

Rajnath Singh Calls for Honouring IPKF Soldiers' Sacrifices in Sri Lanka

New Delhi, Agency: The sacrifices made by Indian soldiers during Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka nearly four decades ago should be honoured, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday, appearing to criticise the governments in the 1990s for not publicly recognising their contributions.

He said the Modi government is not only acknowledging the contribution of the Indian troops in the operation with an "open heart", but it is also in the process of recognising their contribution at every level.

The defence minister made the remarks at an event that was hosted on the occasion of the Armed Forces Veterans' Day.



Day. "Today, when the entire nation is remembering its soldiers, commemorating their contributions, and expressing

gratitude, I also want to remember all the veterans who participated in the peace-keeping operation in Sri

Lanka nearly 40 years ago as part of the IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force)," he said.

"The decision taken by the then government to send Indian forces to Sri Lanka is open to debate. I don't want to get into it. But I believe the sacrifices made by our IPKF soldiers who participated in Operation Pawan should be respected," he said. India had lost around 1,200 soldiers during the Indian Peacekeeping Force's stay in Sri Lanka between July 1987 and March 1990.

India and Sri Lanka signed a historic peace accord on July 29, 1987 following which New Delhi deployed the IPKF in the island nation to bring

peace in Tamil-dominated areas that had witnessed widespread violence and civil strife for years. However, peace eluded the regions and the IPKF was eventually pulled out.

While the decision to send the IPKF was taken by the Rajiv Gandhi government the troops were pulled out of the island nation when VP Singh's dispensation was in power.

"In Operation Pawan, Indian forces displayed remarkable courage and valor. Many soldiers attained martyrdom in the line of duty. There can be no doubt about their courage and sacrifice," Singh said. "Our government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is

not only accepting the contribution of the peacekeepers who participated in Operation Pawan with an open heart, but it is also in the process of recognising their contribution at every level," he said.

Singh also recalled Modi paying tributes to the Indian soldiers at the IPKF memorial in Colombo during his trip to the island nation in 2015.

"We are also recognising the contribution of the IPKF peacekeepers at the National War Memorial in New Delhi and we are also giving them full respect," he said.

Modi paid tributes to the fallen warriors of the IPKF at the memorial during his trip to Sri Lanka in April last year as well.

J&K vital pillar of India's national-security architecture: Northern Army commandera

New Delhi, Agency: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma on Wednesday said Jammu and Kashmir is a vital pillar of India's national-security architecture, not only because of its geographical importance but also due to its strong military ethos and human resources.

Addressing a gathering at the concluding ceremony of the 10th Veterans-Day celebrations in Rajouri, the Army commander also lauded the region's contributions to the armed forces. Jammu and Kashmir is not only strategically important, but is also a vital pillar of the nation's core security architecture in terms of human resources and military tradition," Lt Gen. Sharma said.

Highlighting the region's contribution to the armed forces, he said with a population of nearly 1.5 crore, Jammu and Kashmir accounts for around 4 to 5 per cent representation in India's border security forces. "This is a significant contribution when seen in proportion to the overall strength of the armed forces," he said.

Referring to the rich military legacy of the region, Lt Gen. Sharma said



Jammu and Kashmir is deeply rooted in diverse regimental traditions that reflect a unique spirit of patriotism and sacrifice.

The exceptional performance of prestigious regiments such as the JAK Rifles, JAK Light Infantry and Dogra units in every war is a matter of pride for the soil of Jammu and Kashmir and its people," he said.

The Northern Army commander pointed out that the Union Territory is home to nearly 45,000 veterans and 975 "Veer Nari", who continue to

serve the country in different capacities.

"Through their discipline and patriotism, our veterans have also made valuable contributions in disaster management and in other civic roles, strengthening military-civil fusion," he added.

Recalling the role of veterans during Operation Sindoor, Lt Gen. Sharma said their experience, local knowledge and valour played a key role in boosting the morale of the troops deployed in border areas.

Encroachments and illegal mining severely damaging Aravalli ecosystem, study warns

New Delhi, Agency: Encroachments, deforestation, illegal mining and rapid expansion of urban infrastructure in the Aravalli ranges have severely impacted groundwater recharge, biodiversity, air quality and climate regulation, according to a new study.

The report noted that extensive diversion of forest land, particularly around the Sariska and Bardod wildlife sanctuaries before the 1980s, led to a sharp decline in native forest cover. This resulted in the fragmentation of crucial wildlife habitats and water catchment areas.

