

Every stakeholder devoted to ensuring memorable Amarnath Yatra: LG Sinha

Performs 'Pratham Puja' at Holy Cave Shrine, urges yatis to visit in large numbers

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Jun 29: Marking the ceremonial start of the annual Amarnath Yatra, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday performed the 'Pratham Puja' at the Holy Cave Shrine nestled in Himalayas.

The Lieutenant Governor, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), sought the divine blessings of Baba Barfani and prayed for the peace, prosperity, health and well-being of all.

The Lieutenant Governor extended a heartfelt invitation to all devotees of Baba Barfani, encouraging them to join the holy pilgrimage in great numbers and experience the spiritual journey.

He said, "As the Yatra commences on July 3rd, Administration, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Army, Police, Security Forces, Local Community, Service Providers,



Volunteers are working in complete synergy. Every stakeholder is devoted to ensuring a safe,

infrastructure, enhanced facilities, and invaluable support of people of Jammu Kashmir, we are fully prepared to welcome devotees for a spiritually fulfilling journey," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Pertinently, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) organizes the Pratham Puja annually at the Holy Cave on Jyeshtha Purnima. This year's 57-day pilgrimage will formally commence on July 3, 2026, simultaneously via both traditional routes- the Pahalgam axis in Anantnag district and the Baltal in Ganderbal district. The Yatra will culminate on August 28th, 2026, on Raksha Bandhan. Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; S.J.M.Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rahul Yadav, Managing Director JKPDCL and | More on P6

J&K must diversify export basket to meet 2030 target: CM Omar

» Says 98% exports originate from four districts » Pitches for dry port, inclusion of SHGs, artisans

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jun 29: Stating that, Jammu and Kashmir must create a new generation of exporters and diversify its export basket to achieve the Union Government's target of doubling exports by 2030, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the government will focus on making exports easier, expanding global market access and ensuring export growth reaches every district of the Union Territory.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) CM Omar addressed the inaugural session of the J&K International Buyer-Seller Meet organised by the J&K Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) at SKICC here.

CM Omar, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said, "As the Government of India has set a target of doubling exports by 2030, we have only



four years to achieve it. While we have to support those who are already exporting, we also need to create exporters out of people who are not exporting today and whose markets are presently confined to Jammu and Kashmir or, at best, some parts of the country. Our effort is to make exporting easier for them," the CM said. The Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir has historically been an exporter, though not through conventional export channels. "Traditionally, particularly in Kashmir, our | More on P6

Amarnath Yatra

Multi-layer security grid in place from Punjab to J&K

Over 600 CCTV cameras activated; mock drills, convoy rehearsals, NSG drills conducted; Punjab Spl DGP reviews route security

Sajid Raina

Srinagar/Jammu, Jun 29: Ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra beginning July 3, security agencies have intensified preparations across the pilgrimage route from Punjab to Kashmir, conducting mock drills, activating surveillance systems and strengthening inter-agency coordination to ensure the safe movement of thousands of pilgrims.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

the first batches of pilgrims have started arriving in Jammu and Kashmir, while security forces remain on high alert with elaborate arrangements in place along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, transit camps and the twin routes leading to the holy cave shrine, nestled in Himalayas.

On the occasion of the Pratham Puja, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Inspector General Dr Akun Sabharwal inaugurated Medical Aid Posts at the Holy Cave and Brarimarg. He also led a plantation drive, reaffirming the force's commitment to pilgrims' welfare and environmental conservation.

In Jammu, authorities have fully activated the Integrated Command and | More on P6

Srinagar sizzles at 35.3°C, records season's highest temperature

Intense heat to continue today: MeT; Rain from tomorrow

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jun 29: Kashmir witnessed one of its hottest days of the summer on Sunday, with Srinagar recording a maximum temperature of 35.3 degrees Celsius, the highest of the season so far and 5.3 degrees above normal.

An official of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the heatwave conditions are expected to persist till Tuesday, while relief is likely from Wednesday onwards as an approaching Western Disturbance is expected to bring rain across Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides Srinagar, several



other places in Kashmir also recorded temperatures well above normal. Qazigund registered 33.8°C, around 5°C above normal, while Kokernag recorded 32.9°C, around 5°C above normal. Kupwara settled at 32.7°C, Pahalgam at 29°C, and Gulmarg, usually known for its cool | More on P6

Omar slams 'unjustified' action against J&K livestock transporters in Punjab

Says unauthorised fee collection impacting meat prices, consumers in UT

» Warns of taking issue with Centre, North Zone Council

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jun 29: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday called the action against Jammu and Kashmir's livestock and mutton transporters in Punjab as "unjustified", saying he has once again urged Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to stop the alleged unauthorised collection of fees from livestock carriers

transiting through the state. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the International Buyer-Seller Meet at SKICC here, Omar said the issue has remained under discussion with his Punjab counterpart for the past several months.

"I have been in touch with the Punjab Chief Minister for months and have written to him again. Our mutton dealers are only using Punjab as a transit route. They are not purchasing livestock there. They should not be punished merely for passing through the state. The action against them is unjustified," he said.

The Chief Minister, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), warned that if the issue remains unresolved, the Jammu and Kashmir | More on P6

Yasin Malik among 5 named in 36-yr-old KP nurse murder case

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 29: The State Investigation Agency (SIA), Kashmir has named banned JKLF chief Yasin Malik and four others in a 737-page chargesheet in connection with the abduction, torture, and killing of Sarla Bhat, a staff nurse at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) in Srinagar. Bhat was killed by JKLF terrorists on April 18, 1990, the agency said.

In a statement, issued to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said the case was transferred to SIA on 18th March 2024. The chargesheet brings together a formidable body of oral, documentary, forensic, ballistic, medical and electronic evidence accumulated over decades, the statement reads.

It reads that the case relates to one of the most barbaric terrorist crimes committed during the early phase of terrorism in Kashmir. "Sarla Bhat was abducted from SKIMS on 18 April 1990, subjected to brutal torture and physical assault, and thereafter killed with an automatic rifle fire at Omer Colony, Srinagar," it reads.

For decades, the case remained unresolved owing to the extraordinary circumstances prevailing during the peak years of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. The atmosphere of fear, intimidation and terror created by terrorist organisations had severely impacted the ability of witnesses to come forward and disclose material facts, it reads.

In March 2024, SIA Kashmir took over the case and despite the lapse | More on P6

Diversion of 197 ha of J&K Forest Land approved for 820-MW Power Plant

Kirthai-II hydel project gets 'in-principle' nod

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jun 29: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change advisory committee has granted 'in-principle' approval for the diversion of 197 hectares of forest land in Jammu & Kashmir to facilitate the construction of the 820 Megawatt (MW) Kirthai-II Hydro Electric Project on the Chenab river in Kishtwar.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the official documents said that the advisory committee recommended the proposal for grant of 'in-principle' approval for diversion of 197.27 hectare of Forest land for



construction of Kirthai-II Hydro Electric Project.

"The advisory committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF

(Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Nodal Officer from J&K after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee | More on P6

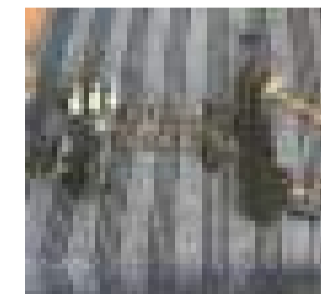
AK-47, hand grenades, UBGL recovered during CASO in Sopore

Waris Fayaz

Sopore, Jun 29: Security forces on Monday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition during a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in Warpora village of north Kashmir's Sopore.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the joint operation was launched based on specific information received from local residents. The operation was carried out jointly by the Army, the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police and the CRPF.

During the search operation, the joint team recovered one AK-47 rifle, three hand



grenades, one Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) and 30 rounds of ammunition concealed at the site.

The recovered arms and ammunition were seized and a case has been registered for further investigation.

Officials said the recovery has dealt a | More on P6

'Pushed to the wall; Ayushman Bharat suspension not our choice'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jun 29: Private hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir have reiterated that they will be compelled to suspend dialysis, chemotherapy and all other treatments being provided under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)/SEHAT scheme from July 1, 2026, citing an acute financial crisis caused by the non-release of long-pending government payments.

