



From Art 370 abrogation to 'Op Sindoor,' Cabinet hails PM Modi's record-breaking tenure

Credits security decisions, economic growth, social welfare initiatives during Prime Minister's 12 years in office

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jun 10: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday passed a resolution congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming the country's longest-serving elected Prime Minister in consecutive terms, while highlighting major security, governance and developmental initiatives undertaken during his tenure.

The resolution, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) adopted at a Cabinet meeting, noted that PM Modi completed 4,399 continuous days as an elected Prime Minister on June 10, surpassing the record of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who served continuously for 4,398 days between 1952 and 1964.

Calling the occasion a milestone in India's democratic journey, the Cabinet said the



achievement reflected public trust in PM Modi's leadership and coincided with the NDA government completing 12 years in office under him.

The resolution placed significant emphasis on national security measures taken during the past decade. It praised the government's response to

terrorism, citing surgical strikes, cross-border air strikes and 'Operation Sindoor' as examples of decisive action against security threats.

"The elevation of national security was evidenced by strict actions against terrorism like surgical and cross-border air strikes, 'Operation Sindoor,' and

the suspension of the unjust Indus Water Treaty," the resolution stated.

The Cabinet also highlighted what it described as key reforms carried out under the government's "Nation First" approach, including the abrogation of Article 370, implementation of the Goods | More on P6

Ensure timely completion of Amarnath Yatra arrangements: LG Sinha directs depts

Chairs high-level meeting, reviews preparations; pilgrimage from July 3 to Aug 28

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting here to review preparations for forthcoming Amarnath Yatra slated to commence on July 3.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), LG Sinha directed all departments to ensure timely completion of arrangements including infrastructure, healthcare, sanitation, connectivity, and other pilgrim centric services.

"Amarnath Yatra will begin on July 3 and conclude on August 28. Our collective goal



is to ensure a safe, seamless, and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage for every devotee of Baba Barfani," the Lieutenant Governor said. Emphasizing seamless

coordination, proactive planning, and strict monitoring, the Lieutenant Governor stated that this sacred pilgrimage is a national event. He instructed all stakeholders to work with utmost dedication and maintain the highest standards of efficiency and safety.

LARGE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS ARE GETTING REGISTERED

During the meeting, it was informed that large number of pilgrims are getting registered, and the Yatra is expected to be higher as compared to that in recent Yatras.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed upon the need for whole of government approach and close coordinated efforts by various | More on P6

Translate knowledge into public health action: LG Sinha to scientists

Addresses inaugural session of Annual Conference of Indian Immunology Society 'IMMUNOCON-2026'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jun 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called upon the scientists and stakeholders to foster deeper collaborations and work on key areas to translate the scientific knowledge into public health action. Addressing the inaugural session of the Annual Conference of the Indian Immunology Society 'IMMUNOCON-2026', here, LG Sinha, | More on P6

Two soldiers die in accidental blast near LoC in Uri sector

LG Sinha, Chinar Corps, Chinar warriors pay tributes to brave hearts

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Jun 10: Two soldiers died in an accidental blast near the Line of Control (LoC) in North Kashmir's Uri sector in Baramulla district on Wednesday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the incident occurred in the Kamalkote area of the Uri sector. "Two soldiers identified as Arjun Jadhav and Vikram Balakrishna, hailing from Maharashtra sustained critical injuries during the accidental explosion. The injured were rushed to the Army's base hospital in Badamibagh Cantonment area of Srinagar,

but despite the best efforts of the doctors, they couldn't be revived," the official said.

The deceased soldiers belonged to the 8 Rashtriya Rifles. The exact details as to how the explosion occurred are awaited. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid homage to Army brave hearts.

"I salute the supreme sacrifice of our bravehearts. The nation shall remain forever grateful to their selfless devotion to duty. We stand united in solidarity with the families of the martyrs in this hour of grief," the Lieutenant Governor said. Srinagar based Army's Chinar Corps paid solemn tribute to the supreme | More on P6

New Vande Bharat stoppage announced at Anantnag after CM, Railway Min meet

Centre committed to J&K dev: Vaishnaw

Rail network boosting economy: Omar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 10: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday announced a new commercial stoppage of the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express at Anantnag following a meeting with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in New Delhi.

According to a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the meeting focused on ongoing and future railway projects aimed at strengthening connectivity and accelerating



economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

The statement said the decision to introduce a stoppage at Anantnag will benefit commuters, tourists and traders by providing improved access to one of Kashmir's key economic

and cultural centres. During the meeting, Omar Abdullah appreciated the initiatives of Indian Railways in J&K and said the Vande Bharat service has transformed travel between Jammu and Srinagar by reducing | More on P6

Strong coordination key to safe, smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra: DG CRPF

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 10: Reaffirming commitment towards safe and peaceful conduct of Amarnath Yatra 2026, Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) G P Singh on Wednesday said that maintaining a robust security grid and ensuring close coordination among all stakeholders is crucial for smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

The DG CRPF, who is on a three-day visit to Kashmir, as per the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), conducted a detailed review of operational and logistical preparedness of the force in view of the forthcoming Yatra, including

the entire route up to Baltal base camp.

He stressed that all security agencies must work in close synergy and strengthen inter-agency coordination to ensure an incident-free pilgrimage, highlighting the need for an airtight and well-synchronized security mechanism along the Yatra route.

Chairing a high-level meeting with senior officers of CRPF, J&K Police, civil administration and other security forces, he reviewed the overall preparedness and issued directions to further streamline coordination and on-ground arrangements.

At the Baltal base camp, he was briefed on the existing security grid, | More on P6

Kashmir on path of rapid dev: MoS Defence, Sanjay Seth 'Valley witnessing unprecedented peace, development under PM Modi's leadership'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jun 10: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is progressing swiftly on the path of growth and prosperity, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth on Wednesday said the Union Territory is witnessing unprecedented peace, rapid infrastructure development and a strong tourism boom under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to reporters after completing his visit to the revered Dargah Hazratbal Srinagar, MoS Seth, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said he has been regularly visiting Kashmir over the past five years and has personally witnessed the



transformation taking place across the Valley. "The people of Kashmir are

extremely friendly and brotherly. I have been coming here for the last five years and have

seen Kashmir changing rapidly. Today, Kashmir is moving ahead in terms of development and progress in a way that many had never imagined," he said.

Highlighting improved connectivity, the MoS Defence said travel between Jammu and Srinagar has become significantly easier due to major infrastructure projects undertaken by the Centre.

"There was a time when travelling from Jammu to Srinagar would take 12 to 14 hours. Today, the same journey can be completed in around four-and-a-half hours. This reflects the scale of infrastructure development that has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Referring to the tourism sector, Seth said | More on P6

223 sportspersons selected for govt jobs under sports quota

Historic step towards empowering youth: Minister Sharma

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 10: In a major boost to the sporting fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir and a significant step towards creating sustainable career opportunities for the athletes, Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, on Wednesday congratulated the 223 outstanding sportspersons who have been selected for appointment to government services under the sports quota.

Terming the recruitment as a landmark achievement in the



government's efforts to promote sports and youth empowerment, the Minister said that the selection of such a large number of athletes reflects the administration's commitment

towards honouring the sporting excellence and ensuring that talented sportspersons are provided meaningful opportunities beyond the playing arena.

The Minister expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister for his unwavering support and keen interest in strengthening the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. He informed that the appointment orders would be formally handed over to the selected candidates by the Chief Minister at a special ceremony, marking a proud and memorable occasion for the athletes and their families.

Satish Sharma said that the government | More on P6

Overseas Kashmiri Pandits return after 36 years under Pragaash Heritage Tour

'We may live in UK, USA with many houses, but our hearts continue to beat for Kashmir'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Anantnag, Jun 10: An emotionally charged homecoming unfolded at the historic Martand Sun Temple in Mattan in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday as a group of overseas Kashmiri Pandits, many of whom have spent the last 36 years away from their homeland, returned to Kashmir under the ongoing Pragaash Heritage Tour.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the delegation, comprising Kashmiri Pandits settled in countries such as the



United States and the United Kingdom, as well as in cities including Mumbai, Delhi and other parts of India, visited the

ancient temple complex and expressed deep emotions while reconnecting with the land of their ancestors. | More on P6

Rain, thunderstorm likely across J&K from today

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jun 10: After days of hot and dry weather, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness a spell of rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds from Thursday, with the Meteorological Department warning that isolated intense showers could trigger flash floods and mudslides in vulnerable areas.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds is expected at many places across the Union Territory on June 11 and 12.

Wind speeds may reach 40-50 kmph and gust up to 60 kmph during the period, the department said, adding that isolated areas could also witness hailstorms.

"Partly to generally cloudy weather with one or two spells of light to moderate rain, brief intense showers, thunder and lightning is likely at many places during June 11-12," an official said.

The weather office has advised residents, farmers and travellers to remain cautious, particularly in areas prone to landslides and flash floods.

According to the forecast, weather conditions are expected to remain | More on P6

'Non-solar hours bring 250 MW power crunch to J&K, Ladakh'

No bilateral advance procurement planned: NRPC

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jun 10: Despite an increase in power generation, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are facing peak 250 Megawatts (MWs) deficit during non-solar hours in several blocks.

Furthermore, there has been no bilateral advance procurement scheduled.

According to the official documents available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) in a month ahead RA analysis observations said that the regions were facing 250

MWs power deficit. "250 MW peak deficit is observed during non-solar hours across some blocks, where no bilateral advance procurement is scheduled," it reads.

The committee however said that the gap is proposed to be managed through the short term market during non-solar periods.

In the meantime, NRPC in a Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) discussion said that J&K representative informed that with the availability of hydro power and low demand in summer months, power position | More on P6

Govt resolved to work with transparency, accountability: Sakeena Itoo

Visits several areas in DH Pora, holds public outreach programme at Ahmadabad, Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JUNE 10: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Wednesday visited Ahmadabad and several other villages in D.H. Pora, where she held an extensive public outreach programme to hear the grievances, issues and demands of the local residents.

A large number of people from Ahmadabad and adjoining areas participated in the event and apprised the Minister of various developmental needs and public welfare concerns.

Sakeena Itoo, as per an official statement, gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured the people that all their genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, she highlighted various initiatives and people-centric measures undertaken by the present government to ensure equitable development and



improve the quality of life across Jammu and Kashmir. She said the government is committed to strengthen the public infrastructure, enhance service delivery and create new opportunities for

youth and women. She added that the Government is resolved to work with transparency, accountability and a focus on inclusive growth. The Minister also directed the concerned officers to

take prompt action on the issues raised during the public outreach programme and ensure effective follow-up for their early resolution.

DC Srinagar hands over fully equipped Ambulance to BMO Hazratbal

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: Continuing efforts to strengthen emergency healthcare services in the District, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday handed over a fully equipped ambulance to the Block Medical Officer (BMO), Hazratbal, aimed at strengthening medical transportation and emergency response facilities in Harwan Panchayat Block and other rural areas of the District.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said the addition of the ambulance would significantly strengthen emergency healthcare infrastructure in Hazratbal Medical Block and serve as a critical resource for the patients, especially residents of tribal and rural areas.

He emphasized that the ambulance will improve the accessibility and efficiency of healthcare services



by ensuring the timely transportation of patients and trauma cases to healthcare institutions. The DC also stressed the importance of its optimal utilization to provide prompt medical assistance, enhance patient care and further strengthen the

district's emergency response capacity.

The ambulance is expected to provide much-needed support to healthcare teams serving remote areas and contribute to improved healthcare delivery across rural parts of Srinagar district.

Director JKEDI chairs review meeting with DNOs, ROs, in-charge officers

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: Director, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Mohammad Younis Malik, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Sempora campus of the Institute to assess the progress of various entrepreneurship development and youth engagement initiatives being implemented across the Union Territory.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Range Officers (ROs), District Nodal Officers (DNOs), and other officials, both physically and through virtual mode, from different districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, Joint Director JKEDI, Chand Kishor Sharma, presented a detailed overview of the various programmes and initiatives being implemented by the Institute, along with the achievements registered under different schemes and interventions.

