

INBRIEF

5 Pakistanis arrested with 526 kg drugs

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said Gujarat ATS, Indian Coast Guard and Central intelligence agencies arrested five Pakistani nationals after seizing 526 kg of Methamphetamine and Heroin from an Iranian boat in a joint operation.

In a post on X, Shah said the Centre is determined to shield its youth from the scourge of drugs.

The operation took place in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone 160 nautical miles northwest of Lakshadweep and 490 NM southwest of Mumbai, Shah said.

"Five Pakistani nationals have been arrested, with further investigation underway to identify the wider network and its intended receivers. Upholding a stellar example of coordination and

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MHA: Musa's killing a major blow to LeT

SRINAGAR: Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit has suffered a "serious blow" with the killing of its senior commander Mohd Asif alias 'Musa' during an encounter in higher reaches of Budgam in central Kashmir, a spokesman of the Union Home Ministry said on Wednesday.

In an intelligence-led joint operation by security forces, Musa, also known as Asif Fauji, was neutralised on Tuesday at Gurwatkalan in the Khansahib

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Oppn renews 'Ballot Paper' demand, march to EC on Oct 6

NEW DELHI: INDIA bloc on Wednesday finalised a joint action plan over the SIR row, including holding rallies and 'save democracy marches', with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge assenting that all parties agreed that elections should be held through ballot papers instead of EVMs.

The opposition grouping made the assertion after a three-and-a-half hour meeting of its leaders, including Kharge, former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, TMC chief

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J-K Assembly adjourned Sine Die

Speaker directs Govt to notify new Car Policy within 15 days

CM sabotaged Statehood by linking it with Pre 1953 status, Art 370: LoP Sunil Sharma

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was adjourned sine die on Wednesday after a ten-day Autumn Session.

After a seven-hour-long sitting on Wednesday, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather adjourned the House sine die. Rather said the assembly saw seven sittings spanning 25 hours over ten days. The



speaker said a total of 646 questions were received, 328 of them starred.

He said 625 questions were listed, one was withdrawn, while 25 were disallowed. Rather said 79 calling attention notices were received, of which 23 were disallowed and 56 allowed.

Two government resolutions were moved, and both were adopted; 70 private resolutions were

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J-K Govt to draft norms for social media journalists

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is working on a new media policy to regulate the mushrooming of social media journalists, the Legislative Assembly was informed on Wednesday.

Responding to a question from National Conference (NC) MLA Bashir Veeri, Minister Sakina Itoo said the Assembly's House Committee, constituted

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AAP MLA marshalled out of J-K Assembly

SRINAGAR: AAP MLA from Jammu and Kashmir's Doda, Mehraj Malik, was on Wednesday marshalled out of the Legislative Assembly here after he went to the well of the House to register his protest for not being allowed to speak.

Malik went into the well of the House while the Question Hour was going on, alleging

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Protect Ladakh Region, Honour India's 'Himalayan Inheritance'



Shivang Satya Gupta
Editor-in-Chief

Ladakh's future must safeguard its people while recognising the contribution of Gulab Singh and Zorawar Singh to the consolidation of Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir.

Ladakh's future concerns its people, their rights and their aspirations. It also concerns India's Himalayan frontier—a vast and strategically consequential geography whose historical formation deserves careful recognition.

Ashish Kundra's September 24 article in The Indian Express makes a welcome case for dialogue, accommodation and protection of Ladakh's land, employment, culture and environment. These objectives deserve serious consideration. Its historical introduction, however, needs greater precision and a fuller appreciation of the territorial inheritance that connects Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir.

The article places the end of Ladakh's sovereignty in 1834 and links the Dogra campaign directly to its incorporation into the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. This compresses several distinct military and political developments into a single event.

General Zorawar Singh began his Ladakh campaign in 1834 under Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu, then operating under Maharaja Ranjit Singh's overlordship. The unified princely state of

Jammu and Kashmir emerged in 1846, following the Treaty of Amritsar. Dogra control over Ladakh preceded that development.