The Jammu and Kashmir Private Hospitals and Dialysis Centres Association (JKPHDCA) appealed directly to the people of the Union Territory, saying the decision has been taken with "a heavy heart" after exhausting every possible option to continue services despite mounting financial constraints.

The association, in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that for months, private hospitals have continued treating beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat/SEHAT scheme without charging patients, trusting that the government would honour its commitment to reimburse hospitals on time. However, it alleged that payments amounting to several crores of rupees have remained pending for nearly three years, pushing many healthcare institutions to the brink of collapse.

JKPHDCA president (Jammu Region), Sandeep Mengi, said hospitals have exhausted all available resources while trying to keep essential medical services operational. "For months | More on P6

No form of tobacco is safe: GMC Sgr experts warn against cigarettes, hukkah

Say even herbal hukkah not harmless, urge people to quit before it's too late

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar Jun 29: Health experts have said there is no safe form of tobacco, warning that cigarettes, hukkah (hookah), bidis, cigars and smokeless tobacco all pose serious and potentially life-threatening health risks. They have urged people to stay away from tobacco in every form, stressing that quitting today is the best decision for a healthier future.

According to a public health awareness campaign issued by Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Professor, Department of Community Medicine,

Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, tobacco remains one of the leading preventable causes of disease and death worldwide. More than eight million people die every year due to tobacco use, making it a major public health challenge.

The advisory, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), states that cigarette smoking significantly increases the risk of lung cancer, cancers of the mouth, throat, larynx, oesophagus, pancreas, bladder, kidney, stomach, cervix and colon. It is also a major contributor to



heart attacks, strokes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic bronchitis, emphysema, worsening asthma, infertility, erectile dysfunction, pregnancy complications,

weakened immunity and delayed wound healing. The campaign dispels the common misconception that hukkah is a safer alternative to cigarettes. Experts emphasise

that this belief is completely false, as the water used in hukkah cools the smoke but does not remove most of the harmful chemicals present in tobacco smoke.

The advisory notes that a single one-hour hukkah session may expose a person to far more smoke than smoking one cigarette. It can lead to lung cancer, oral and throat cancers, heart disease, stroke, COPD, carbon monoxide poisoning, nicotine addiction and reduced lung function. Sharing hukkah mouthpieces further increases the risk of infectious diseases such as | More on P6

Implementation of Flagship Scheme, Mission YUVA reviewed in Baramulla

DC Baramulla, MD Mission Yuva call for intensified awareness campaigns, effective Application Tracking, promotion of Self-Employment through Udyam Jagriti 5.0.

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JUNE 29: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F Hamid and Director Employment/ Mission Director (MD), Mission YUVA, Harvinder Singh, jointly chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Baramulla to assess the implementation and progress of the Mission YUVA flagship initiative in district Baramulla.

The meeting focused on the implementation and current status of the programme, progress achieved, challenges faced in execution, and measures to ensure effective outreach and timely delivery of benefits to aspiring entrepreneurs and youth.

Speaking during the meeting, the DC, as per an official statement, directed the concerned officers to lay special emphasis on creating employment opportunities through the apple industry under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative.

The DC directed the concerned officers to intensify awareness campaigns at the grassroots level to ensure that maximum eligible youth are informed about the opportunities available under



Mission YUVA and are encouraged to avail the benefits of the scheme.

Meanwhile, the MD directed the concerned officers to closely monitor not only the applications

that have been sanctioned and disbursed but also those that have been rejected, emphasizing the need to identify the reasons for rejection, provide necessary guidance and handholding

support to the applicants and facilitate the resubmission of eligible applications.

Furthermore, the MD instructed the concerned officers to conduct large-scale awareness and outreach campaigns under Udyam Jagriti 5.0 by involving Mission YUVA Motivators and Yuva Doots across the district.

He emphasized that the campaign should focus on identifying, motivating, and guiding aspiring entrepreneurs, including students and Self-Help Group (SHG) Lakhpati Didis, towards sustainable self-employment and livelihood opportunities.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, Chief Planning Officer, Nisar Ahmad, AD Employment, Lead District Manager, Career Counselling Officer and coordinators of Small Business Development Unit (SBDU), Business Help Desks (BHD) and others.

The meeting was also attended virtually by officers and officials dealing with Mission YUVA from other districts of Jammu and Kashmir in a virtual mode.

DC Bandipora reviews Road Safety Measures

Seeks time-bound ATR from departments



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JUNE 29: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Monday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) at the Mini Secretariat here, pressing departments for stricter accountability and time-bound action on pending road safety directives.

Reviewing the status of Action Taken Reports (ATRs) from concerned departments,

the DC, as per an official statement, underscored the need for closer inter-departmental coordination and directed all line departments to ensure prompt implementation of road safety measures to reduce accidents and protect commuters.

She sought comprehensive details of road safety works executed during 2025-26 and called upon departments to furnish projections for works proposed in the current financial year 2026-27, enabling the

district to review and monitor its road safety action plan more effectively.

The DC directed the Superintendent Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Bandipora (Member Secretary DRSC), to consolidate ATRs from all line departments within one week. The SE was also instructed to circulate an online reporting link to facilitate timely submission and monitoring. Stressing that road safety is a shared responsibility, the DC urged all stakeholder departments to ensure swift execution of committee directives, with particular focus on infrastructure upgrades, identification of vulnerable road stretches, and implementation of preventive measures.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Education Officer; Executive Engineers of R&B and PMGSY; Assistant Regional Transport Officer; CEO Municipal Council Bandipora; Executive Officers of Municipal Committees Sumbal and Hajin; representatives of BRO and NHAI; and other concerned officers.

DC Budgam chairs 48th NCORD meeting



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, JUNE 29: 48th District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee meeting was convened Monday at the DC Office Budgam under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Athar Aamir Khan, alongside SSP Budgam Hariprasad KK.

The meeting reviewed the ongoing anti-drug measures, rehabilitation initiatives, and awareness activities being undertaken across District Budgam.

At the outset, the committee, as per an official statement, reviewed the action taken on the decisions made during the previous NCORD meeting.

The DC stressed that drug abuse is not merely a law enforcement issue but a grave social challenge affecting families and communities. He underscored that District administration is firm and uncompromising against drug peddlers, traffickers, and cultivators, while extending full support for the treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration of victims of drug addiction.

The DC laid emphasis on the rehabilitation of drug victims, directing the Health Department and all concerned agencies to ensure timely counselling, treatment, and sustained

rehabilitation support to help affected individuals return to a normal and productive life. He also highlighted the need for stronger enforcement, sustained awareness, and accessible rehabilitation.

The DC stressed that sustained Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, youth outreach programmes, and community participation are essential to prevent drug abuse and encourage early intervention.

The DC further directed all line departments to intensify efforts against narcotics cultivation and drug peddling, ensuring that roadsides, embankments, and other vulnerable areas remain free from cannabis and poppy cultivation through coordinated action. The DC reiterated that 100% CCTV coverage and Computerised Billing Systems (CBS) must be ensured in all chemist shops, with regular inspections and strict action against violations. The Drug Inspector was directed to ensure the availability of CCTV footage and billing records, while the Excise Department was asked to work in close coordination with the Police, Revenue, and Agriculture Departments for the identification and destruction of illicit

crops. On the healthcare front, the DC directed that the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Budgam remain fully functional round the clock and that the Drug De-Addiction Centre be further strengthened for effective patient intake, counselling, treatment, rehabilitation, and follow-up care.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) was directed to maintain strict vigil against drug peddlers operating in and around railway stations.

Reviewing the progress of the 100-day Intensive Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the DC stressed the need to scale up its impact at the grassroots level.

He called for intensified IEC campaigns, wider youth engagement, and measurable outcomes in terms of counselling, treatment, rehabilitation, and community mobilisation.

"The campaign must translate into visible behavioural change and community ownership. Every stakeholder must contribute towards making Budgam a truly drug-free district," the DC added.

The DC stated that the district administration will continue to take decisive action against drug networks while simultaneously adopting a compassionate and rehabilitative approach towards individuals affected by substance abuse. On the occasion, SSP Budgam, while addressing the meeting, called for stronger inter-departmental coordination and greater focus on counselling and rehabilitation of victims at the Drug De-Addiction Centre. He also emphasised intensified enforcement measures against drug peddlers and traffickers to dismantle the narcotics network operating in the district.