A thorough review of key government initiatives, including the J&K Start-up Policy 2024-27, Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, Mission YUVA, and various other programmes, was undertaken during the session. The progress made in loan repayment and recovery under different schemes was also discussed in detail.

MGNREGA: DDC Kulgam reviews progress of works, employment generation

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JUNE 10: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of works and performance under the MGNREGA scheme in the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kulgam, all Block Development Officers (BDOs), MIS Operators and Technical Assistants.

During the meeting, the DDC Kulgam conducted a detailed review of the execution of works, employment generation, quality of assets being created and overall implementation of the MGNREGA Scheme across all blocks of the district.

Emphasizing transparency and accountability, the DDC Kulgam directed the functionaries of Rural Development Department Kulgam to ensure that only genuine and deserving job card holders are engaged under the programme and that employment opportunities are provided strictly in accordance with prescribed guidelines, without any duplicity or violation of norms.

The DDC Kulgam further stressed the need for the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PwDs) in the scheme and directed officers to encourage their active participation wherever feasible. He also underscored the importance of women empowerment and instructed BDOs to motivate and facilitate the participation of women, particularly those above the age of 40 years, in various permissible activities under the scheme.

Highlighting the significance of durable community assets, the DDC directed all concerned officers to ensure that the quality of works and assets created under the programme remains of the highest standard and that all works are executed strictly as per technical specifications.

DDC Kupwara chairs Block Diwas in Nutnussa

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, JUNE 10: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Wednesday visited Nutnussa Block and chaired the Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Ghar Nutnussa-B.

The Block Diwas witnessed active participation from officers of the district administration, public representatives, and a large number of local residents. The programme provided a platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public, enabling people to raise their grievances, concerns, and developmental issues.

During the event, the DDC listened patiently to the issues projected by the participants and assured them of timely redressal of genuine grievances. He emphasized the administration's commitment to ensuring efficient public service delivery

and addressing the developmental aspirations of the people.

Various issues related to basic amenities, infrastructure development, public services, and welfare schemes were highlighted by the participants. The concerned officers were directed to take prompt action on the issues raised and ensure their resolution within a stipulated timeframe.

The DDC also reviewed the implementation of ongoing developmental programmes and government schemes in the block and stressed the need for greater public outreach and effective execution of welfare initiatives for the benefit of the people.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, and other district and block level officers attended the block diwas programme.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan gains momentum across Budgam

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, JUNE 10: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), various departments and stakeholders across district Budgam have intensified awareness, outreach and preventive activities to combat drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society.

A series of awareness programmes, as per an official statement, community interactions and sensitization campaigns were conducted at different locations across the district to educate the public, particularly youth, about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Participants were informed about the social, psychological and economic consequences of drug addiction and the importance of adopting a healthy and productive lifestyle.

DC Shopian presides over block diwas at Methwani Behak, Sarbal Devpora

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, JUNE 10: In a major push towards responsive governance and redressal of issues and concerns raised by members of the tribal community during a public interaction programme at their doorsteps, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Wednesday presided over a Block Diwas programme at Methwani Behak, an alpine meadows on the upper reaches of Sarbal Devpora area.

An appreciable number of members of the tribal

community comprising also the nomadic people attended the block diwas. The DC interacted with the community members and listened to public issues.

The issues raised by the local public of the area include matters related to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) including community rights on grazing, animal vaccination and healthcare services, school infrastructure and rural development works at Devpora and Shadab Karewa, social welfare and pension schemes entitlements and other issues relating to the benefit of local tribal, pastoral community.

JAMMU & KASHMIR FOREST DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE PR. CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST & HoFF GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Subject: Appointment to the post of Junior Assistant (UT Cadre) in the Forest Department in pursuance to Advertisement Notification No 04 of 2022 under item No 174 issued by the J&K Service Selection Board.

Reference: Letter No: FST- CORD/14/2021- 02 dated 17- 04- 2026 of Administrative Department ii. Letter No JKS JKSSB/Scry/2/2025- 06 (E- 7628025) dated: 10- 04- 2026.

FOREST ORDER NO: 105 of 2026

D A T E D: 05 /06/2026

On the recommendation of the J&K Services Selection Board, and endorsed by the Administrative Department vide their letter referred above, sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of Sh. Prabhpreet Singh Tulla (OM), S/o Sh. Bikramjit Singh Tulla, R/o Siomah Trail, Pulwama- 192123 as Junior Assistant (UT Cadre) in the Forest Department, in the pay level- 4 (25500- 81100) with immediate effect.

The appointee shall report to the Office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K, Jammu/Srinagar within a period of twenty- one (21) days from the date of issuance of this order failing which he shall forego his right to appointment, and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab- initio without any further notice.

The appointees shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently:

- Academic/ Qualification Certificates.
- Matriculation/ Date of Birth Certificate.
- Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
- Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
- Valid relevant Category Certificate, if any, applicable.

The appointment of the above candidates shall further be subject to the following conditions:

a. The appointee shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that if on verification, his Qualification /Date of Birth/ Reserved Category Certificates from the concerned issuing authorities are found fake/ forged his/her appointment as Junior Assistant shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and the legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against his/her.

b. That if the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counselling Centre of the domicile District, he shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit /enterprise and also stakes, if any, in Such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his salary. DDO Concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the Concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.

(c) The salary of these appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to his/her unless the satisfactory reports in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth /Relevant Category Certificate is received from the concerned Authorities/Agency.

(d) The appointee shall be on probation for a period of two years and shall undergo and qualify the Secretariat Assistant Examination (Foundation Course) during the period of probation.

(e) The appointment of the candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SRO-400 of 2009 dated: 24.12.2009.

(f) The inter-seniority of the above appointees shall be on the basis of the merit secured by these appointees as recommended by the J&K Service Selection Board.

(g) The cadre allocated by the appointing authority/JKSSB shall not be changed under any circumstances.

(h) The appointment of the above appointee shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before Competent Court of law.

Sd/ (Sarvesh Rai)JFS

Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Jammu & Kashmir

DIPK-2019/26

No: PCCF/Estt/NG/C- 28697/2042-49 Dated: 05- 06- 2026 DATED: 10-06-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

Email: xen-pwdrnbanantnag@jk.gov.in
Phone and Fax: 01932-222221

CANCELLATION

Subject: Cancellation of NIT No 27 "Raising of drain with slab and main hole from H/O Ab Gani Lone to Zahoor Ahmad Beigh at Sarnal Bala ward No 13 Anantnag."

Ref: NIT 27 (2nd Call of NIT 15/6) OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/2449-58, DATED 09-06-2026.

Due to administrative reasons, the subject cited work which was tendered vide this Office above referred NIT is hereby Cancelled.

No. 2495-501
Dated: 10-06-2026

DIPK-2021/26
DATED: 10-06-2026

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag.

'A Tar-ific Mess'

Rising Bitumen Costs, Boycott By Plant owners Trigger Macadam Meltdown

■ Rs 223 Cr plan for 559 km roads stalled

■ HMPO demands rate revision

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Jun 10: Macadamisation works across Kashmir Valley are facing a major setback this season as rising bitumen prices and the ongoing boycott by Hot Mix Plant owners have disrupted road construction projects across the Valley.

The government had earlier approved a macadamisation plan worth around Rs 223 crore for nearly 559 kilometres of roads across Kashmir for the 2026-27 financial year. However, officials and contractors say soaring prices of bitumen, diesel and transportation have severely affected execution on the ground.

Sources within the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department said that a majority of tenders floated for blacktopping and resurfacing works in several districts either received no bids or witnessed very low participation due to the ongoing boycott by the Hot Mix Plant Owners Association (HMPO).

An Executive Engineer from the R&B Department said this year's macadamisation



programme has been "badly hit" due to the sharp rise in bitumen prices and the ongoing standoff with Hot Mix Plant owners.

"The impact is huge, and there are serious concerns over the timely completion of projects," the official said.

Chief Engineer, Sushil Kumar, however, said the tendering process for road works is "live and ongoing" and that the department is closely monitoring the situation.

HMPO President Bashir Ahmad Khan said the association was left with no option but to continue the boycott as the government had failed to address the "genuine and logical demands" of the industry. "The cost of

petroleum products and allied materials used in macadamisation has increased sharply over the years. Despite repeated requests, no concrete step has been taken to compensate for the increase in costs," Khan said.

He said the association was also demanding that macadamisation contracts should only be awarded to registered contractors who own operational Hot Mix Plants.

"Macadamisation is a specialised work requiring proper infrastructure and technical expertise. If contractors without Hot Mix Plants quote lower rates than actual plant owners, it raises serious concerns about the quality and sustainability of works," he said.

Khan added that restricting participation to registered Hot Mix Plant owners would ensure better quality control and accountability in road projects across Kashmir.

He further said that the association wants to work with the government, adding that their machinery is ready and waiting for official execution plans and designs.

Tariq Ahmad Baba, a contractor associated with macadamisation works, said uncertainty over revised rates and rising input costs had created major difficulties for contractors.

"Contractors are unable to manage projects under old rates as the prices of bitumen, diesel and transportation have increased sharply," he said.

As per reports, bitumen prices across India have risen significantly in recent months due to supply disruptions linked to tensions in West Asia, affecting road construction projects in several states.

Speaking to KNO, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Co-Chairman of the Kashmir Economic Alliance (KEA), said the demand of Hot Mix Plant owners for revision of rates was genuine.

"The rates fixed earlier should be revised according to the present market situation. Otherwise, contractors and plant holders will face heavy losses," Dar said.

He said despite allocations being released months ago for the 2026-27 financial year, macadamisation works were yet to begin in

many areas.

"If work is delayed further, it will badly affect the public as Kashmir has limited working months for road construction," he said.

Dar also said the rising prices of fuel and essential commodities were putting common people under financial stress. "A labourer earning Rs 500 to Rs 700 a day is struggling to run his household. The government needs to seriously focus on these issues," he said.

Appealing to Hot Mix Plant owners, especially those operating in Shia-majority areas including Zadibal, Alamgari Bazaar and Lal Bazar, Dar urged them to defer the boycott for 10 days so damaged roads could be restored during the ongoing Muharram period.

He further said Kashmir's economy had suffered heavily since 2019 due to shutdowns, COVID-19, decline in tourism and repeated disruptions in business activity. "Kashmir's economy has crashed. Tourism, horticulture and trade sectors have suffered badly over the years," he said.

Dar said Kashmir had suffered economic losses worth several lakh crores over the past seven years and added that sectors linked to tourism, horticulture and transport were still struggling to recover.

Meanwhile, if the deadlock continues, the short working season in Kashmir could badly impact road improvement targets fixed for the current financial year—(KNO)

Zojila Tunnel to boost tourism, economy: COO MEIL

Traffic expected to start moving by 2028 end

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Jun 10: Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL), Harpal Singh, on Wednesday said the strategically important Zojila Tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, significantly boost tourism and economic activity, and is expected to be opened for traffic by the end of 2028.

Singh said the project will end the recurring disruption caused by the seasonal closure of the Zojila Pass.

"Every year, traffic on the Zojila Pass remains suspended for nearly four to five months due to heavy snowfall and adverse weather conditions. Once the tunnel becomes operational, Ladakh will have uninterrupted road connectivity throughout the year," he said.

The officer said the tunnel would also enhance road safety by reducing accidents on the treacherous mountain pass. "Even when the pass remains open, and



weather conditions are favourable, around 50 to 60 accidents are reported annually, resulting in significant loss of lives. The tunnel will provide a safer and more reliable route for commuters," he added.

Highlighting the economic benefits of the project, Singh said improved connectivity would give a major boost to tourism and trade in both Kashmir and Ladakh. "The project will have a positive impact on the local economy. Increased tourist inflow will create more opportunities for taxi operators, hoteliers, shopkeepers and

other stakeholders associated with the tourism sector," he said. Referring to the breakthrough achieved on Monday, the COO termed it a major milestone in the execution of the project but noted that substantial work still remains.