The distinction restores Jammu's role in the formation of the state. It also identifies the political leadership and military command behind a transformation whose significance extended far beyond the fortunes of one dynasty.

Maharaja Gulab Singh supplied the political leadership. General Zorawar Singh commanded the Himalayan campaigns. Together, their actions helped establish the territorial framework within which Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir were subsequently consolidated.

Their achievement must be understood in its nineteenth-century setting. They were expanding dynastic authority; they were not acting on behalf of a modern Indian republic that did not yet exist. Nevertheless, the territorial consequences of their actions became part of the inheritance of independent India.

That distinction allows us to recognise their national significance without attributing modern political intentions to historical figures.

The idea of India includes both its civilisational relationships and the political processes through which its territories came together. Himalayan passes, pilgrimage routes, trade networks

and cultural exchanges connected communities across these mountains long before the modern nation-state. Political consolidation gave a more definite territorial structure to some of those relationships.

The Dogra contribution belongs within that larger story.

Jammu provided the political base from which Maharaja Gulab Singh expanded his authority. General Zorawar Singh's campaigns established Dogra power in Ladakh. The subsequent formation of Jammu and Kashmir brought these distinct regions within a common state. That state's accession to India in 1947 connected this territorial inheritance to the emerging Union.

The significance of this history becomes clearer when viewed from the Himalayan frontier.

Mountains may appear remote from the plains, but their passes, valleys and routes shape access, defence and communication. For India, Ladakh's importance cannot be measured by population alone. Nor can it be reduced to a picturesque landscape or a collection of isolated settlements.

Its frontier position gives it a national significance that must accompany every discussion of its governance. The welfare and confidence of its inhabitants are themselves essential to the strength of that

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Operation Drishti living embodiment of service, compassion, courage: LG

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday attended the closing ceremony of 11th Mega Eye Surgery Camp organised under Operation Drishti, which marks another milestone in the Indian Army's healthcare outreach in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh and commended the Indian Army for their dedication. The Lieutenant Gov-



ernor also appreciated the selfless service of Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra and his team.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that Operation Drishti is a living embodiment of service, compassion, courage, and resolve. He highlighted that 144 surgeries were successfully performed at

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J-K creates UTAC, UTIRC for NAPS implementation

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has constituted an apprenticeship council and an implementation review committee to strengthen and monitor the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS).

The constitution of the two bodies – Union Territory Apprenticeship Council (UTAC) and Union Territory Implementation Review Committee (UTIRC) -- was notified through a government order, officials said.

The 20-member council, with the minister

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LeT terrorist killed after 5 years 'hunt' was Musharraf's guard, ex-Pak SSG commando

SRINAGAR: A top terrorist of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba killed in a firefight in the higher reaches of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday was a retired havildar from the Pakistan Army's elite Special Services Group (SSG), who once served in former president Pervez Musharraf's security convoy, officials said on Wednesday.

Mohd Asif, alias Hashim Moosa, was neutralised in a joint operation by the Army and other security forces in the higher reaches of Korag, Yousmarg, late Tuesday night. The Pakistani terrorist was involved in high-pro-

file attacks, especially in the last three years which saw a surge in targeted ambushes and strikes against both military personnel and civilian hubs.

The pattern began in the Pir Panjal range in early 2023 and ended with the April 2025 Pahalgam incident in which the accused had played a crucial role in planning of the terrorist attack that left 26 people dead.

Asif, who also operated under aliases such as Fauji and Sulaiman Shah, infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir in 2021 and was serving as the LeT's chief operations commander in the region. Security officials said his death not only concluded

an intensive five-year hunt but also rendered the Pakistan-based terror group leaderless in the region.

During his 23-year tenure with the Pakistani military, Asif spent 18 years in the SSG. Between 2006 and 2008, he was deputed to the security detail of former Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf. During his service, he underwent specialised VVIP protection training in the United States and completed medical courses with US Special Forces.