The meeting was attended by the ADC Budgam, SDM Khansahib, ACP, CMO, DSWO, DIO, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Budgam, Principals of Government Degree Colleges, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, Principals of Higher Secondary Schools, ZEOs, and other concerned officers.

Health Department Doda holds special Pulse Polio drive

KT News Desk

DODA, JUNE 29: The Health Department Doda extended the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme beyond conventional vaccination booths by organising a special session during the day-night matches of the ongoing 16th All India Gufran Memorial T20 Cricket Tournament at Sports Stadium, Doda.

A health team, as per an official statement, from Medical Block Ghat, headed by Ajay Singh, carried out the vaccination. The team administered Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) to children aged zero to five years who attended the tournament with their families. Around 70 eligible children received Pulse Polio drops during the outreach.

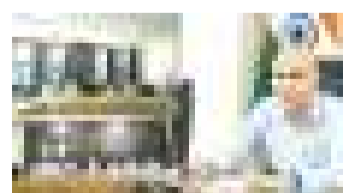
The drive was supervised by Block Medical Officer Ghat Dr Abdul Gafoor.

The Health Department appealed to parents to ensure every child aged below five receives the Pulse Polio vaccine.

DC Kishtwar chairs Rent Assessment Committee meeting

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, JUNE 29: The District Rent Assessment Committee, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Monday approved 17 rent assessment cases pertaining to various government departments. The approved cases, as per an official statement, included offices under the Rural Development Department (RDD), Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Education, Social Welfare, Health, ISM Ayush, Sheep and Wool Development, State Finance Corporation (SFC), Co-operative, Handicrafts and Fisheries Departments and 7 Assam Rifles. The Committee deliberated on the fixation of rent for government offices functioning from private buildings across the district. The Deputy Commissioner directed the of-



ficers concerned to ensure timely disbursement of rent to landowners and building owners while safeguarding government-rented properties. He stressed that rent payments must be released only after proper verification of records. Among those present were PO ICDS Kishtwar Rishi Kumar Sharma, CDPO Kishtwar Rahida Lone, CMO Kishtwar Dr Sanjay Bhat, DSHO Kishtwar Dr Jamil Nasir, DNO Ayush Kishtwar Dr Vikram Singh Jambwal and Dy CEO Kishtwar Masood Ahmed Qazi, besides other senior officers and officials of the departments concerned.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES DISTRICT KUPWARA

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

In pursuance to Director Fisheries J&K Govt. Order No 359-Fisheries of 2026 dated 27-06-2026 endorsed vide No DOF-PLG/22/2026-05(E-7910253) dated 27-06-2026, applications are invited from the interested persons who intend to purchase "Refrigerated Vehicle" under "Women Category" in Private Sector under Centrally Sponsored Scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana "PMMSY" (2026-27) with the below detailed funding pattern.

S.No	Activity	Unit Cost	Pattern of Funding (Women Category)		No of Units
			Central Share General	Beneficiary Share	
01	Refrigerated Vehicle	25.00	15.00 (60%)	10.00 (40%)	01 No

The applications be submitted in the Office of Assistant Director Fisheries District Kupwara by or before 05-07-2026. The terms and conditions laid down as under shall be strictly followed while submitting the application.

Terms & Conditions

- The applicant will submit Detailed Project Report (DPR) / Self Contained Proposal (SCP) with justification, capital Cost, recurring cost involved, source of funds for meeting the beneficiary contribution including bank consent for providing loan to meet the beneficiary share, undertaking of beneficiary to the effect that no other government assistance is availed for the proposed project.
- Evidence of MOU of party with manufacturer / customization of refrigerated unit mounting on the vehicle.
- The applicant should furnish the details of truck with 3MT LBC along with financing details.
- The applicant should bound to operate the vehicle only for the purpose which the vehicle is meant to be.
- The applicant must enter into a consortium deed with driver having a valid driving license valid till 2032.

Assistant Director Fisheries,
District Kupwara

DIPK-2651/26

No:- ADF/Kup/2026/ 1374-77

DATED: 29-06-2026

Dated: - 29-06-2026.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SPECIAL FOREST DIVISION TANGMARG

Email Id: dftangmarg.for-jk@nic.in Ph/Fax.No.01954254489

TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No.: 01 of 2026-27 DATED: 23-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	Time of Completion
	Maintenance of Plants in Ziren Nursery of Special Forest Division Tangmarg under Scheme CAMPA (NPV) for the year 2026-27. No. of Polytops: 2nd year 43152 No. of Polytops: 3rd year 23748	0.95175	1904	D Civil Contractor/ Forest Contractor	200	06 months
	Maintenance of Plants in Division HQR Nursery of Special Forest Division Tangmarg under Scheme CAMPA (NPV) for the year 2026-27. No. of Polytops: 2nd year 37101	0.39097	782	D Civil Contractor/ Forest Contractor	200	06 months

The position of Codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA & TS	Accorded

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: -www.jktenders.gov.in.

Publishing Date:	25-06-2026
Download Start Date:	27-06-2026 from 11:30 A.M
Bid submission Start Date:	27-06-2026 from 11:30 A.M
Bid submission End Date:	07-07-2026 Up to 6:00 P.M
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	08-07-2026 at 11:30 AM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed.

Important Note: "In pursuance of Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and Circular issued by the Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), J&K vide No. PCCF/Accts./2026-27/435-43 dated 24.06.2026, Bid Security (EMD), Tender Fee and applicable transaction/service charges shall be deposited online in cash through the prescribed online mechanism. Submission of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee shall not be accepted. Bidders shall comply with the aforesaid instructions while submitting their bids."

01. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

NO: - DFO/TNG/Accts/2026-27/234-39
Dated: 23-06-2026

DIPK-2625/26

DATED: 29-06-2026

sd/
Divisional Forest Officer,
Special Forest Division,
Tangmarg.

CM Omar meets legislators, public delegations at Raabita

KT News Desk

Srinagar, June 29: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday met several legislators, public delegations, the healthcare sector among other delegations at Raabita here, during which a wide range of public welfare, developmental and issues were discussed.

A public delegation led by MLA Beerwah Shafi Ahmad Wani, comprising senior citizens, youth representatives, members of the Shia community from Magam and representatives of the Beerwah Traders Federation. The delegation projected various developmental requirements, public welfare concerns and constituency-specific issues. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured that all genuine concerns would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

The Chief Minister also met MLA Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani and MLA Shangus-Anantnag East Reyaz Ahmad Khan, who represented several delegations to flag their issues before the Chief Minister.

A delegation from Seer Hamdan, representatives of the Jammu and Kashmir Nomadic Cooperative (JKNC), members of the Migrant Kashmiri Pandit community, the Taxi Stand Association, and a delegation from Ashmuqam-Tulhad. The delegations apprised the Chief



Minister of various developmental requirements, infrastructure needs and public issues concerning their respective areas.

Earlier, MLA Rajpora Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir called on the Chief Minister and discussed developmental priorities and public welfare issues pertaining to his constituency.

MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone also met the Chief Minister and raised several constituency-related matters requiring government intervention. The Chief Minister assured all the visiting deputations that the

government remains committed to addressing the aspirations of the people through sustained development initiatives. During the day, the Chief Minister also interacted with a delegation from Warner Bros. Discovery led by Creative Director Pia Somiah Alva, along with senior company officials. The Chief Minister appreciated the interest shown by the organisation and said the government welcomes meaningful partnerships that can promote Jammu and Kashmir's creative potential and generate new opportunities.

A delegation of senior doctors from Government Medical College Srinagar, comprising Dr. Altaf Kawoosa, Dr. Iqbal Saleem, Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah, Dr. Manzoor Latoos and Dr. Syed Imran, also called on the Chief Minister. The delegation discussed various issues concerning the healthcare sector and the functioning of the institution. The Chief Minister assured them that the government remains committed to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving medical services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena Itoo participates in 16th Conference of CCHFW at New Delhi

KT News Desk

New Delhi, June 29: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo participated in the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) at Vigyan Bhawan here on Monday.

The conference was chaired by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda and was attended by Union Ministers for State for Health and Family Welfare, Health Ministers of all States and UTs, other senior officers of Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and members of CCHFW.