"Today's breakthrough marks an important achievement. However, it will take another two-and-a-half years to complete the remaining works. The construction process will continue through 2027 and 2028, and traffic is expected to start moving through the tunnel by the end of 2028," he said—(KNO)

Govt forms 5-member committee to probe Gulmarg Gondola malfunction

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Jun 10: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday constituted a high-level committee to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the technical malfunction of the Gulmarg Gondola on May 25 that left more than 300 tourists stranded mid-air and triggered a massive rescue operation.

The government accorded the sanction to the constitution of a five-member committee to investigate the circumstances leading to the malfunction of the cable car system.

The committee will be headed by Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Managing Director of KPDC, and comprises Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism Jammu, Tariq Hussain, Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority, Javed Ahmad Tantray, In-charge Superintendent Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Circle Kashmir, and Mohammad Ismail Chechi, Executive Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Division Baramulla.

The panel has been



tasked with establishing the complete sequence of events leading to the malfunction, including the circumstances preceding, during and after the incident. It will examine all relevant records, reports, communications and operational details to arrive at a clear understanding of what led to the breakdown.

The committee has also been directed to conduct a detailed technical examination of the malfunction, including scrutiny of the mechanical, electrical, electronic, braking, communication, control and safety systems associated with the operation of the cable car. As part of its

inquiry, the panel will review operational logs, fault indications, alarm systems, inspection reports, maintenance records and other technical documents related to the incident. It has also been asked to assess whether standard operating procedures, maintenance schedules and safety protocols were being followed at the time of the malfunction.

The terms of reference require the committee to investigate whether any operational lapse, negligence, procedural deficiency, communication gap, supervisory failure, human error or administrative shortcoming contributed directly or indirectly to

the incident. The inquiry will further assess compliance with statutory provisions, technical standards, safety regulations, manufacturer guidelines and certification requirements governing the operation of the Gondola system. The committee has also been tasked with evaluating the adequacy of the emergency response mounted during and after the incident, including evacuation procedures, passenger safety protocols, communication systems and coordination among the agencies involved in the rescue effort.

Continued on
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Not only business rules, want statehood restoration: Dr Farooq



JAHANGEER GANAIE

Anantnag, Jun 10: Stating that people are waiting for the Centre to fulfil its promise, National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that they don't want only business rules but they demand the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to Sarnal in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, Dr Farooq said, "We don't want only business rules but also the restoration of statehood in Jammu and Kashmir, as promised. We are waiting for this commitment to be fulfilled. The Prime Minister himself had assured Omar Abdullah that the promise would be honoured, and we expect him to deliver on it."

Commenting on reports of violent clashes in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), he expressed concern over the hardships being faced by people there and called for peace.

"This is what we seek and pray for—that conflict comes to an end and peace prevails everywhere. The difficulties and suffering being faced by the people there are unfortunate. We hope these hardships are removed and that they are able to live in peace, security and dignity," Dr Farooq said.

Continued on
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Core group constituted to simplify administrative processes

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Jun 10: The Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted a high-level core group to examine and recommend reforms aimed at simplifying administrative procedures and improving the delivery of public services across departments.

According to a government order, the panel will focus on ease of living and process reforms through re-engineering, rationalisation and simplification of government procedures relating to Government-to-Government (G2G), Government-to-Business (G2B) and Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services.

The core group will be headed by the Administrative Secretary, Home Department.

Its members include the Administrative Secretaries of the General Administration Department, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, Department of Law,

Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, and Information Technology Department. The Administrative Secretary of the concerned department will also be a member, while the Special Secretary in the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department will serve as Member Secretary. The order said the General Administration Department will act as the nodal department for facilitating the process reform exercise across government departments.

According to the terms of reference, the group has been tasked with reviewing existing administrative processes, procedures and service delivery mechanisms across departments. It will identify redundant procedures, excessive compliance requirements and avoidable delays in government functioning and recommend measures for their simplification.

The panel will also examine all G2G, G2B and G2C services with a view to improving

efficiency, transparency and citizen convenience. It will also recommend measures to reduce procedural complexity and compliance burdens faced by citizens, businesses and government agencies.

The group has also been asked to suggest reforms for ensuring seamless, accessible, transparent and time-bound delivery of public services.

Among its key responsibilities, the panel will recommend simplification and standardisation of forms, documentation requirements, approvals and official workflows.

The government said the initiative is aimed at improving governance, enhancing ease of living for citizens and creating a more efficient administrative framework in the Union Territory.

The recommendations of the core group are expected to guide future reforms in service delivery and administrative functioning across departments—(KNO)

Airtel deploys over 2,900 new 5G sites in north India

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 10: Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers has announced the deployment of more than 2,900+ new 5G sites across the Upper North region over the past 12 months. This expansion delivers faster speeds, wider coverage, and a superior network experience for customers.

Spanning 77 districts, the rollout now provides reliable high-speed connectivity to over 28.6 million+ customers from bustling cities and fast-growing towns to remote rural villages. With more than eight new sites activated daily, users enjoy seamless streaming, rapid downloads, uninterrupted remote working and learning, and dependable digital payments, regardless of location.

Customers across all districts of Punjab, Haryana,

Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir will benefit directly from this enhanced footprint. The expanded network enables high speed 5G access for citizens, students, micro entrepreneurs, enterprises and government institutions in both urban and rural markets.

"Data demand across Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir is surging, and we are staying ahead by relentlessly strengthening our network. These 2,900+ new 5G sites mean faster speeds, wider coverage, and a more reliable experience for over 28.6 million customers. Our continued investments underscore Airtel's commitment to bridging connectivity gaps and powering the region's digital transformation with a future-ready network."

Continued on
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Govt appoints 20 officers as revenue digitisation mentors

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Jun 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has nominated 20 senior officers as district mentors to monitor and supervise the digitisation of revenue records across all districts of the Union Territory.

An order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) states that the move aims to ensure timely completion of the digitisation process and strengthen monitoring of its implementation under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).

The officers, drawn from various departments, have been assigned one district each to oversee progress and facilitate resolution of issues affecting the digitisation exercise.

Among those appointed are Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department Rajinder Singh Tara for Jammu district, Special Secretary, Power Development Department Sukhdev Singh Samyal for Samba, Director, Geology and Mining Pawan Kumar Sharma for Kathua and Labour Commissioner Charandeep Singh for Udhampur.

Commissioner, Survey and Land Records Inderjeet has been assigned Rajouri district, while Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Jammu, Rajesh Kumar Shivan will oversee Poonch.

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EDITORIAL

Mandating Mother Tongue In Schools A Welcome Step

The government's decision to mandate mother tongue and home language as the primary medium of instruction in early years is a welcome and long-overdue step. For decades, young children in Jammu and Kashmir have been pushed into classrooms where the language of instruction was often unfamiliar. They struggled to understand basic concepts. They fell behind. Many lost confidence. This circular from SCERT-J&K, aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, finally corrects that

flaw. Research has consistently shown that children learn best when taught in a language they speak at home. When a child enters school and hears an alien tongue, fear replaces curiosity. Comprehension suffers. Dropout rates rise. By using the mother tongue as the primary medium in the early years, the government is not weakening English or any other language. It is building a strong foundation. A child who learns concepts clearly in their home language can later transition smoothly to additional

languages. But a child who never understands anything will never learn anything at all. The circular also focuses on foundational literacy and numeracy. It says that by the end of Grade II, every child should read age-appropriate text with fluency, demonstrate comprehension, and retell stories sequentially. This is a measurable and achievable goal. The emphasis on play-based literacy approaches, daily phonological awareness activities, and print-rich classrooms will make learning joyful rather than stressful.

The prohibition of formal written examinations at the preschool level is another excellent move. Young children should not be burdened with exams. They should be encouraged to explore, ask questions, and develop a love for learning. The mathematics instruction guidelines are equally thoughtful. Conceptual understanding through experiential and activity-based learning, using concrete materials and real-life contexts, will help children understand numbers and operations without fear. This is a

historic step for Jammu and Kashmir. This circular levels the playing field. It respects the linguistic diversity of the region. It understands that a child's mother tongue is not a barrier to learning but a bridge. Every child deserves to learn in a language they understand. Every child deserves to enter school with curiosity, not fear. The government has shown vision. Now, schools, teachers, and parents must implement this policy with sincerity. The future of our children depends on it.

12 Years Of Science In Service Of India From Lavender Fields To The Lunar South Pole



Dr. Jitendra Singh

When a lavender farmer in the Doda district of Jammu plucks the first blossoms of the season, she is not thinking about science policy. Yet it is precisely a decade of deliberate, mission-driven scientific investment that transformed barren hillsides in the Union Territory into fragrant fields of purple — a revolution in rural livelihoods born in a laboratory. This, in essence, is what twelve years of sustained commitment to science and technology in India has meant: not the advancement of knowledge for its own sake, but science as a living, breathing force in the daily lives of our citizens.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014, he articulated a vision that challenged us to think of science not as a departmental function but as a national mission. The years that followed have borne that vision out in ways that would have seemed extraordinary a generation ago. Today, India has landed a spacecraft at the Moon's south pole, developed its own antibiotic for the first time, built supercomputers from Pune to Patna, and created a space economy teeming with homegrown startups. But the deeper story — the one that deserves to be told — is how each of these achievements rippled outward into the lives of ordinary people.

Science is no longer confined to laboratories — it has become the single most powerful driver of national development and citizen empowerment.

Consider the farmer. Weather, always the silent sovereign of Indian agriculture, has become far more legible over the last decade. A comprehensive overhaul of our earth observation and forecasting infrastructure now gives farmers accurate, hyperlocal weather predictions — not in the vague language of probability, but with the kind of precision that allows a family to decide whether to harvest tomorrow or wait. When a cyclone forms over the Bay of Bengal today, our early warning systems give coastal communities hours — sometimes days — of advance notice. The difference is not statistical; it is counted in lives saved and livelihoods preserved.

In the mountains and river valleys of Jammu and Kashmir, science arrived in the form of the Aroma Mission — a programme that introduced lavender cultivation and supported farmers with technology, seeds and market linkages. What began as a pilot has since transformed into what is now celebrated as India's Purple Revolution: thousands of farming families earning dignified incomes from aromatic and medicinal plants, with science as the quiet architect of this prosperity. Similar work in saffron expansion, medicinal herb cultivation, and the first-ever introduction of asafetida cultivation in India has demonstrated that innovation, rooted in the soil, can be as transformative as any industrial technology.

Rural empowerment through science has extended well beyond agriculture. From 3D-printed housing prototypes designed for affordable rural construction to AI-powered systems that detect food adulteration, technology is being deliberately directed at solving the problems that matter most to the people who can least afford them. The National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems — which connects computing, sensing and physical engineering — has established



twenty-five Technology Innovation Hubs across the country, seeding more than a thousand startups working on problems as varied as precision agriculture, clean water access, and rural healthcare delivery.

Healing India: The Biotechnology Breakthrough

Perhaps no domain illustrates the transformative power of Indian science more vividly than biotechnology and healthcare. For decades, India's pharmaceutical strength lay in manufacturing — in producing generic versions of drugs discovered elsewhere. That story is changing. The development of Nafithromycin, India's first indigenously discovered antibiotic in decades, is not merely a scientific milestone; it is a declaration of pharmaceutical self-reliance. Born from a government-supported collaboration between researchers and industry, it signals that India's laboratories can now do what only a handful of nations have managed — innovate at the frontier of drug discovery.

Equally significant is the country's first successful indigenous gene therapy clinical trial for Haemophilia — a condition that requires lifelong, expensive treatment — conducted at the Christian Medical College in Vellore. Gene therapy works by correcting the underlying genetic fault rather than managing its symptoms; for a country with a large burden of genetic disease, the implications are profound. Combined with the GenomIndia Project, which has now sequenced over ten thousand human genomes drawn from India's extraordinarily diverse population, we are laying the scientific foundation for a future in which medicine is tailored to each patient's biology.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed, with painful clarity, how essential domestic biomedical capacity is to national security. India's response — developing and manufacturing its own vaccines at scale, deploying them across a population of 1.4 billion — drew on years of investment in our biotechnology ecosystem. The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, or BIRAC, has been instrumental in nurturing biotech startups, bridging the gap between academic research and commercial scale-up, and ensuring that scientific innovation finds its way into the hands of those who need it most. Today, a new generation of bio-entrepreneurs is working on precision medicine, sustainable bio-based materials and next-generation diagnostics — and they are doing so from Indian cities and campuses, not just Silicon Valley.

The GenomIndia Project has sequenced over ten thousand human genomes — laying the foundation for medicine tailored to every Indian's unique biology.

Reaching for the Stars, Grounding Every Citizen

On the 23rd of August 2023, as the Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 made its final descent toward the lunar south pole — a region no nation had ever reached — millions of Indians watched with a collective held breath. The moment of touchdown was not just a technological triumph; it was a national affirmation. India had done what no one else had managed. What followed — the analysis of the Moon's surface, the data transmitted back across three hundred and eighty thousand kilometres of space — mattered enormously to planetary science. But what mattered just as much was what that landing did to the imagination of a country.

India's space story over the past twelve years has been one of simultaneous ambition and utility. While Chandrayaan-3 captured the world's attention, Aditya-L1 — our first dedicated solar observatory — quietly began its mission to study the Sun, advancing our understanding of space weather that affects satellites, power grids, and communication systems on Earth. The SpaDeX mission placed India in an elite club of nations that have demonstrated the ability to dock two spacecraft in orbit — a capability essential for future space stations and crewed missions. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's historic eighteen-day stay aboard the International Space Station brought India's human spaceflight ambitions from aspiration to lived experience.

The transformation of India's space sector goes beyond missions, significant as they are. The Indian Space Policy of 2023 opened the entire value chain — launch vehicles, satellites, ground systems — to private enterprise. The result has been electric. From just eleven space startups in 2014, India today hosts over four hundred, building rockets, designing satellites and creating applications that range from agricultural monitoring to disaster response. Indian launch vehicles have carried three hundred and ninety-nine foreign satellites into orbit since 2014, making us a preferred partner for space agencies around the world. The space economy is no longer a public-sector preserve; it is a national asset being built by thousands of young engineers and entrepreneurs. With the Bharatiya Antariksh Station — India's own space station — envisioned for 2035, and a crewed lunar mission

targeted for 2040, the arc of this ambition is long, and its trajectory is upward.

Self-Reliance Through Innovation

Atmanirbhar Bharat — self-reliant India — is not merely a political slogan. In science and technology, it has become a governing philosophy. The National Quantum Mission, backed by more than six thousand crore rupees, is an investment not just in a technology but in India's strategic position in the twenty-first century's most consequential technological race. Quantum computing promises to solve problems that classical computers cannot; quantum communication offers theoretically unbreakable encryption; quantum sensing could transform navigation, medical imaging and geological exploration. India is now building all of these capabilities at home, through Thematic Hubs that bring together universities, research institutions and industry.

The National Supercomputing Mission has seeded high-performance computing infrastructure across the country — in Pune, Chennai, Kharagpur and beyond — giving Indian researchers, engineers and startups access to computational power that was once the preserve of a handful of elite institutions. Alongside this, BharatGen — the country's first government-funded multilingual Generative AI programme — is developing large language models that can think and communicate in Indian languages, ensuring that the benefits of artificial intelligence are not confined to English-speaking users.

CSIR's contribution to this vision of self-reliance deserves particular mention. The indigenously developed HANSA-NG trainer aircraft, produced for domestic and export markets, represents a capability built from scratch by Indian engineers. India's first hydrogen fuel-cell powered vessel points toward clean maritime transport. Work on sustainable aviation fuel opens pathways to decarbonising air travel without dependence on foreign technology. The CSIR Innovation Complex, India's first such facility, is designed to be a crucible where laboratory research meets entrepreneurial energy — a place where the distance between a scientific idea and a market-ready product is systematically compressed.

From just 11 space startups in 2014, India today hosts over 400 — a testament to the power of policy, public investment, and entrepreneurial spirit working in concert.

Energy Security and Future-Ready Technologies

No account of India's scientific transformation is complete without acknowledging the strategic depth being built in nuclear energy. The first criticality of the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam in April 2026 is a milestone of historic proportions. Developed entirely by Indian scientists and engineers at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and built by Bharatiya Nabhiya Vidyut Nigam, this reactor is the critical bridge to the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme — a pathway designed to eventually harness our country's vast reserves of thorium, one of the most abundant elements in Indian soil. In an era of energy transition, the ability to generate clean, continuous power from domestic fuel is not merely economical; it is a matter of sovereign security.

The nuclear sector has also extended its reach into medicine. The Tata Memorial Hospital's recognition by the International Atomic Energy Agency as a 'Rays of Hope' Anchor Centre, the expansion of cancer hospitals under the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital network, and the deployment of advanced radiopharmaceuticals — medicines that use radioactive particles to diagnose and treat cancer — are bringing world-class oncology care to patients across the country. The SHANTI Act of 2025 has modernised the legal architecture of India's nuclear sector, enabling greater participation and investment in an industry that will be central to our clean energy future.

Meanwhile, the Deep Ocean Mission is extending India's scientific reach into the last great unexplored frontier on our planet. Our ocean floor holds vast reserves of minerals essential for clean energy technologies — polymetallic nodules and cobalt-rich crusts that could reduce India's dependence on imported critical minerals. The mission is also building the underwater vehicle and sensor technologies that give India strategic and scientific presence in its maritime domain.

Towards Viksit Bharat: Science as Destiny

As India counts down the years to 2047 — the centenary of our independence and the target year for becoming a fully developed nation — science and technology will not merely support that journey; they will determine its pace and character. The investments made over the last twelve years have created not just institutions and infrastructure, but something more durable: a culture of scientific ambition, entrepreneurial energy and national confidence.

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation, created to transform India's research ecosystem through mission-led science, academia-industry collaboration and empowerment of young researchers, and the newly constituted Research, Development and Innovation Fund with a corpus of one lakh crore rupees, represent the largest bet India has ever placed on its own intellectual capacity. They signal a conviction — hardened by twelve years of evidence — that the solutions to our most pressing challenges lie within our own laboratories, campuses and communities.

The lavender farmer in Doda, the genomics researcher in Vellore, the space startup founder in Bengaluru, the nuclear engineer in Kalpakkam — they are all characters in the same story. It is the story of a nation that chose, deliberately and decisively, to place science at the centre of its development. What the last twelve years have built is not a portfolio of achievements but a foundation — sturdy, deep and wide — upon which a developed, self-reliant and scientifically confident India will rise.

The author is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS, Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Atomic Energy & Space, Government of India

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CS shapes new rehabilitation framework for drug abuse victims in J&K

Calls for a coordinated approach combining treatment, livelihood support and social reintegration to ensure lasting recovery

- » Comprehensive rehabilitation framework proposed for drug abuse victims in J&K
- » Pilot implementation to begin at IMHANS Srinagar, one additional district
- » Focus on treatment, rehabilitation, socio-economic reintegration
- » Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs) to be prepared for each beneficiary
- » 3-phase model: Treatment & stabilization, reintegration & livelihood activation
- » Sustained Monitoring & Social Inclusion
- » Dedicated mentors to guide, monitor each recovering individual
- » ASHA workers, social workers to support treatment adherence, rehabilitation
- » Linkages planned with education, skill development, employment and self-employment schemes
- » Community-based support network to involve SHGs, educational institutions and health centres
- » Framework aims to reduce relapse rates and promote long-term recovery, self-reliance

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: In a major step towards strengthening the fight against substance abuse and ensuring long-term recovery of affected individuals, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo gave shape to a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Framework for victims of drug abuse, aimed at facilitating their successful reintegration into society through a structured rehabilitation cycle.

The proposed framework, as per an official statement, was discussed in detail during a high-level meeting attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Secretary, Skill Development Department; Director Colleges; Head of IMHANS Srinagar; SIO, NIC and other concerned officers.

The proposed framework seeks to move beyond conventional detoxification and treatment by adopting a holistic approach that combines medical care, psychosocial support, education, skill development, employment opportunities and sustained monitoring to prevent relapse and promote social stability.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary outlined the comprehensive strategy envisioned by the Government to address the growing challenge of substance abuse through



a coordinated, treatment-to-reintegration approach based upon the Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs) for each of the victim as per his customized requirements.

He emphasized that the framework should be adopted forthwith on a pilot basis through IMHANS Srinagar and one additional district to identify operational challenges and fine-tune the model before its large-scale implementation across the Union Territory.

Elaborating on the proposed mechanism, the Chief Secretary observed that each Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) should function through a collaborative support system comprising trained Counsellors and Psychiatrists from the Health Department, an ASHA Worker, and a Social Worker designated by the Social Welfare Department.

He stated that the ASHA Worker would play a vital role in ensuring adherence to treatment protocols by assisting beneficiaries in taking prescribed medicines regularly and facilitating timely follow-up consultations making home visits.

The Chief Secretary further stressed that the Social Worker

Finance Department for successful implementation of the initiative.

He advised the Social Welfare Department to further refine the framework to make it more realistic, outcome-oriented and beneficial for the affected individuals, ensuring tangible socio-economic gains for those undergoing rehabilitation.

The scheme as elaborated by the Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti is designed around six key objectives, including institutionalizing a structured rehabilitation cycle, ensuring seamless transition from detoxification to socio-economic stabilization, reducing relapse rates through continuous care and monitoring, establishing mentor-led handholding for beneficiaries, promoting interdepartmental convergence and preventing premature exit before certified stabilization.

Elaborating it further the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez revealed that under the framework, rehabilitation shall be undertaken through three distinct phases spanning over a period of time.

He divulged that the first phase, Treatment and Stabilization focuses on centralizing intake, assessment, detoxification, clinical evaluation and risk categorization of beneficiaries. Cases referred from government-recognized de-addiction centres will undergo comprehensive assessment by authorized psychiatric professionals.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, assured full support from the

Vibrant Village Phase II Commissioner Secretary assures people-centric, multi-stakeholder approach in Samba



KT News Desk

SAMBA, JUNE 10: Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Ecology and Environment, Sheetal Nanda, Wednesday visited Chak Dulma and Chak Lala villages in Block Rajpura as part of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) Phase-II, underscoring the government's commitment to holistic and inclusive rural development in border areas of the Union Territory.

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary, as per an official statement, was briefed on the status of various projects being undertaken in the villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme.

Among others present on the occasion were Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Company Commander BSF, district officers and villagers.

It was informed during the briefing that all 16 identified villages under the programme have been assigned Nodal Officers and gap analysis exercises have been duly completed with projects formally

proposed for each village. In Chak Dulma, 11 projects have been proposed, while 9 projects have been put forward for Chak Lala, covering a range of developmental interventions to address the infrastructure and livelihood needs of the local population.

Local inhabitants of both the villages expressed their views on the proposed projects and placed their grievances before the senior officer, particularly pertaining to the agrarian economy and departmental functioning in the villages. Proposals for a playground and a veterinary hospital also figured prominently among the demands raised by the local residents.

The Commissioner Secretary listened attentively to the requests of the villagers and assured them of an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach to ensure that the villages are equipped with people-centric infrastructure, especially for the youth. This will facilitate affirmative action for building a productive and drug-free society in the border areas of Samba district.

IGNOU admissions begin for July 2026 session across Kashmir, Ladakh

KT News Desk

Srinagar, June 10: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has commenced the admission process for the July 2026 session for its Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online Programmes across Kashmir Valley and Ladakh.

Admissions, as per PIB statement, are being offered in more than 300 Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Certificate, Diploma and PG Diploma programmes through 30 study centres functioning under the IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar. Applicants can apply online through the University website at IGNOU Official Website or directly through the admission portal at IGNOU Admission Portal.

Before filling the admission form, applicants are required to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal and keep ready their mobile number, email ID, scanned academic documents, photograph, APAAR ID and online payment facilities. Candidates have been advised to use their own mobile numbers and email IDs during registration and preserve their login credentials for future use.

IGNOU has introduced several new academic programmes including Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes (FYUP) in Commerce, Economics, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Anthropology, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Social Work, Philosophy, Biochemistry and Facilities & Service Management. New programmes also include M.Sc. in



Climate Change, PG Diploma in Climate Change and Certificate Programme in Criminal Justice Social Work.

Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar, Dr. A.H. Rizvi, advised prospective learners to complete the admission process well before the deadline. He also cautioned students against fraudulent calls or messages seeking payment through QR codes, WhatsApp or social media platforms, stating that IGNOU accepts payments only through its official online portals.

The last date for submission of online admission forms has been fixed as July 15, 2026. IGNOU has also informed that re-registration for July 2026 session for learners enrolled in ODL and Online programmes is currently underway. Students enrolled in second and subsequent years or semesters have been advised to complete re-registration before June 30, 2026 to avoid last-minute inconvenience.

For further assistance, students may contact IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar at Saida Kadal, Rainawari, Srinagar, or call 0194-3102402, or email admissioncsrinagar@ignou.ac.in.

Cleft Care CME, CDE 2026 programme held at GMC Baramulla

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JUNE 10: Department of Dentistry, Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, Wednesday organized a one-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Dental Education (CDE) programme on "Comprehensive Cleft Care: A Holistic Approach Towards Cleft Lip and Palate Patients", aimed at raising awareness and strengthening coordinated care for cleft patients.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid, graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest, while Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Kaur, Principal/Dean, Government Dental College (GDC) Srinagar, attended as the Guest of Honour.

Among other dignitaries present were Prof. (Dr.) Majid Jehangir, Principal/Dean GMC Baramulla (Patron); Dr. Parvaiz Masoodi, Medical Superintendent GMC Baramulla (Co-Patron); Prof. (Dr.) Shafkat Ahmed Lone, Registrar Academics and Head, Department of ENT (Co-Patron); Prof. (Dr.) H.U. Malik, President IDA; and Dr. Omer Hussain Misger, Head, Department of Dentistry.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner, accompanied by the Guest of Honour and other dignitaries, inspected various stalls established at the venue showcasing awareness materials, treatment modalities and initiatives related to comprehensive cleft care and oral health services.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the Department of Dentistry for organizing the



programme and reiterated the district administration's commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at improving healthcare outcomes. He emphasized the importance of early identification and timely management of cleft lip and palate cases and urged the organizing team to conduct screening and awareness camps in peripheral and remote areas for wider outreach.

The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted the objectives of the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan and appreciated the contribution of GMC Baramulla towards rehabilitation and awareness programmes. He particularly acknowledged the role of various departments, including the Department of Dentistry, in extending healthcare support, counselling and rehabilitation services to individuals affected by substance abuse.

He further urged the organizers to conduct similar camps in far-flung areas under the Vibrant Village Programme to ensure that the benefits of such healthcare initiatives reach people residing in remote and underserved regions.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Kaur congratulated the Department of Dentistry for introducing comprehensive cleft care services at GMC Baramulla and emphasized the importance

of multidisciplinary collaboration in ensuring holistic treatment and rehabilitation of cleft patients.

Prof. (Dr.) Majid Jehangir extended his appreciation to the Department of Dentistry for successfully organizing the CME/CDE programme and for taking a significant step towards strengthening specialized healthcare services in the district.

The programme was organized with the objective of creating awareness about cleft lip and palate among the general public and frontline healthcare workers. ASHA workers and coordinators from all blocks of Baramulla district were sensitized about early identification of cleft cases, feeding techniques, door-to-door surveys, provision of psychosocial support and timely referrals for comprehensive management at GMC Baramulla.

The event witnessed participation of more than 250 delegates from different parts of the Union Territory, including Heads of Departments from Government Dental College Srinagar, SKIMS Medical College Baramulla, GMC Anantnag, GMC Doda and GMC Baramulla. Doctors from peripheral healthcare institutions, ANMs, midwives and ASHA workers from across Baramulla district also attended the programme.

DC Kathua chairs review meeting of revenue officers on Digitized Jamabandi-2026



KT News Desk

KATHUA, JUNE 10: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Wednesday chaired a review meeting of revenue officers to assess the progress of various assignments being implemented by the Revenue Department, including Digitized Jamabandi-2026, Irrigation Census and Water Census.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Mahima Madan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Vishav Partap Singh, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars and other officers concerned.

At the outset, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue presented a detailed overview of the status of ongoing assignments entrusted to the Revenue Department. He apprised the Deputy Commissioner of progress under the Water Census, including the enumeration and documentation of water bodies, assessment of groundwater resources and updation of related records.

He further briefed the meeting on the progress of finalisation of Digitized Jamabandi-2026, verification of mutation entries and the

corrective measures being undertaken to ensure accuracy and updation of revenue records across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed tehsil-wise progress of all assignments and took stock of surveys, field verification and record updation being carried out by revenue functionaries. He stressed the need for accuracy, transparency and consistency in data compiled under various surveys and census-related activities.

Emphasising the importance of modernisation of land records and reliable database management, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to expedite digitisation and ensure timely completion of all pending tasks. He underscored that accurate and updated records are essential for efficient public service delivery and effective governance.

He also instructed officers to intensify field-level monitoring and complete all surveys and verification exercises within the stipulated timelines, directing them to strictly adhere to guidelines and deadlines prescribed by higher authorities and ensure that no target remains unattended.

DC Ganderbal presides over weekly block diwas in Tulumulla

KT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Wednesday presided over a public outreach programme under the weekly Block Diwas initiative at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Tulumulla.

The programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad; PO ICDS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development

and other district and sectoral officers, besides civil society members, public representatives and residents from different areas of Tulumulla and adjoining villages.

At the outset, several delegations and individuals projected issues and demands concerning development and public welfare in their respective localities.

The issues raised during the programme mainly related to augmentation of drinking water supply, issues related to Dhobi canal, repairs of roads and damaged water pipelines,

improvement of existing playground, establishment of additional Anganwadi Centres, healthcare infrastructure, sanitation, maintenance of public assets, street lighting, restoration of springs in the localities among others.

Residents also sought better management of irrigation canals, revival of defunct infrastructure, improvement of public facilities, establishment of library in Tulumulla and deployment of sanitation workers and dustbins at Main Market Tulumulla.

Officers of the concerned departments responded to several issues on the spot and apprised the public about ongoing works, departmental procedures and measures being undertaken for resolution of grievances.

The DC gave a patient hearing to all delegations and individuals and directed the concerned departments to take prompt action on genuine public grievances in a time-bound manner.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that programmes such as Block Diwas provide an important platform for direct

interaction between the administration and the public and help in obtaining valuable feedback regarding developmental requirements and service delivery.

The DC directed the concerned irrigation officials to undertake field visits to identified locations and assess practical issues raised by residents so that necessary interventions can be taken up at the earliest.

Expressing concern over certain complaints regarding public service delivery, he directed departmental officers to ensure that officials perform

their duties with sincerity and commitment and that public grievances are addressed in a responsive manner.

Referring to the forthcoming annual Kheer Bhawani Mela at Tulumulla, the DC appreciated the tradition of communal harmony and hospitality displayed by the people of the district. He said the event holds immense significance for Ganderbal and expressed confidence that local residents would continue to extend a warm welcome to visiting devotees and uphold the positive and inclusive atmosphere

for which the mela is known.

Earlier, students of Government Higher Secondary School Watlar, Ganderbal presented a captivating song on Nasha Mukta Bharat, while students of Royal Public School staged an impactful skit highlighting the menace of drug abuse among youth.

These performances sensitized the audience regarding the harmful consequences of substance abuse and underscored the importance of collective efforts in safeguarding younger generations from the threat of addiction.

'Rabies 100% fatal once symptoms appear but completely preventable'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jun 10: With dog bite incidents continuing to be reported across urban and rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, health authorities have intensified awareness efforts on rabies prevention, stressing that timely medical intervention can save lives and help achieve the national goal of "Zero Human Deaths from Dog-Mediated Rabies by 2030."

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Anti-Rabies Clinic at SMHS Hospital, operating under the Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College Srinagar, has launched a public awareness campaign highlighting the dangers of rabies and the critical importance of immediate wound care and vaccination following animal bites or exposure.

Medical experts describe

rabies as one of the deadliest viral diseases affecting the brain and nervous system of humans and animals. While the disease is almost always fatal once symptoms develop, doctors emphasise that it is completely preventable if appropriate treatment is taken without delay.

According to health officials, India records more than 17 million animal bite cases annually, with nearly 96 per cent of human rabies deaths linked to

dog bites. The disease remains present across states and Union Territories, making prevention and awareness crucial components of public health efforts.

In Jammu and Kashmir, animal bite cases continue to be reported from both rural and urban regions, with stray and domestic dogs accounting for the majority of exposures. Health experts warn that every animal bite, scratch or lick on broken skin should be treated as

a potential rabies exposure and should never be ignored.

"Rabies is a medical emergency. The biggest mistake people make is waiting for symptoms or relying on traditional remedies. Once symptoms appear, survival is extremely rare. Immediate wound washing and timely vaccination can prevent the disease completely," health officials said.

The awareness campaign highlights that the rabies virus spreads through the saliva of infected

animals. Besides dogs, rabies can also be transmitted through cats, monkeys, jackals, foxes, wolves, mongooses, goats, cattle and bats. Transmission occurs through bites, scratches or contact of infected saliva with broken skin or mucous membranes such as the eyes, nose and mouth.

Doctors have advised the public to immediately wash any bite or scratch wound with soap and running water for at least 15 minutes, followed by the application

of an antiseptic such as povidone-iodine. They stressed that prompt wound care significantly reduces the risk of infection and should be the first response after any exposure.

Health authorities further explained that Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), which includes anti-rabies vaccination and, in severe cases, Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG), remains the most effective protection against the disease.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

From Art 370 abrogation

and Services Tax (GST), One Rank One Pension (OROP), the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and labour law reforms.

According to the resolution, efforts to tackle Naxalism, permanent peace accords in the North-East and the resolution of the border dispute with Bangladesh reflected the government's focus on internal and external security.

The Cabinet further credited PM Modi's administration with placing welfare of the poor at the centre of governance through the expansion of housing, electricity, drinking water and direct benefit transfer schemes.

It said more than 80 crore people benefited from free ration support while over 60 crore individuals received free medical treatment under government programmes. The resolution also claimed that more than 25 crore people had moved out of poverty during the period.

Highlighting economic and developmental achievements, the Cabinet said India had emerged as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem and strengthened its position in science and technology through missions such as Chandrayaan.

It also pointed to initiatives aimed at women's empowerment, including the Lakhpati Didi programme and legislation providing 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies.

The resolution credited programmes such as PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi and the extension of Kisan Credit Cards to pastoralists and fishermen for supporting the agricultural sector and helping agricultural exports cross Rs 5 lakh crore.

The Cabinet said initiatives such as Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat had strengthened domestic manufacturing capacities in sectors ranging from defence production to artificial intelligence.

It also highlighted India's global engagements, including its G20 Presidency, International Yoga Day, the International Solar Alliance and Mission Life.

Expressing "heartfelt congratulations and best wishes" to Modi, the Cabinet reaffirmed its support for his vision of a "Viksit Bharat" and expressed confidence that India would continue progressing towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 under his leadership. (KNO)

Ensure timely completion

departments and organizations to manage and facilitate the Yatra 2026.

BALTAL, PAHALGAM ROUTES WIDENED TO AROUND 12-FEET

The Lieutenant Governor, while reviewing the infrastructure works, was apprised that the tracks along both Baltal and Pahalgam routes have been widened to around 12-feet in order to make the journey comfortable, and that all the remaining works are progressing as per timelines. He directed the concerned agencies, including BRO, to ensure that both tracks are fully functional by June 25 and that crash barriers and hand railings are installed at all vulnerable points on the roads leading to the two base camps.

ENSURE COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The Lieutenant Governor also reviewed arrangements relating to road connectivity, sanitation, water and power supply, registration management, health facilities, disaster management, transportation, lodgement centres, holding spaces and telecom connectivity. He directed the concerned authorities to enhance holding capacity at key locations, increase the number of toilets and ambulances, and ensure comprehensive disaster preparedness. Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag were asked to conduct thorough inspection of the tracks, identify slippery stretches and shooting stone areas, and ensure installation of adequate warning signage at vulnerable spots.

CALLS FOR PITCHING ONLY HIGH QUALITY AND AESTHETIC TENTS

He further directed that pitching of only high quality and aesthetic tents at various camps should be ensured, and no unauthorized tents be permitted. All service providers and pilgrims shall be required to have valid registration and RFID cards for moving on the Yatra tracks. Pony stands are to be properly fenced, and a comprehensive emergency evacuation plan is to be prepared well in advance. The Lieutenant Governor also directed telecom service providers to ensure seamless connectivity along the Yatra route.

All concerned departments have been instructed to set up their respective Yatra camps and centres by June 20.

Earlier, the Chief Executive Officer, Amarnath Ji ne Board, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, presented a detailed overview of the works executed by various departments and agencies for the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

TOP OFFICERS ATTEND MEETING

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shahleen Kabra; Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department,

Ashwani Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shailendra Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, Anil Kumar Singh; Commandant General, Home Guard / CD & SDRF; AG Mir; Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti; Chief Executive Officer, Amarnath Ji ne Board, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Alok Kumar, Administrative Secretaries, Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone and Kashmir Zone, Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners and senior officials of ne Board and all the line departments.

OUR COLLECTIVE GOAL IS TO ENSURE SAFE, SEAMLESS PILGRIMAGE FOR EVERY DEVOTEE OF BABA BARFANI

After chairing the meeting LG Sinha, according to KNO posted on X: "Today, chaired a high-level review meeting on preparations for Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 & directed all departments and security agencies to ensure timely completion of arrangements from infrastructure and security to healthcare, sanitation, connectivity, and pilgrim services. Amarnath Ji Yatra will begin on July 3 and conclude on August 28. Our collective goal is to ensure a safe, seamless, and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage for every devotee of Baba Barfani."

Pertinently, several preparatory meetings have already been held at the district and base camp levels in Jammu, Anantnag and Ganderbal districts to ensure the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage. (KNO)

Translate knowledge

according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) highlighted the evolving role of immunology in biomedical innovation and healthcare.

The prestigious event, organized by the Advanced Centre for Human Genetics SKIMS, is themed "Beneath the Grandeur of Chinara: Illuminating Mysteries from Fundamentals to Translational Frontiers in Health".

The Lieutenant Governor hailed the human immune system as one of nature's most extraordinary living architectures, that defends the body with remarkable precision.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the continuous immunological innovation remains a moral obligation to prepare for future global health threats.

"I consider 'Precision Medicine' to be a major revolution in the healthcare sector today. Scientists, experts and researchers from various disciplines and institutions participating in this conference must collaborate and deliberate on this aspect and focus on inventing solutions capable of transforming medical science," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He emphasised on translating the scientific knowledge into public health action and putting dedicated focus on immunological research to further strengthen the ability to combat infectious diseases, improve vaccine effectiveness and enhance healthcare delivery.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the scientists and stakeholders to foster deeper collaborations and work on three key areas: "First, there is a need to develop 'Immuno-AI Fusion' tools using Artificial Intelligence tools to help create immune profiles across different age groups in states.

Second, scientists, given the changing environment, must work on 'climate immunity' and prepare for the challenges and potential threats including pandemics.

Third, stakeholders in "Translational Medicine" must reduce the time gap between laboratory discoveries and practical patient care, ensuring that the public healthcare system gains access to new diagnostic tools, medical devices, and therapies".

The Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to the global immunology community for their lifelong dedication to safeguarding human life.

He also stated that organising the annual conference of the Indian Immunology Society in Jammu Kashmir aligns with the region's ancient legacy as a historic hub of knowledge and scientific discovery.

Prof. G P Talwar, Founder Director, National Institute of Immunology; Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS; Prof. Amit Awasthi, President, Indian Immunology Society; Prof. Anil Kaul, Vice-Chancellor Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth; Dr. Bashir A Fomda, Dean Faculty SKIMS; Prof. Dil Afroz, Head, Advanced Centre for Human Genetics SKIMS; scientists, researchers, policymakers, industry partners, and senior officials were present. (KNO)

Strong coordination

access control measures and logistical arrangements put in place to ensure seamless management and foolproof security for pilgrims.

The DG also undertook a comprehensive field inspection of the 118 Battalion headquarters at Gund, where he reviewed infrastructure development works and assessed the operational readiness of the unit.

He was briefed by senior officers on the

prevailing security scenario and ongoing operational activities within the area of responsibility.

Reiterating focus on ground-level preparedness and troop welfare, he also interacted with officers and jawans and stayed overnight at the battalion headquarters.

The DG CRPF was accompanied by senior officers including SDG Ops Dte Central Reserve Police Force Vitul Kumar, ADG J&K Zone Rajesh Kumar, IG Kashmir Ops Sector Vineet Brij Lal, IG Prov Dte Sonal V Mishra, IG Srinagar Sector Pawan Kumar Sharma and other senior officials of the force. (KNO)

New Vande Bharat

travel time and offering enhanced comfort.

He also highlighted the role of the railway network in facilitating the movement of freight, including apples, cherries and cement, thereby helping local farmers and businesses access wider markets.

The Railway Minister, as per the statement, reiterated the Government of India's commitment to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and said the Anantnag stoppage reflects the government's efforts to address local aspirations through improved infrastructure and connectivity. (KNO)

Two soldiers die

sacrifice of bravehearts, who laid down their lives in the line of duty for the Nation. "Their unwavering courage, devotion and selfless service will continue to inspire generations."

Chinar Warriors while paying tributes to the brave hearts said, "We salute their indomitable valour and sacrifice. We stand firmly with the bereaved families in this hour of grief and remain committed to their dignity and well-being." (KNO)

223 sportspersons

under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has adopted a comprehensive approach towards sports development, focusing not only on infrastructure creation and competitive excellence but also on ensuring social and economic security for athletes who dedicate years of hard work and perseverance to bring laurels to Jammu and Kashmir.

"The selection of 223 sportspersons for government employment is not merely a recruitment process; it is a recognition of the discipline, commitment, sacrifices and achievements of our young athletes. It sends a strong message that excellence in sports will be respected, rewarded and supported by the government," the Minister said.

He observed that sports have emerged as a powerful vehicle for youth engagement, character-building, leadership development and social transformation. He added that by creating assured career pathways for athletes, the government is encouraging young people to pursue sports with greater confidence and commitment.

The Minister highlighted various initiatives being undertaken to strengthen the sports landscape across the Union Territory, including the upgradation of sports infrastructure, development of modern training facilities, organization of competitive events at district and state level, promotion of grassroots talent identification programmes and enhanced support for athletes participating in national and international competitions.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir has consistently produced talented sportspersons who have excelled in diverse disciplines and brought recognition to the region at national and international forums. The government, he added, is determined to create an enabling environment where such talent can flourish through sustained institutional support, professional coaching, scientific training methods and improved access to opportunities.

Satish Sharma said that the sports quota recruitment fulfils a long-standing aspiration of many athletes who have dedicated themselves to excellence despite numerous challenges. He said the initiative will not only provide financial stability and career security to the selected candidates but will also inspire thousands of aspiring sportspersons across Jammu and Kashmir to take up sports as a serious and rewarding pursuit.

The Minister called upon the educational institutions, sports associations, coaches and parents to work collectively towards nurturing sporting talent and creating a culture of excellence. He emphasized that the future of Jammu and Kashmir's sporting success lies in strengthening grassroots participation and ensuring that every talented youth receives adequate opportunities to showcase their potential.

Reiterating the government's vision of making Jammu and Kashmir a hub of sporting excellence, Satish Sharma said that sports are no longer confined to recreation but have evolved into a dynamic sector offering opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, international exposure and social mobility.

"The success of these 223 sportspersons belongs not only to them and their families but to the entire sporting community of Jammu and Kashmir. Their achievements will inspire a new generation of athletes to dream bigger,

work harder and contribute to the progress and prestige of the Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The Minister extended his warm congratulations to all the selected candidates and wished them success in their future careers. He expressed confidence that they would continue to uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and serve as role models for the youth while contributing meaningfully to public service and the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir on path

tourism is the backbone of Kashmir's economy and the region continues to attract visitors from across the country.

"Despite challenges faced in 2025, Kashmir welcomed around 1.77 crore tourists. Before that, tourist arrivals crossed 2.66 crore. I believe the number can touch nearly three crore in the coming period because people across India now want to visit Kashmir and experience its beauty and peace," he said.

The Minister said he met tourists from several states, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Jharkhand during his visit, which reflected Kashmir's growing appeal as a national tourist destination.

"Kashmir is amazing. The peace and development visible today are encouraging people from every corner of India to visit the Valley," he said.

Seth credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accelerating development in Jammu and Kashmir through investments in healthcare, roads, tunnels, bridges and other infrastructure projects.

"Prime Minister Modi has visited Jammu and Kashmir numerous times and has provided unprecedented support in sectors such as health, roads, tunnels and bridges. Today, the path of development is open and Kashmir is moving forward rapidly," he said.

On the security situation, the Minister said terrorism has witnessed a significant decline and assured that the government remains committed to maintaining peace and stability.

"The Government of India will ensure there is no lapse in security. Peace, brotherhood and development will continue. The people need not worry," he said.

Highlighting economic activities in the region, Seth said Kashmir's cricket bat industry has gained international recognition. "Nearly 30 lakh cricket bats are being manufactured here and exported to countries such as Britain, Australia and Saudi Arabia. This reflects the growing economic potential of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Drawing a contrast with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoJK), the Minister said people there are facing hardships, while Jammu and Kashmir is moving on a path of development and prosperity.

He also praised India's progress under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, saying the country is on track to become one of the world's largest economies.

"India is moving rapidly towards becoming a five-trillion-dollar economy and is poised to become the world's third-largest economy. The vision of Viksit Bharat is steadily becoming a reality," he said.

Referring to the completion of 12 years of the PM Modi-led government, Seth said the period has been marked by transparent governance and zero tolerance towards corruption.

"Over the last 12 years, the country has witnessed transparent governance and decisive leadership. The era of scams has ended and a new chapter of accountability and development has begun," he said.

The Minister thanked the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their support and expressed confidence that the Union Territory would continue to witness peace, prosperity and development in the years ahead. (KNO)

'Non-solar hours

in J&K is expected to be comfortable. The Committee has also asked the SLDC of J&K to share the details of further tied up and arrangements to meet the peak demand with NRLDC and NRPC.

Pertinently, in the first week of June-2026, KNO reported that deficiency in reactive power support has left the J&K grid gasping for voltage stability.

The severe voltage triggered by insufficient reactive compensation in J&K is raising serious questions about the region's power reliability.

The authorities had said, "Due to inadequate reactive compensation in J&K State Transmission Utility (STU) network, severe low voltages have been observed in J&K grid."

Reactive power compensation is the management of reactive power to improve the efficiency, stability, and power quality of an Alternating current (AC) electrical system.

In May-2026, KNO reported that authorities have revealed power voltages in Jammu and Kashmir have slumped to severe low levels.

As already reported by this news agency, Jammu and Kashmir has indicated that a power load requirement of up to 7 Gigawatts (GWs) by the coming five years needs to be considered in the winter season—signalling major infrastructure upgrades to avoid seasonal blackouts. (KNO)

Rain, thunderstorm

partly to generally cloudy from June 13 to 17, with scattered spells of light rain, brief showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds at several places.

The advisory warned that brief but intense showers at isolated locations in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions may lead to flash floods, mudslides and localized waterlogging between June 11 and June 14.

The forecast comes amid continued above-normal temperatures across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to data released by the Meteorological Department, Jammu recorded the highest maximum temperature in the Union Territory at 42.7 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, nearly four degrees above normal. Srinagar registered 32.3 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund recorded 32.8 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara recorded 29.2 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 30.5 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 23.4 degrees Celsius.

Despite the prevailing heat, water levels in major rivers and tributaries remained well below danger marks, according to data released by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

The River Jhelum was flowing at 1.35 feet at Sangam, 2.96 feet at Munshibagh and 3.45 feet at Asham on Wednesday morning. Wular Lake stood at 1,575.43 metres.

Among major tributaries, Vishow Nallah at Khudwani was recorded at 2.35 metres, Lidder Nallah at Batkoot at 0.20 metres, Doodhganga at Barzulla at 0.40 metres and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama at 0.99 metres.

Officials said all rivers and streams were flowing within safe limits and there was no flood threat at present. However, they said the situation would continue to be monitored closely in view of the forecast rainfall activity over the coming days. (KNO)

Overseas Kashmiri

For many members of the group, it was their first visit to Kashmir in over three decades. The occasion was marked by nostalgia, reflection and a profound sense of belonging as they revisited places linked to their childhood memories and cultural heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, several visitors said that despite building lives in different parts of the world, their emotional bond with Kashmir has remained unbroken.

"We may be living in the UK, USA, Mumbai, Delhi and elsewhere with many houses, but our hearts continue to beat for Kashmir. This land is our home, and we still dream of living here," they said.

The visiting Pandits said the fragrance of their homeland and the emotional attachment to their roots cannot be replaced by any material comfort elsewhere.

"Whatever happened in the past, we do not carry feelings of revenge or bitterness in our hearts. We only wish for peace and coexistence. There is something unique about the soil of one's homeland. The connection with Kashmir is beyond words," they said.

The visitors appreciated the warmth, affection and hospitality extended by residents during their stay. They described the reception accorded to them by their Muslim brethren as heartening and reflective of Kashmir's centuries-old tradition of communal harmony and mutual respect.

According to the participants, the affection and welcome they received reinforced their faith in the values of brotherhood, coexistence and social unity that have historically defined Kashmir's cultural fabric.

Reflecting on the changes witnessed over the decades, members of the delegation observed that Kashmir has experienced significant development and transformation in various sectors over the last 36 years. They noted improvements in infrastructure and public facilities while expressing hope that peace and stability would continue to strengthen across the region.

At the same time, they said that incidents such as the last year's attack in Pahalgam continue to cause concern and underscore the need for sustained efforts to preserve peace and ensure a secure future for all communities.

The heritage tour, aimed at reconnecting members of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community with their cultural, religious and historical roots, is being organised with the support and cooperation of several Hindu religious and cultural organisations.

The participants are also scheduled to take part in a major gathering at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar in the coming days, where issues related to cultural preservation, community engagement and strengthening ties with the homeland are expected to be discussed.

Members of the Martand Trust, Mattan, extended a warm welcome to the visiting delegation and conveyed their best wishes for the success of the heritage tour. They described the visit as an important step towards fostering understanding, preserving heritage and strengthening the bonds that connect Kashmiris across generations and geographical boundaries. (KNO)

Modi thanks Prez, NDA leaders for wishing him on becoming longest-serving elected PM



PTI

New Delhi, Jun 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday thanked President Droupadi Murmu and NDA chief ministers and leaders for their warm wishes on becoming the longest-serving democratically elected PM and said whatever has been achieved over the years is the result of the collective efforts and aspirations of the people of India.

In separate messages, Modi also said the NDA's journey has been defined by a shared resolve to further national interest and regional aspirations and this spirit has strengthened the country's democracy, deepened cooperative federalism and accelerated development.

He also appreciated Vice President C P Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for their congratulatory messages.

"Rashtrapati Ji, I am grateful to you for your warm wishes and kind words. Whatever has been achieved over the years is the result of the collective efforts and aspirations of the people of India," Modi said. The prime minister said the affection and blessings

of 140 crore Indians are his greatest strength and inspiration and he was particularly glad that the President mentioned PM-JANMAN and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in her congratulatory message.

"Our government remains committed to ensuring that the benefits of development reach every section of society in the true spirit of Antyodaya," he said.

Thanking the chief ministers and leaders of the NDA for their wishes, Modi said the NDA's journey has been defined by a shared resolve to further national interest and regional aspirations.

"This spirit has strengthened our democracy, deepened cooperative federalism and accelerated development. Over the last 12 years, the NDA has provided a stable government that has furthered progress across sectors. We will continue working together with renewed vigour in service of the nation and the vision of Viksit Bharat," he said in a post on 'X'.

The post also carried a picture of NDA leaders, who attended the conclave of the ruling alliance on Wednesday at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital.

Thanking Vice President

Radhakrishnan, the prime minister said the trust and blessings of the people of India inspire him to work harder in service of the nation.

"All my efforts will continue to be guided by the aim of building a Viksit Bharat that is prosperous and proud of our civilisational heritage. No stone will be left unturned in fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of our fellow Indians," he said. Thanking Birla, Modi said this historic milestone in Indian democracy is the superb outcome of the boundless blessings and affection of the people.

"We all together will continue to advance with even greater resolve the pledge to build a developed, self-reliant, and prosperous India," he said.

Modi on Wednesday surpassed the record of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to become the country's longest-serving elected PM.

He crossed Nehru's record of 4,398 days in office as an elected prime minister following the 1952 general elections. Nehru's stint from 1947 to 1952 was as head of an interim government as elections were not held till 1952.

Modi's tenure distinguished by advancements in governance, economic resilience: Prez



PTI

New Delhi, Jun 10: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the unique honour of serving as the longest continuously elected PM of the country and said the landmark occasion stands as a testament to the enduring trust and confidence reposed by people in his leadership.

"Your tenure has been distinguished by far-reaching advancements across governance, economic resilience and social transformation," Murmu said in a post on X.

Jawaharlal Nehru.

"Heartiest congratulations to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji on the unique honour of serving as the longest continuously elected Prime Minister of the nation. This landmark occasion stands as a testament to the enduring trust and confidence reposed in your leadership by the people of India," the President said.

Wide-ranging welfare initiatives have ensured more inclusive and equitable access to development benefits, reaching people at the grassroots, which strongly reflects adherence to the principles of Antyodaya, she said.

Of the many initiatives undertaken under your leadership, PM-JANMAN and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan hold a special place in my heart, Murmu said.

Modi shares jhalmuri and a message at NDA meet



PTI

New Delhi, Jun 10: The humble jhalmuri found itself in the political spotlight once again at the 12th anniversary conclave of the ruling NDA at the Bharat Mandapam here on Wednesday.

And yet again, this was courtesy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had sent the popular Bengali snack's stock soaring by consuming it at a campaign pitstop during the West Bengal Assembly polls.

Modi shared a video clip on Instagram showing West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari serving him jhalmuri -- essentially a mixture of puffed rice, crunchy vegetables, spices, and a drizzle of mustard oil -- at a makeshift stall set up at the NDA meeting venue.

The images brought back memories of the Bengal polls, when Modi's jhalmuri break had drawn a "drama" barb from Trinamool Congress supremo and the then chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

Modi had then hit back with a pun, saying while he enjoyed the snack, the TMC felt the "jhal" (heat).

With the TMC having suffered a resounding defeat at the hands of the BJP in the polls, Modi on Wednesday appeared to gently rub it in once again.

"Sharing Jhalmuri with fellow NDA leaders at the NDA meeting today," Modi captioned the video.

BJP chief Nitin Nabin, Union ministers H D Kumaraswamy and Chirag Paswan, BJP ally and Rashtriya Lok Morcha chief Upendra Kushwaha, Uttar Pradesh minister Sanjay Nishad and Bodoland People's Front chief Hagrama Mohilary stood around the prime minister as he munched on the snack.

As Adhikari handed over a serving of jhalmuri to Modi, the prime minister responded with a thank you. Modi then served portions of it to Nabin and Nishad.

The everyday snack was catapulted to political stardom after Modi made an unscheduled stop at a modest jhalmuri shop in Jhargram during his Bengal poll campaign on April 19. What began as a roadside snack break soon became a political talking point.

Delhi hotel fire: Court remands owner, accountant to 12-day judicial custody



PTI

New Delhi, Jun 10: A Delhi court on Wednesday sent to 12-day judicial custody the owner and the accountant of a south Delhi hotel where a devastating fire killed 22 people last week.

Judicial Magistrate Bhanu Pratap Singh was hearing the Delhi Police's plea seeking 12 days judicial custody of hotel owner Lavkesh Bajaj and accountant Jay Mishra, as both were produced physically in the court.

The court also directed the jail supervisor to consider providing a medical prescription issued by a doctor to Bajaj.

The June 3 fire at Flourish Stay B&B in Hauz Rani area of Malviya Nagar, one of the deadliest hotel blazes in the national capital in recent years, killed 22

people and left several others injured.

The investigation is focusing on possible negligence, fire safety violations and alleged lapses in the licensing and operation of the establishment.

The revelations emerged during the interrogation of Bajaj and accountant Mishra after their arrest in connection with the case.

During questioning, Mishra told investigators that he had provided his personal documents for obtaining the bed-and-breakfast licence at Bajaj's request, while the application process was handled by the hotel owner.

The disclosure has prompted investigators to examine how the licence was obtained in the name of an employee despite Bajaj allegedly being the owner of the building and

the establishment.

According to sources, Mishra was also responsible for monitoring compliance with safety requirements, maintaining licence-related documents and handling various legal and operational formalities of the establishment.

When questioned about guest registers, identity records, licensing papers and other documents, Mishra claimed that all records had been maintained at the hotel but were completely destroyed in the fire.

The police, however, are seeking independent verification of the claim. Investigators are collecting records from various government departments, online portals and associated agencies to reconstruct the hotel's documentary history and determine accountability.

Rebel Trinamool leader Ritabrata claims dissident camp is 'real TMC'

• Rules out merger with Congress

PTI

Kolkata, Jun 10: As Mamata Banerjee's meetings with the Congress leadership fuelled fresh speculation about the future of her embattled faction, rebel leader Ritabrata Banerjee on Wednesday claimed ownership of the Trinamool Congress itself, declaring that the dissident camp was the "real TMC" and had no plans to merge with the grand old party.

Claiming that the strength of the dissident bloc had risen from 58 to 64 MLAs, Ritabrata said the rebels enjoyed the support of a majority of the party's legislators and a growing number of MPs, and would continue to function under the Trinamool Congress banner.

"We are the real Trinamool Congress. We are not merging with the Congress," Ritabrata told reporters outside the state assembly.

His remarks came amid heightened political speculation following Mamata Banerjee's meeting with Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and reports of consultations between Abhishek Banerjee and senior Congress leaders in the national capital.

The meetings have fuelled intense chatter in political circles over the future course of the diminished Mamata-led faction of the TMC at a time when the party is battling the biggest internal crisis in its 28-year history.



Ritabrata, however, dismissed suggestions that the organisation could become part of any Congress-led arrangement.

"The number of MLAs with us has already crossed 64. It may become 65 tomorrow when another MLA joins us. Naturally, we are the real Trinamool Congress. Who meets whom in Delhi is their matter and is immaterial for us," he said.

The rebel leader said a fresh communication reflecting the changed strength of the legislative bloc would be submitted to the Speaker.

He further claimed that the dissident camp commanded support not only among MLAs but also among MPs, local body representatives and district-level leaders.