Following his retirement from the army, Asif, whose service number was PA-3106947, was handpicked by terror handler

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No regularisation framework for left-over daily-rated workers: Pathania ducks Govt

Committee constituted in Mar 2025 examining legal, financial & humanitarian aspects; recruitment to non-gazetted posts in Govt-owned PSUs, boards & corporations now routed via JKSSB

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has told the Legislative Assembly that there is currently no framework for considering the regularisation of "left-over" Daily Rated Workers (DRWs)



even as it said a committee constituted last year is examining the issue from legal, financial and humanitarian perspectives. The disclosure was made in a written reply to Starred Question No. 1/6/15 raised by MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania during the sixth session of the J&K Legislative Assembly on appointments and engagements in Government

Para presents privilege motion against Chief Secy, Law Secy

SRINAGAR: PDP MLA Waheed Para on Wednesday submitted a privilege motion in the assembly against the Jammu and Kashmir chief secretary and law secretary for their "role and conduct" in "questioning" the statehood resolution brought by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"I thereby give notice of my intention to move a Motion of Privilege against the chief secretary and law secretary, J-K, in view of the concerns placed on record by the Hon'ble"

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J&K Bank launches green mobility initiative at IIM Jammu under CSR

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee flags off 71 bicycles, calls it investment in healthier living and responsible leadership

JAMMU: Strengthening its commitment to youth-focused development and environmental sustainability, J&K Bank on Wednesday supported the launch of a green mobility initiative at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme. As part of the initiative, 71 bicycles, along with dedicated cycle stands, were flagged off at the Institute's Jagti Campus.

Bank's MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee flagged off the bicycles in the presence of Director IIM Jammu Prof B.S. Sahay and the Bank's GM & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta. Also present on the occasion were Prof (Dr) Shakti Gupta; Dean Academics Prof Nitin Upadhyay; Chairperson Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innova-



tion and Skill Development Dr Muqbil Burhan; Chairperson Student Affairs Prof (Dr) Brigadier Neeraj Soni; and Chairperson Anandam Prof Shyam Narayan Lal, besides other faculty members, officers, staff and students of the Institute.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said,

Navy commanders asked to maintain combat-readiness

NEW DELHI: The country's apex defence leadership has urged naval commanders to maintain a high degree of combat readiness in the Navy and strengthen maritime surveillance, while underlining its role in safeguarding India's energy security amid the prevailing situation in West Asia.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of the Defence Staff Gen N S Raja Subramani, Army Chief Gen Dhiraj Seth and Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan addressed sessions at the second edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference 2026, being held from September 29 to October 1 at the Nausena Bhawan here.

In his address, Singh underscored India's "growing strategic responsibilities" in the maritime domain and its Navy's role as a first responder and "preferred security partner in the Indian Ocean

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Lt Guv attends Pashmina Artisan Awards 2026

Every Pashmina Shawl, Kani, Sozni embroidery is a living heritage, shaped by patience, devotion: Sinha

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday graced the Pashmina Artisan Awards 2026, organised by the Pashmeena Entrepreneurs Makers and Artisans (PEMA) Foundation in Srinagar. He extended heartfelt congratulations to all award winners and PEMA Foundation for such excellent initiative.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor said the award ceremony is the celebration of Jammu Kashmir's cultural prosperity. He said the awards honour not merely individuals but an entire artistic civilisation of the country that has captivated the world for generations. The Lieutenant Governor invoked the spirit of Bhagwan Vishwakarma, the divine embodiment of craftsmanship and emphasised that India has always regarded artisanship as sacred knowledge.



Highlighting the extraordinary saga of patience and skill behind the Pashmina tradition, the Lieutenant Governor paid special tribute to women artisans, noting their central role in every stage of production, from refining raw fibre to intricate embroidery. He said that empowering women artisan's safeguards heritage and strengthens the confidence of future generations.

"Women artisans are not merely participants in this tradition but they are its silent creators, its custodians and its heartbeat," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor recalled the success of earlier editions of the awards in 2023 and 2025, describing them as rays of hope for the artisan community. He underlined that this year's awards mark a historic milestone, dedicated especially to women artisans whose artistry

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