

26th Kargil Vijay...

kisses the naked peaks of the Drass sector overlooking the Valley, once a battleground between the Indian Army and the Pakistani intruders disguised as Kashmiri terrorists.

In the gathering, Beena Mahat stands out from the rest, including the brave soldiers and the families, friends and relatives of the fallen heroes of the Kargil War.The 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas, which marks the victory of India over Pakistan in the 1999 war, will be observed on Saturday - a day which holds deeper meaning for those who lost their loved ones.One such mother is Beena.

Sifting through her family album, she recalls how her son became the target of the enemy's bullets in the war."I am finding a sense of peace at this place where my son laid down his life for the honour of the country. I have come here for the first time, and I want this to be the last also," she says.Beena, a resident of Lucknow, lost her son Sunil Jung Mahat, a rifleman, who made the supreme sacrifice at the battlefield.

Twenty-five years after her son laid down his life fighting Pakistani intruders in the decisive battle of Drass in 1999, Beena has come all the way to find peace in the land where her son achieved martyrdom.Holding an old album of pictures of her son, she mustered courage to visit the Drass sector, which turned into a battleground 25 years ago. Tears roll down her cheeks as she sees her younger son's pictures.

"I will miss my son till my last breath. His memories will keep haunting me. I am attending the Kargil Vijay Diwas for the first time. God knows how my son survived here and fought the enemies. I don't know what this place looked like 25 years ago. He was so young when he fought the greatest battle with Pakistan," she says.

Recalling the day when her world changed forever, Beena says, "In those days, there was no phone or internet. I heard about my son on the radio. I got anxious and switched on the television. I kept watching TV for days until the day my son's body reached our home."

"Whether it is Dussehra, Diwali, Holi, Rakshabandhan or any other festival, I remember my son. I look at his pictures and think that had he been alive, he would have been married with kids. I don't know what wrong I did that I had to lose my son to war."At the same time, I also feel proud that my son lost his life in the line of duty. There's no bigger achievement. Today, people know me because of him. Otherwise nobody would care," she says."I am sure he's watching me from above. I want to tell his father, two sisters and niece that we are doing fine. I pray his soul rests in peace," says Beena, as her eyes swell with tears.

Kargil Vijay Diwas...

observed on July 26 every year to pay homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives while battling Pakistani intruders in the Kargil area 26 years ago.

The drones flew over the arena and showcased their capabilities of undertaking various tasks, including surveillance, deliveries and targeting enemy positions by firing explosives. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles included Logistic Drones that can be operated at a high altitude of around 4,000 metres, a technology which has been developed indigenously.

The drone show also included robotic dogs, which can be used for carrying loads like ammunition in rough terrains as well as for patrolling purposes along the Line of Control.The drones and other technologies inducted into the army since the Kargil war will help increase the effectiveness of surveillance and delivery of logistics to remote areas while keeping an eye on inimical elements effectively, a senior official said.He said these technologies will reduce the fatigue and dangers faced by soldiers in difficult terrain and tough weather conditions in the Ladakh region.

Can't be selfish, nation...

He did not even see his father," she said. Asked if she ever hesitated sending her son to the Army, Kanwar said she never had any second thoughts."Tejvir will be the third generation from my family to join the Army. My father was a soldier, my husband laid down his life for the nation and my son will also serve the nation," she said.Kanwar admitted that the loss of her husband has been painful for her family, but "we are proud of his sacrifice for the nation".

Naik Bhanwar Singh Rathore was born on September 3, 1977, in Hirasani village of Nagaur district in Rajasthan.He joined the Army in December 1994 and was part of the 7 Para battalion of the Parachute Regiment, an elite infantry regiment known for its daredevil para commandos.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed on July 26 every year.On this day in 1999, the Indian Army announced the successful culmination of 'Operation Vijay', declaring victory after a nearly three-month-long battle in the icy heights of Kargil, including super-high-altitude locations, such as Tololing and Tiger Hill.

Kargil Vijay Diwas...

Kargil, including super-high-altitude locations, such as Tololing and Tiger Hill.

Giving details of the 'e-shradhanjali' project, an Army official said, "The citizens can now pay e-shradhanjali to the heroes who made the supreme sacrifice for the country without visiting memorials."The project is being launched to sensitise people about the sacrifices made by the armed forces and the hardships they face while discharging their duties, he said.

Using the QR code-based application, people can listen to stories about the various battles that were fought during the 1999 Kargil war against Pakistani intruders."The concept is similar to museums, where the visitors can listen to the details of the exhibits using earphones. Here people will get to listen to the saga of courage, valour, bravery and sacrifice by the soldiers," he added.

The third project to be inaugurated on this year's Vijay Diwas is the Indus Viewpoint, which will allow visitors to go up to the LoC in the Batalik sector."This will give an idea to the visitors about the conditions in which soldiers serve, the difficulties and constant dangers they face on a day-to-day basis to ensure that the nation remains safe," the official said.

Batalik was one of the main battlegrounds during the Kargil war. Besides battling the enemy, the soldiers had to contend with inhospitable terrain and high altitude.Located at an altitude of over 10,000 feet, Batalik was the focal point of Kargil war due to its strategic location between Kargil, Leh and Baltistan.The small village in the Indus River valley has now become a major tourist attraction.

LG Kavinder Gupta interacts...

Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhhoon, in the presence of Executive Councillors, LAHDC Kargil- Kacho Mohd Feroz and Zakir Hussain; Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; SSP Shree Raam R and other senior district officials.

Addressing the public, the HLG expressed his happiness at getting the chance to visit the Kargil district for the first time and assured that he would take immediate actions to help those impacted by the recent cloudburst in the area. He mentioned that a survey team has been constituted, and compensation assessments would be conducted to provide timely support to the affected families.

The HLG emphasised the need for a cohesive approach involving participation of stakeholders such as the LAHDC, District Administration and Civil Society for Ladakh's holistic development. He underlined their collective effort to bolster the region's development, with a key focus on tourism promotion and creating livelihood opportunities for youth.

The HLG stated that the public's demand for better infra-

structure and facilities, such as the need for upgradation of roads, medical centres, educational facilities, lift-irrigation schemes and other issues, would be thoroughly examined, and the UT Administration would explore all avenues to resolve the issues.

Earlier, villagers, monks, nuns, and civil society representatives received him with traditional Khataks, followed by traditional folk songs and cultural performances.Meanwhile, during his interaction with the public at Shargole, the HLG pledged the conversion of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) into a Community Health Centre (CHC) and assured the opening of a public administration complex to reinforce local governance infrastructure. At Bodh Kharbu's Photang, the HLG committed to facilitating the construction of a guest house to support visitors and dignitaries.

The HLG also sought blessings from the 8th-century-old Maitreya Buddha statue at Mulbekh. Informing the HLG about the heritage significance of the Buddha statue, the villagers requested the HLG's intervention for its conservation and development of the monastery premises. The HLG assured to look into the matter.

During the HLG's visit, Chairman/CEC Dr. Jaffer Akhhoon expressed optimism that both Leh and Kargil districts would witness equitable and sustained advancement under the HLG's dynamic leadership. He exuded confidence that the HLG's tenure would mark the beginning of a new chapter of inclusive growth and collaborative development in Ladakh.

CM Omar, Mehbooba Mufti...

the police has to be calibrated and cannot be indiscriminate." "This incident should be investigated in a transparent and time-bound manner. I send my condolences to the family of Mohd Parvez. May Allah grant him Jannat," he said.A suspected drug-peddler was killed and another detained during a cross-fire with police in Jammu city on Thursday. After the incident, the family members of the slain man had assembled at the Government Medical College in Jammu and held protests demanding a probe.A spokesperson had maintained that the police team was chasing suspected drug-peddlers, when they opened fire on the officers. In the cross-fire that ensued, one alleged drug-peddler was killed and another was detained, he had said.PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday demanded a time-bound probe into the death of an alleged drug peddler in cross-firing with police in Jammu.

In a post on X, former chief minister Mufti said, "Mohammad Parvez, a tribal youth, was killed by police at Surat Chak, police station Satwari, yesterday. He's now been labelled a drug dealer but even if that may be the case, we still live in a democratic country where justice is served through rule of law as opposed to khap panchayats or kangaroo courts."Demanding an impartial inquiry into the incident, she added, "Sincerely hope the DG takes cognisance of this shocking incident by ordering a time-bound impartial probe. We must not descend or condone a culture of extra judicial encounters because that's precisely what alienates people."

A suspected drug peddler was killed and another detained during a cross-firing with police in Jammu on Thursday. Irate over the killing of the alleged drug peddler, the family members assembled at GMC Hospital in Jammu and held protests demanding a probe into the incident.A police spokesman said a team was chasing suspected drug peddlers, when it was fired upon.

One alleged drug peddler was killed in the cross-firing, a senior police officer said, adding that another was detained. The People's Conference also demanded an impartial investigation into the incident."We are deeply concerned by reports of Mohammad Parvez, a tribal youth, being killed in a police action at Surat Chak (PS Satwari). Regardless of allegations, justice and due process must prevail in our democracy."We respectfully urge Hon'ble LG @manojsinhna to initiate a time-bound and impartial investigation. Extra judicial actions erode public trust, let the law take its course," the party said in a post on X.

Authorities cancel license...

Pregacrest- NTM, B, Pegabanyl-NTM, B. No., Lyragone cap, Pregacrest-NTM, etc - without maintaining mandatory sales records, in violation of regulatory norms. The failure of M/s Global Healthcare to maintain such records raises serious concerns about possible misuse and diversion of the drug.

The cancellation order was issued by Licensing Authority(Retail) , Udhampur Sanjeev Gupta after following due process and in accordance with applicable legal provisions. This step is part of a broader effort to curb the misuse of controlled substances and ensure public health safety.

State Drugs Controller, J&K Lotika Khajuria has once again urged the retail chemists and druggists to strictly adhere to licensing conditions and record-keeping norms, especially when handling scheduled or psychotropic drugs. Non-compliance will attract strict regulatory action, including suspension or cancellation of licenses and legal proceedings as per the law.

Smart Public Distribution...

August 2025. The Minister was reviewing the progress on Smart PDS implementation in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat, along with other senior officers and technical teams involved in the migration process.The Minister stated that Jammu and Kashmir is on track to become the first Union Territory in the country to fully migrate to the Smart PDS under the national RCMS (Ration Card Management System) framework, as directed by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

"Smart PDS is a transformative reform in food distribution that ensures transparency, efficiency and portability of services. With this shift, over 25 lakh ration card holders and approximately 1.02 crore ration beneficiaries in J&K will experience a seamless and more accountable system," the Minister said.The meeting was told that under the Smart PDS system and under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) the beneficiaries from Jammu and Kashmir can now avail their entitled ration PAN India and vice-versa.

Similarly, it was also informed that all the feeding of the Smart PDS is under testing phase and optimization for unique needs of Jammu and Kashmir and would also include various categories like SAAy, NFSA and PMSES. The automation shall democratize the entire PDS system and beneficiaries can use applications like Mera Ration and Annapurna to get real time information about his ration quota.

It was also given out that all the ration distribution shall be based on Aadhar enabled POS machines of L1 configuration which are 4G enabled. This shall help the department in improving the storage efficiency, economize transportation and provide effective services to the Consumer. It was also clarified that all the other allied services like ration distribution, Ayushman card will not be effected by this transition.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to expedite testing, ensure training of FPS (Fair Price Shop) dealers and launch public awareness campaigns ahead of the rollout. He emphasized that the success of Smart PDS depends on its accessibility to even the remotest parts of the Union Territory.

Soldier martyred, 2...

and two others suffered injuries, they said. The injured, one of whom is an JCO, have been shifted to a military hospital and are stable, they added."GOC White Knight Corps and all ranks pay solemn tribute to Agniveer Lalit Kumar of 7 JAT

Regiment, who made the supreme sacrifice while on an area domination patrol in the general area of Krishna Ghati brigade, following a mine blast," White Knight Corps said on X."We stand with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," it said.

CM Omar chairs 22nd...

Kashmir. Appreciating the strides made by the Board, the Chief Minister lauded its efforts in expanding welfare coverage to over 2.85 lakh active construction workers. He underscored the importance of transparent, timely and targeted delivery of benefits and directed officials to widen the outreach mechanisms, streamline application procedures, and ensure that no eligible worker is excluded from availing the Board's benefits. The Chief Minister also called for a broader and more inclusive definition of 'construction worker' to bring within the fold all vulnerable and unorganized sector labourers. He urged the Board to explore policy mechanisms that would maximize coverage and enhance financial security for workers, in alignment with national best practices and labour welfare standards.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary PWD (R&B), Principal Secretary PDD, Commissioner Secretaries of Housing & Urban Development, Social Welfare, and Cooperatives, Secretary Labour & Employment, Secretary Law, Director General Budget, and representatives of Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh and Bhartiya Dastkar Union.

Senior officers from the Planning Department and other concerned departments also participated in the meeting.Secretary Labour & Employment Kumar Rajiv Ranjan gave a detailed presentation highlighting the Board's key achievements, policy reforms and financial progress.