"Most legislators are not merging with the Congress.

Most MPs are not merging with the Congress. Many district leaders and local body representatives are also not merging with the Congress. Then where is the question of a merger?" he asked.

Ritabrata also reiterated that the rebel MPs in the Lok Sabha would continue to support the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

The statement assumes significance as 20 rebel TMC MPs have already informed Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla about the formation of a separate parliamentary bloc under the leadership of Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and pledged support to the NDA.

The TMC's organisational crisis burst into the open earlier this week when a rebellion that had first fractured its ranks in the West Bengal Assembly spread to Parliament.

The parliamentary rupture came days after 58 TMC MLAs, a figure the rebel camp now claims has climbed to 64, defied the party leadership and backed expelled MLA Ritabrata Banerjee as Leader of the Opposition instead of the party's official nominee, Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay.

The twin rebellions have plunged Mamata Banerjee's party into arguably the gravest crisis since its formation in 1998, transforming what began as internal dissent into a battle over legislative strength, parliamentary numbers, organisational control and political legitimacy.

The split has steadily widened from the Assembly to Parliament, with senior Rajya Sabha members Sukhendu Sekhar Ray

and Sushmita Dev resigning from both the Upper House and the party.

Against this backdrop, the Delhi meetings between Mamata Banerjee, Abhishek Banerjee and the Congress leadership have acquired added political significance, with speculation rife that sections of the TMC still loyal to the Banerjees could explore closer ties or a merger with the Congress.

Though neither side has publicly spoken of a merger, the meetings have generated enough political buzz for the rebel camp to repeatedly clarify its position.

Asked what would happen if Mamata Banerjee eventually decided to merge her faction with the Congress, Ritabrata avoided a direct answer.

"Tomorrow will answer tomorrow's questions. As of today, the number is 64 and counting," he said.

The remark underscored the fluidity of a political crisis that has already redrawn Bengal's political landscape and left the once-dominant TMC battling simultaneous challenges to its legislative strength, parliamentary presence and organisational coherence.

For now, while Mamata Banerjee's camp is engaged in conversations in Delhi, the rebel faction appears determined to send a different message from Kolkata -- that the fight is no longer merely over numbers, but over who gets to claim ownership of the TMC itself.

Trump says Iran has taken too long to negotiate, will 'have to pay the price'

AP/REUTERS

Dubai/Washington, Jun 10: US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday Iran had taken too long to negotiate a deal and would now "have to pay the price," while Tehran said it would reassess diplomatic engagement with Washington after tit-for-tat strikes overnight. "Iran is all talk and no action," Trump said in a social media post on Wednesday. "They've taken too long to negotiate a deal that would have been great for them, now they will have to pay the price!!!"

Trump latest comments come amidst Tehran's criticisms that diplomatic efforts with the United States cannot advance under repeated ceasefire violations, following overnight clashes in the Gulf between Tehran and Washington.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei accused Washington of undermining diplomacy through contradictory messages, shifting positions and repeated ceasefire violations, and said Israel was also damaging the process through repeated ceasefire breaches in Lebanon.

"Following overnight events, we need to re-assess (the diplomatic path with Washington) ... any diplomatic process requires a minimum stable environment," he said.

The United States launched airstrikes early Wednesday against Iran after blaming Tehran for the crash of an American attack helicopter, prompting new attacks



from Iran and further widening the retaliatory strikes that threaten to derail talks to end to the war.

Iran launched attacks on sites in Bahrain, Kuwait, which both sounded alerts and fired air defenses in response. Jordan also reported shooting down five missiles that Iran shot at an air base hosting US forces.

Iran's foreign ministry warned that its neighbors in the Gulf had a "legal and moral responsibility" to prevent American and Israeli strikes.

Iran's Mehr news agency late Wednesday reported explosion was heard near Qeshm Island, but did not mention the immediate cause.

Since the US and Israel started the war with attacks on Iran on Feb. 28, the conflict has shaken the global economy, driven up energy prices around the world and made many basics, including food, more expensive. Officials

have been unable to turn the April ceasefire into a deal to permanently end the conflict, particularly as Israel intensifies and expands its military campaign in Lebanon against the Iranian-backed militia Hezbollah.

The downing of the Apache attack helicopter and the strikes by the US military further strained the ceasefire a day after Iran and Israel exchanged fire for the first time since the fragile truce took effect. Iranian state television said Tuesday that the Israeli attacks killed at least two members of the country's air-defense units.

Strikes by US and Iran shake the Middle East

Fighter jets from the US Air Force and Navy conducted the strikes in Iran, the US military's Central Command said, targeting "air defense, ground control stations, and surveillance radar sites." Iran acknowledged strikes around Bandar Abbas and Qeshm

Island, but gave no details on the damage.

"The operation was a proportional response to recent attacks on US forces and international commercial ships transiting regional waters," Central Command said.

Iran's top diplomat said foreign military forces near its territory "are at constant risk" and later vowed that there would be a response to the new US strikes.

Iranian forces "will leave no attack or threat unanswered," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on X. "Leave our region if you want to be safe."

Iran targeted sites in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan, where authorities report intercepting missiles aimed at a base hosting US forces.

Jordan said Wednesday it shot down five incoming missiles launched by Iran, which Iran said targeted the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base. That air base has hosted American F-35 fighter jets and other aircraft.

Jordan's state-run Petra news agency carried the statement from its military, which added that there were no injuries in the attack and that explosives experts had examined the debris from the interceptions.

In a statement, Iran's foreign ministry "reiterated the legal and moral responsibility of all countries in the region (especially those located along the southern shores of the Arabian Gulf) to prevent the US military and Israel from using their territory or facilities to plan, organize, execute, or support hostile actions against Iran."

Bangladesh economy crosses half-a-trillion-dollar mark

PTI



Dhaka, Jun 10: Bangladesh's economy has surpassed the half-a-trillion-dollar mark for the first time in fiscal year 2025-26, as the Prime Minister Tarique Rahman-led government is set to present its first budget on Thursday.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) on Wednesday said that the South Asian nation's economy currently stood at USD 501 billion, up from USD 456 billion a year ago.

The BBS data also indicated a moderate recovery in economic growth. The economy grew by 4.14 per cent in the current fiscal year, up from 3.49 per cent in the previous year.

Bangladesh calculates its fiscal year from July 1 to June 30 of the following calendar year.

The bureau also said that Bangladesh's per capita gross national income has surpassed

the USD 3,000 mark for the first time, reaching USD 3,020 in fiscal year 2025-26.

The figure represents an increase of USD 251, or 9.1 per cent, from the revised estimate of USD 2,769 in FY2024-25.

The report came as Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury is set to place the national budget for FY27 in parliament on Thursday.

Several economists and financial analysts asked the government to prioritise economic stabilisation and recovery over ambitious growth targets, arguing that recovery must come before expansion by addressing structural weaknesses before chasing growth figures.

"Bangladesh's economy has reached a point where stabilisation must come before growth," leading think-tank Centre for Policy Dialogue's distinguished

fellow Mustafizur Rahman was quoted as saying by private UNB news agency.

He said the country needed to rethink the banking system, investment infrastructure, and port management to stabilise the economy.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund, in their 2026 assessments, said that Bangladesh was exposed to high inflation, weak revenue mobilisation, a distressed banking sector, and volatile private investment, while they called for a long-term structural reform plan.

According to BBS, sector-wise data, the agriculture sector rose to 2.78 per cent, maintaining a positive momentum during the outgoing fiscal, but the industrial sector growth was estimated at 2.86 per cent, down from 3.71 per cent in the previous year.

The services sector recorded a modest improvement, with growth rising to 4.59 per cent from 4.35 per cent in the previous fiscal.

But despite the increase in overall GDP growth, both investment and savings ratios declined.

According to economists, the decline in investment and savings despite higher GDP growth signals underlying vulnerabilities in the economy, and it could affect long-term growth momentum.

UN calls for US immigration 're-think' for World Cup

AFP



Geneva, Jun 10: UN rights chief Volker Turk urged the United States to reconsider its immigration practices for the football World Cup, after fans, a top referee and team officials found themselves barred from the tournament.

A record 48 teams and millions of fans are descending on the United States, Canada and Mexico for the first World Cup co-hosted by three nations and the largest and most logistically complex ever staged.

But the refusal of US immigration authorities to allow Somali referee Omar Artan, one of Africa's leading match officials, into the country underlined fears that US President Donald Trump's immigration policy could leave deep scars on the tournament.

"I hope that the issues around racial profiling, around... immigration enforcement are not going to affect this World Cup in the way that they have already," Turk told reporters.

"I really hope that there's a massive re-think of how immigration enforcement is impacting human rights and human dignity, and that especially for the World Cup, there is a re-think of the policies that we have unfortunately seen prevailing, especially in the US."

Hit-Man returns to centre stage: Rohit gets into groove

PTI

Mohali, Jun 10: Rohit Sharma joined India's white ball nets here on Wednesday and remained the box-office attraction despite the presence of young and emerging stars.

The intrigue had begun even before the Indian team bus rolled into the IS Bindra Stadium complex this evening.

There was speculation over his fitness status after his recent lay-off, although PTI had reported on Tuesday that the veteran opener had received the



requisite clearance. Yet when the Indian squad assembled for training, it became evident where the spotlight would inevitably fall. There was newly-appointed T20 captain Shreyas Iyer. There was batting star Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Youngsters Gurnoor Brar, Prince Yadav and Harsh Dubey went through their routines with quiet diligence. But when the 39-year-old Mumbaier walks into a training ground, he remains under spotlight.

Hardik Pandya ruled out of Afghanistan ODI series due to quadriceps strain



PTI

Mullanpur, Jun 10: Cleared to play just hours ago, India all-rounder Hardik Pandya was on Wednesday ruled out of the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan after picking up a fresh quadriceps strain.

Pandya was at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru to get clearance for his back spasm injury which he sustained in the IPL while playing for the Mumbai Indians.

It is learnt that the new injury could be a result of

him bowling the full quota of 10 overs at the CoE during the assessment.

The ODI series against Afghanistan begins on Saturday at Dharamsala followed by games in Lucknow and Chennai on June 17 and 20 respectively.

"With three weeks for recovery, there is absolutely no chance of him playing the ODI series as his rehabilitation will not be complete," said a BCCI source.

Pandya had missed quite a few games in the IPL for MI but returned for the team's last couple of matches. The

latest injury setback to the 32-year-old all-rounder comes at a time when he is being pushed towards playing more ODI cricket with next year's ODI World Cup in mind.

A left ankle injury to Pandya in the 2023 ODI World Cup during a first-round clash against Bangladesh had altered the team's balance.

Pandya continues to remain integral to India's plans for the mega event in 2027 in South Africa.

In order to keep him match-fit for the immediate ODI assignments ahead — three each against Afghanistan and England next month — Pandya was dropped from the Indian T20 side despite being a part of two World Cup-winning campaigns.

"He is a part of the one-day squad right now in (the) Afghanistan (series). Like (Jasprit) Bumrah, if we can get him playing well and keep him fit for one-day cricket — I don't think he's played one-day cricket for a while — that is the main objective," chairman of selection committee Ajit Agarkar had told reporters last week. "We can always bring him back. So, there will be a little bit of rest and rotation with regards to T20 (in Pandya's case)," he had asserted.

India are already missing senior batter Virat Kohli in the series due to a hamstring strain but former captain Rohit Sharma has recovered from a similar injury to be available for the games.

MOVIES SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, 11TH JUNE

	PEDDI (HINDI) (U/A16+) 06:00 PM	
	HAI JAWANI TOH ISHQ HONA HAI (HINDI ATMOS) (U/A16+) 11:00 AM, 01:30 PM, 04:40 PM, 07:30 PM	
	OBSESSION (ENGLISH) (A) 10:45 AM, 01:15 PM, 03:45 PM, 06:30 PM	
	BANDAR (HINDI) (A) 12:00 PM	
	HE-MAN THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A16+) 03:00 PM	

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