The research, titled Eco-restoration of the Aravalli Landscape, was conducted by the Sankala Foundation with support from the Embassy of Denmark in India and the Haryana State Forest Department. It adopted an integrated approach to tackling ecological degradation by linking environmental sustainability with biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, livelihood security and human rights.

The Aravalli range, one of the

world's oldest mountain systems, serves as a critical natural barrier and a life-supporting ecosystem for the National Capital Region and the Indo-Gangetic Plains. However, the study highlighted that this fragile ecosystem, spread across four states and 29 districts and home to more than 50 million people, is under severe threat.

"Deforestation, unsustainable land use, rapid urbanisation, widespread land degradation and desertification have placed immense pressure on the Aravallis," the report stated during its launch on Wednesday by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav. It further noted that encroachments, illegal mining and infrastructure development have weakened the Aravallis' ability to function as a green barrier, accelerating desertification and threatening the ecological stability of the northern plains. To address these challenges, the Sankala Foundation has proposed a site-specific, evidence-based and community-inclusive eco-restoration model.

Air hostess dies by suicide in Maharashtra ex-partner booked for abetment

New Delhi, Agency: A 21-year-old air hostess has allegedly committed suicide in Maharashtra's Thane district, prompting police to register a case of abetment against her former partner, officials said on Wednesday.

The woman was found hanging at her residence in Kalyan (East) on December 28, 2025.

Following an investigation into her mobile phone and financial records, the Kolsewadi police registered a First Information Report (FIR) on January 10 against her 23-year-old former partner for abetment of suicide, an official said. According to the complaint filed by the victim's mother, her daughter failed to answer her phone calls on the night of December 28, following

which a neighbour checked her house at Anusuya Niwas in Kalyan and found her hanging from a ceiling hook. She was rushed to Rukminibai Hospital, where doctors declared her dead, the official said. Her family claimed that she and the accused had been in a relationship since 2020.

The accused allegedly threatened to make some of her photos public, refused to marry her and got into a relationship with another woman recently, which drove her to suicide, they alleged.

Upon reviewing her phone and bank statements after her last rites, the family reported several grievances. The chat records and marks on her body suggested the accused frequently assaulted her.

SC gives split verdict on validity of Section 17A of anti-graft law

New Delhi, Agency: The Supreme Court on Tuesday delivered a split verdict on the constitutional validity of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) which mandates a prior approval from the competent authority to launch a probe against a government official.

A Bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and KV Vishwanathan, which reserved its verdict on the contentious issue on August 6, 2025, penned separate dissenting verdicts.

Terming it an attempt to "protect the corrupt", Justice Nagarathna held



that no prior sanction was needed from the competent authority to probe a government official while Justice Vishwanathan chose to uphold the provision even as he read it down.

Having regard to the divergent opinions expressed by us, we direct the Registry to place this matter before the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India for constituting an appropriate

Bench to consider the issues which arise in this matter afresh," the Bench directed.

The verdict came on a PIL filed by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation challenging the validity of Section 17A of the Act introduced through an amendment in 2018. The petitioner had contended that the requirement of prior approval for investigating a public servant reintroduced a protection that had already been struck down by the Supreme Court in Vineet Narain vs Union of India and Dr Subramaniam Swamy vs Director, CBI.

US eyes deeper civil nuclear cooperation with India after SHANTI Act

New Delhi, Agency: The United States has expressed interest in capitalising on India's newly enacted nuclear legislation to deepen civil nuclear cooperation and expand opportunities for American companies.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio conveyed this during a phone call with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, congratulating India on the passage of the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act.

"He expressed interest in capitalising on this important development to enhance US-India civil nuclear cooperation, expand opportunities for American companies,

advance shared energy security goals, and secure critical mineral supply chains," US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Pigott said in a read-out of the conversation.

According to the readout, Rubio and Jaishankar also reviewed progress in bilateral trade agreement negotiations and reiterated their shared commitment to strengthening economic cooperation. The two leaders exchanged views on regional and global developments, reaffirming a common vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Jaishankar later described the interaction as productive, noting that a wide range of strategic and economic

issues were discussed.

Just concluded a good conversation with @SecRubio. Discussed trade, critical minerals, nuclear cooperation, defence and energy. Agreed to remain in touch on these and other issues," the External Affairs Minister said in a post on X.

The outreach comes at a sensitive moment in India-US relations, marked by recent frictions over trade policies and US tariffs linked to India's continued imports of Russian crude oil.

Against this backdrop, the emphasis on civil nuclear collaboration and critical mineral supply chains signals an effort by both sides to reinforce long-term strategic and technological ties.