He informed the members that the Board continues to operate in accordance with the legislative mandate of the BOCW (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. Under this mandate, the Board has been providing a wide range of benefits including ex-gratia relief in cases of accidental deaths, financial support for both permanent and temporary disabilities, and educational assistance for the wards of registered workers. It also offers one-time meritorious scholarships of ₹50,000 to students securing 90% and above in Class 10 and 12, in addition to marriage and maternity assistance, aid for chronic illnesses, and funeral expense coverage.

To ensure transparency and efficiency, the Board has implemented significant digital reforms. These include 100% Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for all financial assistance, Aadhaar integration to eliminate bogus registrations, an online portal for registration and renewals, and OTP-based authentication along with SMS alerts to keep workers informed about key deadlines and updates.

The Board generates income through cess collections and accrued interest. At present, ₹1082.58 crore is currently held as corpus in fixed deposits and savings accounts across various banks.The Board discussed and approved a comprehensive set of agenda items during the meeting. These included the approval of scheme-wise budget proposals for the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26, and the transfer of ₹17.24 crore to the Union Territory of Ladakh, in accordance with SO 339 dated October 30, 2020. The audited accounts for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 were approved and will be forwarded to the Accountant General for certification.

The meeting also approved the integration of the Board's initiatives with broader social security and financial inclusion schemes to maximize the impact of benefits.In a significant move towards digital governance, the issuance of smart cards to all registered workers was approved, with a proposed budget of ₹10 crore.

To improve workplace safety, the Board sanctioned ₹60 crore for the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and tools to construction workers, especially in rural areas. Recognizing the need for skill development, the Board approved short-term training programs for 10,000 workers under NSDC norms, with a budget of ₹10 crore.

Given the overwhelming response to the meritorious scholarship scheme, it was resolved to revise the framework with slabs for top-performing students across all districts based on merit, while maintaining a minimum 90% cutoff. The Board also discussed the long-pending issue of staff regularization and directed the concerned committee to finalize recruitment rules in consultation with relevant departments within six months.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his concluding remarks, reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that welfare benefits trickle down to every deserving worker.He called for forward-looking reforms, robust monitoring and inclusive policymaking tailored to the needs of construction workers, particularly those in remote and underserved areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

CS reviews BISAG-N...

calling for deeper insights into application usage patterns, application submission tracking, DPR generation and integration with the MSME Health Clinic and ONDC platforms for enhanced user experience and benefit. Importantly, he stressed the linking the app with the UDISE and APAAR databases of the School Education Department to monitor student skill development and career outcomes, thus enabling a seamless track of their educational and vocational journeys.In healthcare, Dulloo suggested comprehensive integration of the JK Sehat App with the ABDM and HMIS frameworks. He emphasized making the platform more user-friendly while enabling support for registered home-care providers to access diagnostic tools and improve treatment delivery.

The Chief Secretary also proposed creation of a unified search engine dedicated to indexing websites hosted by the J&K and Central Government, to help the citizens and employees easily access official data and resources.Looking ahead, he advised the IT Department to explore the development of an AI-based Legal Counselling App to assist individuals in navigating legal issues with informed and automated guidance.

The meeting also discussed initiatives such as development of AI-based learning tools, introduction of educational TV channels and exposure of students to AI modules like AI-101 and AI-201 from an early stage to foster technological competence.Further updates were taken on the status of the Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies, the 360° Tourism App, Land Records Digitization, HADP 360, JKCIP, Agri Output Tracking Apps, Village Planning App and IT-based platforms under PDD and Jal Shakti Department.

Special DG, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur, shared the progress on ongoing projects being developed in collaboration with the UT Government. He assured continued support from BISAG-N in building robust, scalable and citizen-centric IT solutions. He also provided technical insights and affirmed BISAG-N's commitment to timely execution of tasks in consultation with the respective departments.

Earlier, Secretary IT, Dr. Piyush Singla, gave a comprehensive overview on key milestones achieved, current developments and future plans under the Digital J&K framework. He elaborated on the transformative potential of several digital initiatives underway and their anticipated impact on service delivery and governance across the length and breadth of the UT.

Hurriyat Chief condemns...

and starvation. Innocent civilians, especially children, "are being relentlessly bombarded even as they search for food and safety. Starvation is being used as a weapon of war."