The Conference served as a significant platform to brainstorm on key national health programmes, deliberate on emerging public health priorities and strengthen Centre-State collaborations for improving healthcare delivery across the country.

During the conference, Minister Sakeena Itoo presented a detailed outline on flagship health programmes being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir, besides future roadmap for achieving universal access to affordable, equitable and quality healthcare in J&K.

Sakeena Itoo also raised various emerging issues related to health care sector in the conference and highlighted the need for early establishment of Trauma Hospitals in Surankote (Poonch) and Uri (Baramulla), to cater to health emergencies during war or natural calamities for saving the lives of soldiers and civilians during these times. She also demanded Bullet Proof ambulances in these areas to cater the medical emergencies during war or other related events.

The J&K Health Minister also called



for enhancement of honorarium of NHM employees and Asha Workers, highlighting that they are the backbone of present healthcare system and no enhancement has been made in last ten years.

During the conference, Sakeena Itoo also demanded timely completion of AIIMS Awantipora, highlighting that this national project will revolutionize the healthcare system in Kashmir valley. On this, the Union Minister assured for early completion of the project, adding that Rs. 250 crores have been recently released for the project.

The J&K Minister also demanded for increasing the PG/MD seats in health institutions of J&K as it will improve the health

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Direct business deals to boost J&K's handicrafts sector: CM's Advisor



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jun 29 (KNO): Highlighting the importance of direct business engagement, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani on Monday said the J&K International Buyer-Seller Meet will enable artisans to secure direct business deals with buyers, ensuring fair and competitive prices for their products.

Welcoming foreign delegates participating in the event, Wani, while addressing the gathering, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the handicrafts sector has played a vital role in keeping Jammu and Kashmir's economy on track.

He said, "In the past, many artisans worked tirelessly, but they did not receive the benefits they

truly deserved. Thankfully, things have changed and this International Buyer-Seller Meet is a clear example of that."

Highlighting the significance of direct buyer-seller interaction, Wani said, "Artisans will now get fair and competitive prices for their products, which will greatly benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

He added, "such events will strengthen trade and create better market opportunities for our craftsmen and artisans."

Expressing hope for the future of the sector, Wani said, "I hope these Buyer-Seller Meets will further boost the handicrafts sector and help expand the market for our artists."

Stressing the importance of handicrafts and

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CEC visits Budgam, lauds dedication of BLOs



KT News Desk

Budgam, June 29: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Monday visited District Budgam and interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), EROs, AEROs and other field functionaries of Election Department at National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), appreciating their dedication and commitment towards strengthening the electoral process at the grassroots level. The interaction was held as a part of the CEC's three-day official visit to Jammu and Kashmir, aimed

at reviewing electoral process, engaging with field functionaries and stakeholders across the UT.

The CEC was accompanied by Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Sanjeev Verma and District Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner), Budgam, Athar Amir. Senior officers of the District administration and Election Department were also present during the interaction.

During the interaction, Gyanesh Kumar described BLOs as the backbone of India's electoral democracy and acknowledged their crucial role in ensuring accurate electoral rolls,

voter facilitation and inclusive participation.

"BLOs truly are the backbone of our electoral process," remarked the CEC, while highlighting that the credibility of elections begins with a robust, accurate and transparent electoral roll.

The CEC appreciated the role of BLOs as the first point of contact between the Election Commission and electors, stating that their field-level engagement plays a vital role in ensuring that every eligible citizen is enrolled and every voter is facilitated.

Continued on
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BLOs pillars of democracy: CEC

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Jun 29: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Monday said that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are the pillars of India's democratic framework and reaffirmed that the country's electoral process is among the most transparent in the world.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an interaction with Booth Level Officers at NIFT Budgam, the CEC said the Election Commission held detailed discussions with BLOs regarding various aspects of the electoral process.

"Today, we engaged in a dialogue with the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of Budgam—the pillars of our democracy. We discussed the fact that our electoral process is among the most transparent in the world. Every stage, from the preparation of electoral rolls to the actual voting and the counting of votes, is subject to

Continued on
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SANJY SOG, NSG hold joint anti-terror drill at Raghunath Mandir



Yogesh

Jammu, Jun 29: In a run upto Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) slated to commence on July 3, the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police and the National Security Guard (NSG) on Monday conducted a joint counter-terror mock drill at the historic Raghunath Mandir here.

The exercise simulated a high-risk terrorist attack scenario, testing the response capabilities of security agencies through rapid intervention, area domination, hostage rescue, casualty evacuation and coordinated operations.

Officials said the drill was aimed at validating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), enhancing inter-agency coordination and ensuring a swift and effective response to any security contingency during the annual pilgrimage.

The mock exercise was part of a series of preparedness drills planned at key installations and other vulnerable locations across the Jammu region to assess operational readiness and reinforce the security framework ahead of the Yatra.

The exercise witnessed seamless coordination among SOG Jammu, NSG and other security agencies, reflecting a high level of professionalism, interoperability and preparedness to tackle potential threats—(KNO)

J&K exports grow by 35% in FY-2025-26: FIEO DG

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jun 29: Director General of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), Ajay Sahai on Monday said that Jammu & Kashmir's exports have grown by 35 per cent, increasing from USD 227 million to USD 307 million in the financial year 2025-26.

Speaking at the J&K International Buyer-Seller Meet at SKICC, Srinagar, Sahai said Jammu & Kashmir has also improved its ranking in the export Preparedness Index and is now second among the hilly states, expressing confidence that the Union Territory will soon reach the top position.

Sahai said exports from Jammu & Kashmir are steadily increasing in pharmaceuticals, embroidered garments, shawls, stoles, mufflers, chemicals, handicrafts, carpets, walnuts, saffron and hand tools.

He said pharmaceuticals, apparel and textiles and chemicals



account for nearly 70 per cent of the Union Territory's exports, making it important to develop new export sectors.

He said Jammu & Kashmir has strong potential in medical and diagnostic equipment, medicinal and aromatic plants, horticulture, agro and processed food, handicrafts, handloom and GI-tagged products and urged entrepreneurs to explore these areas.

Sahai also said the Union Territory should focus on exporting services in addition to tourism.

He said wellness, healthcare, fishing tourism, craft tourism, filmmaking, IT, IT-enabled services and data centres can become important sources of exports and employment.

Highlighting the uneven distribution of exports, Sahai said Kathua, Srinagar, Jammu and Samba together contribute nearly 98 per cent of J&K's exports, while the remaining 16 districts account for less than two per cent.

"This is where the real opportunity lies," he said, adding that FIEO plans to organise awareness programmes in Anantnag and Shopian to encourage more entrepreneurs to enter the export business.

Calling e-commerce a major opportunity, Sahai said all 18 GI-tagged products of Jammu & Kashmir can find larger international markets through online platforms.

He said the Central Government's Export Promotion Mission

offers credit support of up to Rs 15 lakh for e-commerce exporters, 2.75 per cent interest subvention and financial assistance of up to 30 per cent, with a maximum limit of Rs 10 crore, for e-commerce export infrastructure.

Sahai said logistics continues to be one of the biggest challenges for exporters in Jammu & Kashmir.

He also called for setting up more Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) and upgrading air cargo facilities so that exporters can send goods directly from Jammu & Kashmir instead of routing them through Delhi or Mumbai.

He also asked exporters to make use of the Centre's LEADS Scheme, under which exporters from hilly states can receive 30 per cent support on air freight costs, up to Rs 20 lakh per Import Export Code (IEC) holder.

Talking about international
Continued on
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Gurez enters adventure tourism map with launch of 482 metre zipline



Waris Fayaz

Gurez, Jun 29: Gurez Valley has officially stepped onto the adventure tourism map with the launch of a 482 metre zipline at Markote, marking a fresh push towards border tourism and experiential travel in the remote north

Kashmir region.

The newly developed facility stretches 482 metres with an approximate horizontal span of 453 metres. It features a starting platform height of 55 feet and a landing platform height of 10 feet, creating a vertical drop of 45 feet. The structure has a maximum

sag of 24 metres and has been designed for riders weighing up to 100 kilo-grams.

Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad, said the project is part of a broader plan to promote border tourism and position Gurez as a key adventure destination in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The zipline is expected to enhance the overall visitor experience and draw more tourists to the border valley. Gurez has immense potential and such initiatives are aimed at unlocking that potential in a structured and safe manner," he said. Sajjad said the project has been executed after obtaining necessary technical clearances and adhering to pre-scribed safety standards.

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EDITORIAL

Mock Drills For A Mission Where Failure Is Not An Option

The annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is not merely a religious pilgrimage; it is one of the largest organised human movements in the world. Every year, lakhs of devotees traverse treacherous mountainous terrain to offer prayers at the holy cave. Ensuring their safety is a monumental challenge that demands meticulous planning, flawless coordination, and above all, operational preparedness.

The mock drills conducted by the police with other security forces and departments are indispensable rehearsals for a mission where failure is not an option. These drills, simulating grenade attacks, sniper fire, and fidayeen assaults serve a dual purpose. First, they test the readiness and response time of security forces. In a real emergency, every second counts. The ability to swiftly sanitise an area,

evacuate civilians, manage casualties, and neutralise a threat can mean the difference between life and death. Second, they foster inter-agency coordination. The yatra involves multiple stakeholders – police, paramilitary forces, disaster response teams, health personnel, and fire services. Seamless interoperability, as demonstrated during these exercises, is non-negotiable when lives are at stake. The drills

also send a strong message to those who seek to disrupt peace: the administration is prepared, vigilant, and united in its resolve to protect pilgrims. At a time when security threats are increasingly unpredictable, scenario-based exercises are not a luxury but a necessity. They expose gaps in standard operating procedures, allow for real-time course correction, and build confidence among personnel who are the

first responders in a crisis. In conclusion, while the yatra is a testament to faith, the mock drills are a testament to the state's commitment to safeguarding that faith. They remind us that behind every successful pilgrimage lies an invisible army of security personnel, rehearsing relentlessly so that devotees can pray without fear. These exercises deserve not just appreciation, but continued investment and emphasis.

Cities Show How Climate Action Is Making Life Better

Confronting climate change requires pursuing adaptation alongside mitigation

Michael R. Bloomberg and Teresa Ribera

In the global fight against climate change, there has been no shortage of targets and commitments. But people ultimately judge progress by what they experience in their daily lives, and nowhere is the impact of climate action more tangible than in the world's cities.

Mayors understand that the same measures that reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and strengthen climate resilience also improve people's daily lives. Energy-efficient homes lower bills for families. Increased access to renewables reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels and vulnerability to spikes in oil and gas prices. Better public transport and safer cycling infrastructure give people more-affordable and healthier ways to move around their communities. Trees and green spaces improve air quality, cool neighborhoods and make cities more pleasant places to live.

But climate action is also about protecting people from the already tangible effects of a warming planet. Heat waves, floods, droughts and extreme-weather events are becoming more frequent and intense. Cities and their residents are increasingly on the front line of these challenges. That is why confronting climate change requires pursuing adaptation alongside mitigation.

Around the world, local leaders are adapting schools, hospitals, nursing homes and public spaces to protect citizens from excessive heat and other climate risks. Shading systems, green roofs and natural cooling solutions can significantly enhance the resilience of cities to rising temperatures, with children, older people and other vulnerable residents often benefiting the most.



A combination of adaptation measures and energy efficiency can save lives, improve well-being, and reduce energy costs. These green investments also attract talent, innovation and private investment, positioning climate action as an economic opportunity.

Mayors have been putting these principles into practice for years. As a result, greenhouse-gas emissions have fallen in many of the world's largest cities, even as their populations have continued to grow. Moreover, cities of all sizes and in a variety of regions are working together to accelerate the progress they have made

individually.

Over the past decade, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy has grown into an alliance of more than 14,000 cities and local governments across 150 countries, representing more than 1 billion people. Many member cities have adopted climate goals that are more ambitious than those of their national governments, and are on track to achieve them more quickly.

Yet cities could move faster and go further with increased support. Specifically, they have a pressing need for technical expertise and access to finance. Many local

authorities still lack the resources required to identify, develop and implement climate projects at the necessary scale.

Partnerships can help address these needs. The City Climate Finance Gap Fund, supported by the Global Covenant of Mayors and the World Bank, is already assisting cities in the development of projects that can attract investment and deliver tangible benefits for their populations. Over the past few years, it has supported more than 1,400 cities in their efforts to turn climate ambition into practical action.

Now, the Global Covenant of Mayors, C40 (a network of the world's biggest cities

committed to addressing climate change) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development are building on that work with a new partnership to help cities scale up climate projects through technical and financial assistance. This initiative will focus largely on regions where the gap between ambition and available resources is widest.

National governments increasingly recognize the power of cities to drive progress on climate change. While promising, this should be only the beginning. Mayors and city leaders understand better than anyone that the most successful climate policies are those that people can see and feel in their everyday lives: cleaner air, safer streets, lower energy bills, healthier homes and better protection against extreme weather.

With the right support, cities can continue to protect people, strengthen resilience and create the conditions for sustainable growth. Most importantly, cities can play a powerful leadership role by showing the world that climate action is not a burden but an opportunity to build better lives and more vibrant communities for all.

• Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg L.P. and Bloomberg Philanthropies and a former mayor of New York City (2002-13), is the UN secretary-general's special envoy on climate ambition and solutions and co-chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.
• Teresa Ribera is executive vice-president of the European Commission for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, and co-chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.
Courtesy: Project Syndicate

Rogue Host

Calculated discrimination? Iran is the only team that can't rest and recuperate after a match because Trump's minions insist that they fly out of the US within hours of the full-time whistle

Mukul Kesavan

The correct way of following this World Cup is to first recognise that its principal host, the United States of America, is a disordered, flailing, naked behemoth and the tournament is a small, inadequate fig leaf.

To report on the World Cup as if it isn't being played in a politically deranged country whose president stages cage matches in the White House, has kidnapped Venezuela's president, has repeatedly attacked Iran without any military provocation, and plunged the world into an existential crisis is a failure of the imagination, part willed, part involuntary.

Ask yourself why Russia hasn't sent a team. It is not because it didn't qualify; Russia was barred from participating because of its war on Ukraine. Since we're talking about Russia, think of the 1980 Moscow Olympics boycotted by the US, China, Japan, West Germany, Egypt and many other countries because the Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan the previous year.

And yet we have the US, currently engaged in a 'hot' war with Iran, which it has attacked twice in the past year in concert with Israel, hosting the World Cup along with Canada and Mexico. The US is also the arch enabler of the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians on the West Bank. Even if we allow for the fact that the West thinks of Palestine as an imaginary place dreamt up by feverish radicals, it is striking that the World Cup is being co-hosted by Canada, a country that Donald Trump has repeatedly declared he wants to annex and turn into America's 51st state. And we can be certain that if Denmark had qualified for the Cup,



its team would have shown up in spite of Trump's declared intention of annexing Greenland. Trump has repeatedly threatened to send American forces into Mexico, the Cup's other North American host, to sort out its drug cartels.

The reason why the world's media have persuaded themselves that this World Cup is happening in a normal place is that the US has only recently slipped from its position as the ruler of a unipolar world. The US has been so central to the geopolitical imagination of Western countries (which still make the intellectual weather) that to recognise the US for what it is now, a violent, decadent, White-supremacist state run for the benefit of ubermensch tech tycoons by an orange Nero, would undo their sense of self.

Germany or Holland would never dream of boycotting an event in the US if ICE were killing citizens in American cities or US soldiers were blowing up boats in the Caribbean or assassinating the leaders of a sovereign state, or blockading Cuba, for two reasons. First, they are the US's military clients. Their geopolitics is entirely vicarious; they wear the US like an exoskeleton.

The second reason is even more pressing: like Trump and J.D. Vance, they see Europe as a White redoubt besieged by off-White immigrants who have to be stopped by any means possible. Among Giorgia Meloni, Friedrich Merz and Shabana Mahmood, there is no basic disagreement that the migrant populations whose children populate their football teams were a mistake, a mistake which needs to be undone. European

countries may not reach for the performative cruelty of Alligator Alcatraz as a first resort, but at the level of state policy, what Trump and Elon Musk think today, Europe will think tomorrow.

It's worth remembering that FIFA, world football's notoriously corrupt governing body, is dominated by Europe. FIFA allowed Israel to participate in the qualifying cycle in spite of Gaza and had it qualified, it would, unlike Russia, have played the World Cup. The unctuous Gianni Infantino has fluttered about Trump like a flunky, offering up the World Cup like a shiny toy for the president's pleasure. Trump will confer the trophy on the winner.

World Cup football is, by general consensus, not the highest form of the game. Paris St-Germain, Barcelona and Arsenal would handily beat every national team in this competition. The World Cup exists to supercharge football with nationalist feeling. Sometimes this conjunction produces sublime, larger-than-life football, especially when Argentina or Brazil is involved. More generally, World Cup football's special spark is generated by players playing as citizens, not mercenaries (unless, of course, the team in question is Qatar).

In that context, it's useful to recognise that the present edition of the tournament is co-hosted by a rogue state, which has violently infringed upon the sovereignty of other nation states, sanctioned ethnic cleansing and slaughter, and continues to do so through the duration of the competition. This is not to say that there aren't great swathes of people in the US who disapprove of their state's actions and policies. There are. It is to say, though, that to watch the football without acknowledging its context is to be mindlessly complicit in Trump and Infantino's decadent circus.

To the standard liberal objection about keeping politics and sport apart, there is a simple answer: nation-state rivalries in sport or elsewhere are political by definition. The US government has set out to systematically harass the Iranian team for purely political reasons. The department of homeland security along with the state department has joined hands to place restrictions on the Iranian team's travel into the US for its matches, has denied visas to its back-up staff, has forced them to relocate to Tijuana, Mexico. Iran is the only team that can't rest and recuperate after a match because Trump's minions insist that they fly out of the US within hours of the full-time whistle. This calculated discrimination violates a host nation's basic commitment to impartiality – it's the behaviour of a vindictive, lawless state.

There is something appropriate about the US hosting the World Cup at this moment in its late imperial history. Trump is our decadent Roman emperor out of Central Casting. This tournament is a hokey Hollywood movie, an interminable take on Gladiator. In the movie, the emperor is called Commodus; there's no improving on that name. Every football stadium in America is Trump's arena. Unlike the movie, he's unlikely to take to the field, so he can't lose; all of the action is for his greater glory. The only way he loses is if Iran wins and that's not going to happen; at the time of writing it isn't clear if Iran will make it to the knock-out round.

When it's over, though, they should play Gladiator's theme on a loop. That tremulous song with its gibberish lyrics in an invented language will be the perfect end to this tournament – "Now We Are Free".

Courtesy: The Telegraph India

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J&K Road Safety Policy 2025

DLSA Ganderbal conducts awareness programme in Wayil

Initiative aimed at promoting responsible road usage, prevention of road accidents

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JUNE 29: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal in collaboration with the District Administration Ganderbal and Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Ganderbal, organized an Awareness Programme on the J&K Road Safety Policy, 2025 at Wayil Sumo Stand, Ganderbal.

The programme, as per an official statement, was conducted under the Chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal. The programme was organized with the objective of creating awareness among the general public, commuters, transport operators and drivers regarding the provisions and objectives of the J&K Road Safety Policy, 2025, road safety measures, traffic regulations and the legal consequences arising from violations of traffic laws. The initiative aimed at promoting responsible road usage, prevention of road accidents and fostering greater public consciousness towards the protection of human life and



public safety. Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs), DLSA Ganderbal, participated in the programme and sensitized the participants regarding various aspects of road safety, the importance of compliance with traffic regulations and the legal framework governing road usage. Awareness pamphlets and informative material relating to the J&K Road Safety Policy, 2025 and road safety measures were distributed among drivers, commuters and members of the public. The campaign emphasized strict adherence to traffic rules, mandatory use of helmets and seat belts, prevention of rash and negligent driving, avoidance of over-speeding, drunken driving, use of mobile phones while

driving and compliance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles laws. During the programme, emphasis was also laid on the importance of legal awareness in safeguarding the rights and safety of citizens and on the role of Legal Services Institutions in promoting access to justice and dissemination of legal literacy among the masses. Participants were also informed about the availability of free legal aid and the various public welfare initiatives undertaken by the Legal Services Authorities. The Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Ganderbal, being the Nodal Officer for the District Road Safety Committee, extended

full cooperation for the successful conduct of the awareness programme by providing road safety awareness material, informative pamphlets and technical assistance, thereby contributing significantly to the success of the initiative. The participants appreciated the joint initiative undertaken by DLSA Ganderbal, the District Administration and ARTO Office Ganderbal and actively participated in the awareness programme. The programme concluded with a collective pledge to strictly adhere to the provisions of the J&K Road Safety Policy, 2025 and to continue promoting road safety, legal awareness and responsible citizenship in the larger public interest.

Commissioner SMC reviews major capacity augmentation project at WTP Nishat

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 29: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, on Monday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing Development of Allied Infrastructure for the 3 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant (RSFP) at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Nishat, and reviewed the progress of the project aimed at enhancing the city's potable water supply infrastructure.

During the inspection, the Commissioner, as per an official statement, was briefed by officers of the Water Works Division on the scope and progress of the project, which is being executed at an approved cost of 406.00 lakh under the Sustainable Infrastructure Fund (SMC CapEx).

The Water Treatment Plant, Nishat, commissioned in 1895, is Srinagar's most vital water supply facility, presently serving nearly 6.38 lakh population across major residential, commercial, institutional, administrative and tourism areas. The plant currently has an installed treatment capacity of 19 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) through five Rapid Sand Filtration Plants commissioned between 1935 and 2000.

Given the rapid urban expansion and increasing water demand across the city, the Commissioner observed that augmentation of the plant's treatment capacity has



become essential to bridge the existing supply gap and ensure reliable drinking water services for the growing population.

The project includes the commissioning of a 3 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant, laying and restructuring of supply and trunk mains, strengthening of treated water conveyance systems, upgradation of electro-mechanical equipment, and construction of allied infrastructure, including protection walls and sluice chambers. Upon completion, the project will enhance the treatment capacity of WTP Nishat from 19 MGD to 22 MGD, marking the first major capacity augmentation of the facility in 26 years.

The upgraded infrastructure will significantly improve potable water supply to the existing command areas of Nishat, Brein, Boulevard, Gupkar, Sonwar, Shivpora, Lal Chowk, Karan Nagar, Babarshah, Munawarabad, Khayam, Khanyar, Rainawari, Saidakadal, Dal habitations, Mir Behri, Dal Bund and other adjoining localities. Besides augmenting water supply to the existing

6.38 lakh population, the project will bring nearly one lakh additional population under the ambit of safe and reliable potable water supply with improved service levels.

The Commissioner emphasized that the project will substantially strengthen Srinagar's water supply network by improving both the reliability and efficiency of drinking water services. He directed the executing agency to maintain the highest standards of quality and workmanship while ensuring timely completion of all components of the project within the stipulated timeframe.

The Commissioner reiterated that strengthening essential urban infrastructure remains a key priority of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation. He stated that the Corporation is committed to developing resilient and sustainable public utility systems capable of meeting the city's growing needs and ensuring uninterrupted access to safe drinking water for residents, institutions, tourist destinations, government establishments, security installations, and other critical service areas.

ADDC Shopian chairs review meeting on SHIVER 2.0



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, JUNE 29: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone Monday convened a review meeting here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian, regarding SHIVER 2.0 under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan to assess the progress of tuberculosis control measures and strengthen efforts towards making the district tuberculosis-free.

During the meeting, the ADDC, as per an official statement, reviewed the implementation of various interventions being undertaken under the campaign and stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. He emphasized early detection, timely treatment, community

participation and extensive awareness activities to eliminate tuberculosis from the district.

The meeting also discussed strategies for active case finding, strengthening surveillance mechanisms, ensuring adherence to treatment and enhancing public awareness regarding the prevention and management of tuberculosis.

The ADDC directed the concerned departments and officials to work in close coordination and intensify field-level activities to ensure the successful implementation of SHIVER 2.0 and realization of the goal of a TB-Free Shopian.

Chief Medical officer, Shopian, Dr. Arshid Ahmed, District Tuberculosis Officer, Shopian, Dr. Javid Ahmed, BMOs, District programme Coordinator, NTEP staff and other concerned health functionaries were present.

Anti-drug awareness campaign continues across schools in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JUNE 29: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), District Administration Bandipora on Monday intensified its anti-drug awareness campaign by organizing rallies, pledge ceremonies, awareness programmes and parent-teacher meetings across various educational institutions of the district.

The activities, as per an official statement, were aimed at sensitizing students, parents and the local community about the harmful effects of drug abuse, while promoting a healthy, responsible and drug-free lifestyle.

Awareness programmes, pledge ceremonies and community outreach activities were conducted at High School Ketson, High School Panar, High School Achoora, Higher Secondary School Gadakhud, Higher Secondary School Quilmuqam and High School Koragbal. Students, teachers and members of the local community actively participated in the programmes by carrying placards and banners displaying anti-drug messages and raising slogans against substance abuse.

At Higher Secondary School Gadakhud, an anti-drug awareness rally was organized, with active participation from students, faculty members and civil society representatives. The rally passed through nearby villages to spread awareness regarding the social, physical



and psychological consequences of substance abuse and concluded with a collective anti-drug pledge.

Similarly, Higher Secondary School Quilmuqam organized a Community Awareness Rally under the 100-Day Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. Students and staff participated enthusiastically, encouraging the public, particularly the youth, to stay away from drugs and adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle. The programme concluded with a collective pledge in support of the vision of a Nasha Mukht Bharat.

Parent-Teacher Meetings were also held at PM SHRI Government High School Odina and High School Panar, where parents and teachers

discussed the academic progress and overall development of students. During the meeting at PM SHRI Government High School Odina, parents appreciated the Government's Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and expressed confidence that sustained awareness initiatives would help eradicate the social menace of drug abuse and contribute towards building a healthier society.

The District Administration Bandipora reiterated its commitment to strengthening community participation through educational institutions and public outreach initiatives to ensure greater awareness and collective action against drug abuse across the district.

Mehbooba Mufti misleading public to remain politically relevant: Tanvir Sadiq



KT News Desk

Srinagar, 29 Jun: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq Monday said that PDP is resorting to daily political gimmicks to mislead the public, saying the outsourcing is in fact a legacy of PDP-BJP government.

Addressing the media at the party headquarters, Sadiq, as per a party statement, said Mehbooba Mufti first attacked the present government over outsourcing, but after the government's clarification that the policy was introduced during her tenure as Chief Minister, the PDP shifted its narrative. "They are now saying they are not against outsourcing, only against contracts being awarded to outside agencies. The reality is that any agency local or outside Jammu and Kashmir can register on the GeM portal. The process is centrally managed and the government has

no authority to block any eligible bidder," he said.

Tanvir said the PDP was either unaware of the facts or deliberately distorting them to mislead people. He said the current government inherited the system of outsourcing from the PDP-BJP regime. He said Sunday's press conference was aimed solely at placing facts before the public and has exposed the misinformation campaign started by PDP and BJP.

He added that several individuals are in jail in connection with the J&K Bank scam which was orchestrated during Mehbooba Mufti's tenure as CM, while the Anti-Corruption Bureau's investigation is still underway.

Responding to Sajad Lone's remarks on outsourcing, Tanvir said, "They are all birds of a feather. Lone was a minister in Mehbooba Mufti's Cabinet when the outsourcing policy was introduced and questioned why he remained silent at the time."

Inter-Zonal District Level Kho Kho Competition for Boys held in Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, JUNE 29: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Shopian Monday organized the Inter-Zonal District Level Kho Kho Competition for Boys (Under-14 and Under-17) at Gunj Bakash Arhama, Shopian under 100-Day Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Shopian, Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, as per an official statement, interacted with the participants and highlighted the importance of sports in promoting a healthy and disciplined lifestyle. He urged students to stay away from drugs and engage in sports activities for their physical and mental well-being. He encouraged the young players to build self-confidence,



develop discipline and strive for excellence through sports and teamwork. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from

players representing different zones of the district who displayed remarkable sportsmanship, teamwork and competitive spirit throughout the event.

SKUAST-K, IFPRI launch Advanced Economic Modelling Programme to boost Policy Research

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 29: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), on Monday launched a one-week advanced capacity-building program on Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modelling for Economic Policy Analysis at its Shalimar campus.

Organized by the Institute of Business and Policy Research (IBPR), SKUAST-K, the program, as per an official statement, will run from June 29 to July 4, bringing together researchers, academicians, policymakers, and development professionals from across the country for intensive training in advanced economic



modeling and policy analysis. The program aims to strengthen participants' capacity to apply CGE models for evidence-based research, policy simulation, and informed decision-making across sectors such as agriculture, trade, rural development, and public policy. The inaugural session was presided over by Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir A. Ganai, while Senior Research Fellow at IFPRI, Prof. Anjani Kumar,

attended as Guest of Honor. Registrar, SKUAST-K, Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, and Director, Extension and Dean, Faculty of Horticulture, Prof. Raihana H. Kanth were also present.

Underscoring the institutional significance of the initiative, the Vice Chancellor said, "Advanced economic modeling is central to designing sustainable and inclusive policy solutions. This program reflects SKUAST-K's commitment to

research excellence and policy relevance."

Welcoming participants, Course Director Prof. Farhet A. Shaheen highlighted the program's practical focus and its relevance to strengthening analytical capacity among researchers and policy professionals. Highlighting the broader policy relevance of such analytical tools, Prof. Anjani Kumar said, "CGE modeling has become indispensable for understanding economic complexity and strengthening policy decisions through data-driven insights."

Expanding on the technical significance of the framework, Dr Barun Deb Pal, Lead Resource Person from IFPRI, noted, "CGE models provide a powerful framework to assess economic linkages and policy impacts across sectors."

NATIONAL STATISTICS DAY

Robust data key to effective governance: Comm'r Secy Alice Vaz

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 29: The Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Jammu and Kashmir, celebrated the 20th National Statistics Day at its Bemina office on Monday as part of the nationwide programme held by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The day marks the birth anniversary of Professor P. C. Mahalanobis, father of Indian statistics.

Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, R. Alice Vaz, inaugurated the programme. In her address, she highlighted the role of statistics

in planning, governance and sustainable development. She stressed the critical importance of robust statistical systems for evidence-based policymaking, improving service delivery and enabling targeted development interventions.

The Commissioner Secretary called upon the officers and field staff to ensure timely, accurate and reliable data collection, stressing that quality statistics form the backbone of effective monitoring and evaluation. She said the department is committed to adopt modern tools and technology to strengthen the statistical framework across Jammu and Kashmir and make data



accessible for the planners, researchers and the citizens.

On the occasion, Director General, Economics & Statistics,

J&K, Riyaz Ahmad Romshoo, emphasized the vital role of young statisticians and new entrants to the service in strengthening the

department.

During the celebration, messages from the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary were also read out to the gathering, underscoring the importance of statistics in evidence-based governance and inclusive development.

Regional Director, Evaluation & Statistics, Jammu, Ashu Gupta; Regional Director, Evaluation & Statistics, Kashmir, Sheikh Shavaiz Ahmad and former Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K, G A Qureshi also addressed the event.

The technical sessions of the programme featured insightful presentations by the

departmental officers, trainees from the School of Applied Economics & Statistics (SAES) and postgraduate research scholars. These deliberations focused on "Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data" and highlighted the evolving role of official statistics in strengthening the evidence-based policymaking and governance.

The discussions particularly highlighted the need to strengthen the administrative data systems for greater reliability and integration, enhance statistical literacy among youth and practitioners to build a culture of informed decision making and leverage official statistics as a

foundation for inclusive and sustainable growth.

The event was attended by the officers and officials of J&K Economics & Statistics Service, along with dignitaries from the statistical and academic community.

A similar programme was also organized at the DES Camp Office Janipur Jammu which was attended by Deepa Sharma, Principal SAES, Jammu and Shoba Rani, Joint Director (Surveys), DES J&K besides other officers and officials of Directorate, office of the Regional Director, Evaluation & Statistics, Jammu and School of Applied Economics & Statistics, Jammu.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Every stakeholder

Nodal Officer for Baltal Axis; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Rajiv Omprakashn, DIG CKR; Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal; Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; Shreya Singhal, Director Information; and other senior officials were also present. (KNO)

J&K must diversify

buyers came to us. They came in the shape of tourists, bought our products and carried them back to different parts of the world. In every sense, those purchases were exports. We rarely relied on organised buyer-seller meets or handicraft fairs because buyers automatically came to Kashmir. Many lifelong relationships between artisans and buyers were built that way," he said.