PNB Housing

Finance Limited

Ghar Ki Baat

APPENDIX-IV-A E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)

E-Auction-Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Registered Office: - 9th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan, 22 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110001, Phones:- 011-23357171, 23357172, 23305414, Web:- www.pnbhousing.com

Jaipur Branch: SB - 59, UDB Towers, 1st Floor, opp. Jaipur nagar nigan, Tonk Road, Jaipur-302015. Bhiwadi Branch: A-10, 1st Floor, Bhagat Singh Colony, Alwar Bye Pass, Bhiwadi-301019.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) & guarantor(s) indicated in Column no-A that the below described immovable property (ies) described in Column no-D mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/Physical Possession of which has been taken (as described in Column no-C) by the authorized Officer of M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS, AS IS WHAT THERE IS BASIS" as per the details mentioned below. Notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/mortgagor(s)/Legal Heirs, Legal Representative, (whether Known or Unknown), executor(s), administrator(s), successor(s), assignee(s) of the respective borrowers/ mortgagor(s) (since deceased) as the case may be indicated in Column no-A under Rule-8(6) & 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 amended as on date.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.pnbhousing.com.

Loan No., Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Guarantor(s)/Legal heirs (A)	Demand Amount & Date (B)	Nature of Possession (C)	Description of the Properties Mortgaged (D)	Reserve Price (E) (RP) (₹)	EMD (10% of RP) (F)	Last Date of Submission of Bid (G)	Bid Incremental Rate (H)	Inspection Date & Time (I)	Date of Auction & Time (J)	Known Encumbrances/Court Cases if any (K)
HOU/JPR/1122/1055039, B.O.: Jaipur, Rajat Srivastava / Pragati Pragati	Rs. 1808936.63 as on 09.04.2025	Physical Possession	Flat No. F2, Plot No. 76, Awasthiya Yojana, Sunrise City Village Niwaru Road, Jhotwara, Jaipur Rajasthan 302012	Rs. 1716000	Rs. 171600	17-02-2026	Rs. 10000	05.02.2026 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM	18.02.2026 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Not Known
HOU/BHI/0218/495518, B.O.: Bhiwadi, Rohan Patel / Sunil Patel	Rs. 2482752.49 as on 13.08.2025	Physical Possession	Pearl-A, Flat No. 407, Krish Aura, Khasra No. 518-527, 534-538, 543-551, Village Saidpur, V Square Mall, Bhiwadi, Alwar, Rajasthan-301019, India. Admeasuring 1025 Sq. Ft	Rs. 2393000	Rs. 239300	17-02-2026	Rs. 10000	05.02.2026 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM	18.02.2026 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Not Known

* Together with the further interest @18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. incurred up to the date of payment and/or realization thereof. ** To the best knowledge and information of the authorized Officer of PNB Housing Finance Limited, there are no other encumbrances/claims in respect of above mentioned immovable/Secured assets except what is disclosed in the column no-K. Further such encumbrances to be catered/paid by the successful purchaser/bidder at his/her end. The prospective purchaser(s)/bidders are requested to independently ascertain the veracity of the mentioned encumbrances.

1. As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction PNBHFL/authorized Officer of PNBHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/Secured assets. 2. The prospective purchaser/bidder and interested parties may independently take the inspection of the pleading in the proceedings/orders passed etc, if any, stated in column no-K, including but not limited to the title documents of the title pertaining thereto available with the PNBHFL and satisfy themselves in all respects prior to submitting tender/bid application form or making Offer(s). The bidder(s) has to sign the terms and conditions of this auction along with the Bid Form 3. Please note that in terms of Rule 9(3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the bidder(s) the purchaser is legally bound to deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, (inclusive of earnest money, if any) deposited on the same day or not later than next working day. The sale may be confirmed in favour of (bidder(s) only after receipt of 25% of the sale price by the secured creditor in accordance with Rule 9(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The remaining 75% of the sale consideration amount has to be deposited by the purchaser within 15 days from the date of acknowledgement of sale confirmation letter and in default of such deposit, the property/Secured asset shall be resold. 4. C1 INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED would be assisting the Authorized Officer in conducting sale through an e-Auction having its corporate office at Plot No.68, 3rd Floor, Sector 44, Gurgaon, Haryana 122003 Website- www.bankauctions.com. For any assistance related to inspection of the property or obtaining the Bid Documents and for any other query or for registration, you have to co-ordinate with Ashwani Kumar Sharma, Ravi Kumar, Contact Number: 1800 120 8800, is authorised person of PNBHFL or refer to www.pnbhousing.com

Place : Bhiwadi, Dated: 15.01.2026

Authorized Officer, M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited