first bar to the GM.

The other GM recipients are Waseem Mohi-Ud-Din Lone, Manzoor Ahmad, Mudasir Ahmad, Ashak Hussain P, Kishore Kumar, Javid Iqbal Jan, Mohinder Singh, Sheeraz Ahmad, Surinder Paul, Ishfaq Ahmad Reshi, Tanveer Hussain Lone, Mudasir Ahmad Shah, Kalu Din, Adit Kumar Nad, Mohd Usman, Shabir Ahmad Malik, Manzoor Ahmad Ganie, Khurshid Ahmed Wani, Mushtaq Ahmad Shah, Ab Rashid Mir, Mohamad Shafi Banday, Abdul Rashid, Zahoor Ahmad, Zahoor Ahmad, Dheeraj Kumar, Shakir Hassan, Vikram Nag, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan and Tariq Ahmad.

The 13 J&K Police personnel selected for the Medal for Meritorious Service are SP Sandeep Kumar, SP Amit Gupta, DSP Rajesh Sharma, DSP Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, DSP Kuljeet Singh, DSP Sharat Chander Singh, Inspector Shamim Ahmed, Inspector Vikram Singh, ASI Bodh Raj, Inspector Mumin Ahmad Rather, ASI Mushtaq Ahmed, Sub-Inspector Manzoor Ahmad Gada and Constable Ashraf Gull.

Separately, one J&K Home Guard and Civil Defence personnel has also been selected for the Medal for Meritorious Service.

The honours recognise personnel for acts of gallantry and distinguished and meritorious service in police and other uniformed services on the occasion of Independence Day.

LG's message on occasion of Independence Day



My dear brothers and sisters of Jammu Kashmir,

On the auspicious occasion of our 80th Independence Day, I convey warm greetings and good wishes to all. Today we bow our heads in homage to the memory of all the leaders, fighters, and martyrs of our Freedom Struggle.

On this occasion, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our Armed Forces, Paramilitary Forces, State Police, and all other agencies working tirelessly to protect the nation's sovereignty and integrity. We honor the supreme sacrifice of the brave hearts who laid down their lives in the line of duty. Warmest felicitations to the hard-working farmers, diligent workers, business community, scientists, teachers, innovators, craftsmen, civil society groups, Nari Shakti and Yuva Shakti of Jammu Kashmir. You have all played a vital role in raising the stature of our Union Territory and we couldn't be prouder of your contributions. Let us cherish the diversity behind our strength, while fiercely protecting our national unity and integrity at any cost. This is the core message of Independence Day.

Jammu Kashmir has firmly set out on a path of rapid socio-economic growth, witnessing remarkable progress over the past few years. The Union Territory has received a powerful developmental boost, with numerous mega projects nearing completion. Work on key infrastructure initiatives is also advancing at a swift pace, ensuring that the benefits of development reach every corner of the region. I am confident that we will scale new heights of prosperity in the near future.

On this joyous occasion, let us renew our commitment to moving forward together and building a strong, self-reliant, and developed Jammu Kashmir. I urge all citizens of the Union Territory to join hands in safeguarding peace and prosperity. The day is fast approaching when our beloved Jammu Kashmir will emerge as one of the leading developed regions in the country, significantly contributing to the vision of a developed India.

Once again, I wish you all a very Happy Independence Day.

Jai Hind!

CS reviews measures to strengthen J&K's handicrafts

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 14:

With nearly 5 lakh artisans and weavers now registered and handicraft exports running in billions, Jammu & Kashmir is steadily expanding the institutional and market ecosystem around its traditional crafts, with Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today taking stock of the initiatives underway to further consolidate this momentum across the Union Territory.

The review meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Director, Industries, Jammu; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir/Jammu; Managing Director, J&K Handicrafts & Handloom Corporation (JKHHMC); and senior representatives of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, Craft Development Institute (CDI) and Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar.

The Chief Secretary undertook a detailed assessment of the initiatives aimed at upgrading laboratories, developing craft villages and Common Facility Centres (CFCs), strengthening wool processing and testing facilities, promoting quality assurance and GI-tagging, besides improving market linkages and access to institutional credit for artisans and weavers.

The Chief Secretary directed the Department to expedite completion of all ongoing projects in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, observing that the benefits of these investments should reach artisans and the wider craft ecosystem on the ground without delay.

He laid particular emphasis on strengthening the quality-testing and certification ecosystem, including upgradation of laboratories, development of craft vil-

lages, CFCs for dyeing and other specialised activities, wool processing facilities, testing infrastructure and GI-tagging of finished products.

Dulloo called for introduction of vocational and skill-oriented courses at NIFT Srinagar, including diploma and certificate programmes, to provide local youth greater access to the national-level institution. He observed that such courses could also contribute towards preservation and revival of traditional and dying crafts by creating a new generation of skilled artisans. On GI-tagged products, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for an effective traceability and tracking mechanism to establish the authenticity of products reaching the market. He directed the Department to ascertain and maintain a clear record of the number of GI-tagged products manufactured and labelled so far.

The Chief Secretary further called for leveraging Internet of Things (IoT)-based technology to determine the working hours and effort involved in producing individual craft products. He observed that such data could help ensure that remuneration paid to artisans is commensurate with the time and skill invested, thereby protecting their earning potential and making traditional crafts economically viable for the younger generation.

Earlier the Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh highlighted that the sector has maintained a strong export trajectory, with handicraft exports reaching ₹817.39 Cr during FY 2025-26 and ₹73.85 Cr already been recorded during the first quarter of ensuing financial year.

He further divulged that a substantial expansion of the sector's institutional base,



with 4,61,381 artisans and weavers registered across Jammu & Kashmir with another 13,264 artisans been registered, including 7,919 in Kashmir and 5,345 in Jammu this year.

Giving further details a presentation was made by Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Musarat-ul-Islam, apprising that the Department is actively promoting the Credit Card Scheme for Artisans/Weavers, under which beneficiaries can avail credit support of up to ₹2 lakh, backed by 7 per cent interest subvention for five years.

Adding that during the current financial year, 2,750 cases have been sponsored this year resulting in disbursement of ₹868.60 lakh so far to the artisans of the UT.

It was made out that the Department has analysed 1,63,875 artisans in Kashmir and 34,520 in Jammu for credit coverage. While around 56 per cent have been covered under credit schemes, the remaining 44 per cent have been identified for focused financial onboarding.

The process of data synchronisation and automated interest subsidy is also being strengthened through J&K

Bank API integration and Aadhaar seeding, facilitating more efficient delivery of financial benefits.

The meeting was also apprised about the progress made under the Department's capital expenditure programme. It was revealed that at Sonpah Craft Village, Budgam, a formal land transfer order has been issued to the Industries & Commerce Department. Against the total project cost of ₹10 Cr, the first tranche of ₹4.50 Cr has already been released.

The Pashmina Testing & Quality Certification Centre (PTQCC) has been substantially upgraded with five advanced equipment categories, including a Projection Microscope, OFDA-4000, two High-Resolution Digital Microscopes and a Scanning Electron Microscope. The enhanced infrastructure has increased testing capacity nearly three-fold, reduced the testing waitlist by around 40 per cent to 30-45 days and raised throughput to 120-140 tests per day.

Similarly in Jammu division the Director, H&H Jammu, Mohammad Nazir Sheikh gave out that three Common Facility Centres for bamboo product diversification and agarbatti man-

ufacturing have also been completed at Sallan, Sumb and Billawar, at project costs of ₹2.87 Cr, ₹3.42 Cr and ₹3.39 Cr respectively. The presentation highlighted J&K's growing distinction in quality assurance and intellectual-property protection, with 63 crafts registered under GI, comprising 39 crafts from Kashmir and 24 from Jammu.

A total of 97,178 GI labels have so far been issued, including 14,714 during the current financial year.

In a significant technological milestone, the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, has GI-tagged and labelled 22,500 carpets using QR-code technology, enabling enhanced authentication and traceability of the products.

The Department is pursuing further expansion of the GI portfolio, with six new crafts proposed for GI registration in Kashmir, including Copperware and Wagguv reed mats, while 10 new dossiers for Jammu crafts, including Jammu Dogri Suit and Palm Leaf Craft, are under evaluation.

The meeting was informed that collaborations with national institutions are being leveraged to bridge traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design,

skills and markets.

Training programmes under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative are being undertaken in collaboration with NIFT Srinagar. A proposal for dedicated 15-day, one-month and one-year certificate/diploma courses has also been submitted to the Administrative Department.

Further, 1,871 artisans and weavers have been onboarded onto the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), providing them an additional avenue to access wider markets and reduce dependence on intermediary channels.

The meeting also reviewed the timelines for development of the proposed flagship shopping destinations aimed at providing prominent market platforms to local handicrafts, handlooms and other products.

In this direction the tender for the PM Ekta Mall at Rail Head, Jammu is scheduled to be floated soon, with work allotment targeted by mid October and commencement of construction by the end of month. Similarly for Kashmir Haat, Srinagar, the PM Unity Mall spread over 1.77 lakh sq. ft. with 61 commercial units, is scheduled to enter the tendering stage with e-NIT proposed to be floated followed by opening of bids on September 14, 2026.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that the combined focus on infrastructure, quality certification, GI protection, affordable credit, skill development and digital market access should translate into higher and more sustainable incomes for artisans, while preserving J&K's rich traditional craft heritage and positioning its products more strongly in national and international markets.