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Amarnath Yatra 2026

HM To Review J&K Security On June 8

LG Sinha, Top Officials to Join Shah's High-Level Security Meet

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high-level security review meeting in New Delhi on June 8 to assess preparedness for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting is expected to be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, intelligence agencies, the Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and key officers of the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Official sources said the Home Minister will review the security and logistical arrangements being put in place for the annual pilgrimage and take stock of measures aimed at ensuring the smooth and safe conduct of the Yatra. The review is expected to focus on the deployment of security



personnel along the traditional Pahalgam and Baltal routes, protection of pilgrim convoys, counter-terrorism measures, emergency response mechanisms, healthcare facilities, communication networks, and other logistical requirements.

Officials are also likely to brief Shah on the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps being taken to safeguard pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage period.

Off To Dachigam: CM Huddles With MLAs Amid Political Buzz

NC Announces Delhi Protest for Restoration of Statehood, Constitutional Guarantees

MLAs Accuse Deputy CM of Skewed Fund Allocation During Closed-Door Discussions

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a show of unity amid opposition claims of unrest within the ruling alliance, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday led National Conference (NC) legislators, party MPs and independent MLAs supporting his government to a day-long off-site meeting at Dachigam National Park, where discussions ranged from governance and development to the restoration of statehood and constitutional guarantees for Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting came against



the backdrop of assertions by Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma that the NC-led government | More on P6

Panel Set Up On Liquor Ban In J&K

The Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted a committee to examine the proposal seeking a ban on the sale and consumption

of liquor in the Union Territory, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology and Environment Javed Rana said on Wednesday. After a meeting | More on P6

Srinagar MP Ruhullah Absent

The meeting was attended by NC legislators, MPs from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami and four independent legislators supporting the government. Notably absent was NC Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, who has publicly criticised the party's approach on the issue of restoration of special status and was not invited to the meeting. Responding to questions regarding Sharma's claims about instability within the government, Sadiq dismissed the assertions and reiterated the party's focus on public issues. "We are with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and our decision is in the interest of | More on P6

CIK Raids 6 Kashmir Districts In Terror Probe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday conducted raids at eight locations across six districts of the Valley as part of an investigation into a terror-related case linked to Pakistan-sponsored militant networks.

Officials said the searches were carried out in the early hours based on recent intelligence inputs, technical analysis and sustained investigation. The operation covered two locations each in Srinagar and Bandipora districts, and one location each in Kupwara, Anantnag, Kulgam and Baramulla.

According to officials, the case, registered in 2015, pertains to Pakistan-sponsored terrorist outfits, their sleeper-cell networks and activities related to recruitment, radicalisation and facilitation of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The searches were aimed at gathering evidence and identifying individuals allegedly associated with terror handlers operating | More on P6

Delhi Hotel Blaze Kills 21, Including 18 Foreigners

Sealed Windows, Single Exit-entry Trap Scores Of People

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A devastating blaze tore through a hotel operating without a fire NOC in a congested bylane in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday, killing at least 21 people, including 18 foreigners whose relatives were being treated in hospitals nearby.

The fire at the Flourish Stay B&B in Hauz Rani in Malviya Nagar started around 8.30 am and quickly spread through the five-floor narrow building that had only one entry-exit point, permanently sealed windows and a sensor-operated main door, officials said. Factors which combined to turn the building into a virtual death trap.

As the flames raged, catching everybody unawares and some in their sleep, rescue workers, including many locals, rushed to pull out those trapped inside.



At least 58 people were rescued and rushed to hospitals, where 21 were declared brought dead, officials said. The dead include 10 Indians. The death toll in the fire -- amongst the worst in the city in recent years -- could rise with several of the injured in a critical condition, officials said. Many of the casualties are from Central Asian and African countries. They were staying in the hotel in order to attend to their kin admitted to Max Hospital, minutes away. In a tragedy that was perhaps waiting to happen, the hotel had permission for only six rooms, granted under the Delhi government's bed and breakfast policy, but was operating 25, police officials said. Rooms had also come up in the basement. The structure | More on P6

Exhaust Statutory Remedies Before Writ Jurisdiction: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that courts should ordinarily refrain from bypassing statutory forums when a complete appellate and revisional mechanism is available under law, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday dismissed a petition challenging a revised building permission granted by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

A bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal dismissed the petition filed by M A War, who had sought quashing of Revised Building Permission Order issued by SMC in favour of private respondent, AA Mufti, after certain deviations in construction were compounded.