Condemning the "barbarism", he added, "The silence and

inaction of the global community is pathetic. The world's failure to prevent these atrocities, to stop the killing of children and civilians in real time, will remain a stain on the conscience of humanity."The Hurriyat chief said that as the people of faith, "we stand in solidarity with the oppressed people of Gaza and pray to God to bring them out of this unprecedented crisis".

Mirwaiz was allowed to offer prayers at the grand mosque after two weeks."After two Fridays, I was allowed to come to Jama Masjid. Repeatedly preventing me from coming to Jama Masjid on Fridays is completely uncalled for. It is a direct interference in the religious rights of people, which alienates them further, serving no other purpose," he said.He asked the administration to desist from such actions and let people have the freedom to practice their fundamental rights, which includes the right to practice religion and listen to Friday sermons.

Head Constable injured...

the Pantha Chowk area here when it went off accidentally. The head constable was taken to a hospital, police said.Further details are awaited.

Chat facility in...

widely. So, some games use basic encryption for in-game voice chat and others offer more robust end-to-end encryption for text and voice. There are also applications that allow for self-destructing messages.

Though several of these gaming applications are banned in India, they are downloaded using Virtual Private Network (VPN) illegally. A VPN creates a secure and encrypted connection over the internet by masking Internet Protocol addresses and encrypts online traffic, making it more difficult to track online activity and access data.

In the past, messaging platforms like WhatsApp were delinked by terror groups and their handlers from Pakistan and they switched to other applications to communicate with each other. The included one developed by a Turkish company that is being used by terror group handlers and their prospective recruits in the Valley, the officials said.

The new applications have the ability to work with the slowest internet connections where Enhanced Data for Global Evolution (EDGE), used in the late 2000s, or 2G is in operation.The Central government had suspended internet across Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile state on August 5, 2019.

All encryption and decryption happen directly on the devices, therefore reducing third party intervention at any point. These new apps use encryption algorithm RSA-2048 which was adopted as the most secure encrypted platform, officials said.

RSA is an American Network Security and Authentication company founded in 1982 by US-born Ron Rivest and Leonard Adleman and Israeli-born Adi Shamir. The acronym RSA is used worldwide as the foundation key in the cryptosystem.

One new messaging app used by terrorists to radicalise youth in the Valley does not even ask for phone numbers or emails, therefore enabling complete user anonymity, the officials said.

The latest challenge in tracking terror activity comes just as security agencies in the Valley are fighting the menace of virtual SIM cards. Terror groups have been increasingly using these to connect with their handlers in Pakistan. Virtual SIM cards are generated by a service provider based in a foreign country.

In this technology, the computer generates a telephone number and the user needs to download an application from the service provider on his or her smartphone to use it.The penetration of this technology came to light in 2019 when a request was sent to the United States to seek details from a service provider of virtual SIMs used by a Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide bomber in the attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama that left 40 personnel dead.

A detailed probe by the National Investigation Agency and other security agencies indicated that over 40 virtual SIM cards were used in the Pulwama attack alone. There are probably many more floating in the Valley's cyberspace, the officials said.

Operation Sindoor ongoing...

Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

Pakistan also launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out under Operation Sindoor.The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.The CDS also emphasised the importance of learning about both 'Shastra' (warfare) and 'Shastra' (knowledge system).

Rajouri Admin, ALIMCO organise Special Camp for Left-Out PwDs and Senior Citizens

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS

RAJOURI, JUL 25:

The District Administration Rajouri in collaboration with Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) today organised a special registration camp for left-out Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and Senior Citizens at Dak Bungalow Rajouri.

The camp was inaugurated by Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Rajouri, Advocate Naseem Liaqat. He lauded the efforts of the Social Welfare Department and the district administration for reaching out to the most vulnerable sections of society.

The District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Abdul Raheem briefed the Chairperson and attendees about the objective of the camp. He informed that the initiative aims to identify and register left-out eligible beneficiaries under the government-sponsored social security and welfare schemes, such as pension schemes, UDID cards, and assistive aids support.

A number of beneficiaries from different parts of the district participated in the camp and were registered on the spot. The officials also facilitated on-site documentation, provided information about available welfare schemes, and extended assistance in application processing.

The Chairperson interacted with the attendees and assured them of the administration's commitment to inclusive development and ensuring that no eligible citizen is left out of government support mechanisms.

The camp witnessed participation from field functionaries of the Social Welfare Department and representatives from allied departments who facilitated the smooth conduct of the event.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment to hold more such camps in other parts of the district through the Social welfare department along with ALIMCO to cover all left-out beneficiaries and ensure equitable access to welfare entitlements.