The petitioner alleged that the construction was raised over land situated at Naseembagh Srinagar in substantial deviation from the sanctioned plan and that the municipal authorities illegally regularised major and

non-compoundable violations despite earlier issuing a demolition notice.

Rejecting the challenge, the court held that Section 403 of the J&K Municipal Corporation Act provides a complete statutory mechanism for redressal of grievances against such orders and that the petitioner had failed to avail the revisional remedy before the Special Tribunal.

"This Court is of the considered view that once the statute provides a complete adjudicatory mechanism including appellate and revisional remedies, ordinarily the writ Court ought not to bypass such statutory forum and undertake factual adjudication in exercise of extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution," the bench said.

It observed that questions relating to the nature and extent of building deviations, permissibility of compounding, applicability | More on P6



Zojila Tunnel Set for Breakthrough Milestone On June 9

Agencies

Srinagar: The strategically significant 13.15-kilometre Zojila Tunnel, linking Jammu and Kashmir with Ladakh, is set to reach a major milestone on June 9 as Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari is scheduled to trigger the breakthrough blast.

Once completed, the tunnel will become the world's longest single-tube bi-directional road tunnel at an altitude of nearly 11,500 feet, ensuring seamless all-weather connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and Kargil, and significantly enhancing connectivity, mobility and economic activity in the strategically vital region.

The 13.15-km tunnel, being developed beneath the Zojila Pass at an altitude of around 11,500 feet, is expected to provide year-round road connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the Ladakh region, reducing dependence on the weather-sensitive mountain pass.

Harpal Singh, joint chief operating officer of Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited, said that excavation has entered its final phase, with only a few metres of digging left before the two ends of the tunnel meet.

He said work on the main tunnel was undertaken simultaneously from the Baltal side in Kashmir and the Minamarg side in Ladakh | More on P6

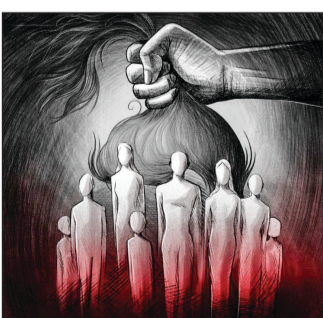
Rape Not A Private Dispute, Cannot Be Settled Through Compromise: HC

Denies Bail to Kupwara Rape Accused, Cites Societal Impact of Crime

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that rape is an offence not only against the victim but also against society and cannot be treated as a private dispute capable of settlement through compromise, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a bail application filed by a Kupwara man accused in a rape and criminal intimidation case.

A bench of Justice M. A. Chowdhary, while hearing the plea of Farooq Ahmad Dar, accused in FIR No. 17/2022 registered under Sections 376 and 506 IPC at Women Police Station Kupwara, held that offences of rape have serious societal ramifications and cannot be treated as private disputes capable of being settled through compromise. "This Court is ...conscious of



the settled legal position that offence under Section 376 IPC is offence not only against victim but also against society, to be treated as private disputes capable of being resolved through compromise between the parties," the court said.

It noted that the prosecutrix had supported the prosecution case both in the FIR and in her statement recorded under

Section 164 CrPC, and that issues relating to alleged contradictions in her testimony could only be examined during trial.

Rejecting the argument that a petition seeking quashing of the FIR had earlier been filed by the prosecutrix, the Court held that the circumstances surrounding such a petition would have to be appreciated during trial and could not dilute the seriousness of the allegations at the bail stage.

The Court further observed that apprehensions regarding possible influence on witnesses and prejudice to a fair trial could not be ignored, particularly in view of the relationship between the parties and the nature of the accusations.

Consequently, the Court dismissed the bail application, clarifying that its observations would not affect | More on P6



Participants ride through the lush greens of Srinagar during a cyclothon organised by the J&K Sports Council on World Bicycle Day. KO Photo By Abid Bhat