He, also said prolonged disturbances and the decline in tourism forced artisans to completely change their business model. "When dark clouds emerged and tourism almost dried up, our artisans had to innovate. They packed their products, travelled across the country and the world and rebuilt the linkages that had once come naturally," he said.

CM Omar said buyer-seller meets were initiated during his tenure in the Union Commerce Ministry to reconnect Jammu and Kashmir's producers with domestic and international buyers.

"When I was in the Commerce and Industry Ministry, Government of India, we started organising buyer-seller meets in Jammu and Srinagar to build relationships between buyers, manufacturers and artisans. This event is another step in that direction," he said.

Highlighting this year's event, the Chief Minister said, they have gone one step further this time. "Earlier these buyer-seller meets were largely confined to traditional handicraft exporters. Now we have opened the doors for self-help groups, particularly women from far-flung rural areas, giving them direct access to international buyers and new business opportunities" he said.

The Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir's exports continue to remain concentrated in only a few districts. "Nearly 98 per cent of our exports come from Kathua, Samba, Jammu and Srinagar. The remaining districts account for only two per cent. The challenge before us is how to increase the number of exporters and spread exports across every region of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Welcoming more than 30 foreign buyers from around 14 to 15 countries, the CM said the gathering offers an opportunity to understand international market demand. "It gives us an opportunity to understand what global buyers are looking for and tailor our products accordingly. We have to create products that buyers simply cannot refuse," he said.

He said the introduction of the "Know Your Artisan" initiative would help international buyers connect with the people behind Jammu and Kashmir's renowned handicrafts.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need for establishing a dry port in Jammu and Kashmir to simplify export procedures and ensure exports originating from the Union Territory are officially credited to J&K.

"We urgently need a dry port. Our goods are exported from here but are stamped elsewhere, because of which exports are credited to another state. There is a difference between the export figures maintained by the Government of India and those of the J&K Government because our products are processed outside the Union Territory," he said. (KNO)

Omar slams

Government will raise it before the North Zone State Council and seek the intervention of the central government.

Abdullah said he has written to Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann seeking his personal intervention to ensure the smooth, secure and unhindered movement of livestock consignments destined for Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a letter, accessed by KNO, CM Omar said the All Kashmir Wholesale Mutton Dealers Union had complained that livestock-laden vehicles carrying all valid permits and statutory documents were allegedly being stopped by contractor groups operating in connection with cattle fairs in Punjab and subjected to unauthorised fee collection.

"Such interruptions are causing avoidable delays, financial losses to traders, hardship for transporters, and adversely affecting animal welfare," he said.

Referring to the findings of an internal committee constituted by the J&K Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Abdullah said the panel had found that transporters were reportedly being compelled to

make substantial payments per vehicle during transit without any apparent legal sanction.

The CM further said that livestock movement is exempt from GST and that the alleged collection of unauthorised charges was placing an additional financial burden on the trade, ultimately impacting meat prices and consumers across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the close economic and social ties between the two neighbouring regions, Omar said such practices, if found to be taking place, run contrary to the spirit of cooperation that has traditionally defined relations between Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Minister also drew Punjab's attention to the impending tendering process for cattle fairs, saying traders fear the alleged practice could continue during the next contract period unless safeguards are introduced.

Seeking immediate action, Omar requested Bhagwant Mann to have the matter examined and ensure that transporters carrying valid documentation are not subjected to unauthorised interference or illegal fee collection while transiting through Punjab.

Meanwhile, commenting on the International Buyer-Seller Meet, CM Abdullah said the initiative is aimed at expanding Jammu and Kashmir's exports by bringing global buyers directly to the Union Territory.

He said around 40 foreign buyers from nearly 15-16 countries across Asia, Europe, Africa, North America and Australia are participating in the event, alongside artisans, self-help groups, farmer-producer organisations (FPOs), startups and entrepreneurs from Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to a question on the impact of the recent West Asia conflict, the Chief Minister said only a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to the ceasefire process has been signed so far. He expressed hope that peace would hold and the agreement would be implemented without disruption. (KNO)

Srinagar sizzles

weather, recorded 26.2°C, more than 5°C above normal.

In contrast, temperatures in the Jammu division remained close to normal due to prevailing monsoon-like conditions. Jammu city recorded 36.9°C, almost normal for this time of the year, while Banihal, Batote, Bhaderwah and Katra recorded temperatures ranging between 29.3°C and 35.6°C.

The Meteorological Department said daytime temperatures across Kashmir are likely to remain 4°C to 8°C above normal through Monday, resulting in heatwave conditions in many areas.

"Generally hot and dry weather is expected during the forenoon and afternoon on Monday, with the possibility of light rain or brief thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds at scattered places later in the day," an official said.

From July 1 to July 5, fresh spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected across many places in Jammu and Kashmir, with the possibility of heavy rainfall and intense showers at isolated locations, particularly on July 2 and 3.

The weather office has warned that heavy rainfall in parts of the Jammu division may trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides and temporary waterlogging in low-lying areas. People have been advised to stay away from streams, nullahs and landslide-prone areas during the period.

The unusually high temperatures disrupted normal life in Srinagar, where roads, markets and public spaces wore a deserted look during the afternoon as people preferred to stay indoors.

"It felt impossible to walk outside after noon. Even inside the house, the heat was unbearable because most homes here are not designed for such temperatures," locals said from Srinagar.

Officials said temperatures are expected to gradually decline from Wednesday, with further relief likely from Thursday as rain-bearing systems become active over the region. (KNO)

Multi-layer security

Control Centre (ICCC), equipped with more than 600 high-definition CCTV cameras, including long-range Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras, to monitor movement across the city. Officials said the Jammu and Kashmir Police's "Third Eye" surveillance system has also been activated to detect potential threats and facilitate immediate response.

"The integrated command centre will provide real-time monitoring of Yatra routes, base camps and other strategic locations to ensure effective coordination and swift response during the pilgrimage," an official said.

Security agencies also carried out a series of

mock drills across Jammu and Kashmir to assess operational preparedness. A joint exercise by the Special Operations Group (SOG) and the National Security Guard (NSG) was conducted at the Raghunath Temple in Jammu to strengthen counter-terror response and inter-agency coordination.

In Budgam district, multiple agencies participated in a comprehensive security and emergency response drill aimed at testing preparedness for various contingencies during the Yatra.

On the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, security agencies conducted a large-scale convoy rehearsal involving 640 vehicles to evaluate convoy protection, traffic management and emergency response mechanisms. Officials said the exercise focused on coordination among security agencies and ensuring uninterrupted movement of pilgrims.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) also conducted a successful trial run through the newly built 3.5-km Digdool-Panthly tunnel, with a dry-run convoy passing through one of its tubes.

In neighbouring Punjab, police have put in place a multi-layered security plan as thousands of pilgrims are expected to pass through Pathankot, the key transit district connecting Punjab with Jammu and Kashmir, between July 3 and August 28.

PUNJAB SPECIAL DGP CHAIRS HIGH-LEVEL INTER-STATE COORDINATION MEETING

Punjab Special Director General of Police (Law and Order) Arpit Shukla chaired a high-level inter-state coordination meeting to review security arrangements with officials from various agencies.

According to Punjab Police, the security grid covers the 65-km Yatra route in the state through five security sectors and includes a dedicated Command and Control Centre at Madhopur, round-the-clock monitoring, strengthened checkpoints, route domination, CCTV surveillance, drone monitoring and emergency response vehicle patrols.

The security plan also provides for joint operations involving the Indian Army, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Himachal Pradesh Police and Jammu and Kashmir Police, besides the deployment of police quick reaction teams, Army QRTs, Special Operations Group personnel and bomb disposal squads.

Officials said anti-sabotage checks and enhanced second-line border security have also been incorporated into the security architecture.

"Over 800 police personnel and multiple response teams have been deployed to ensure a safe, secure and peaceful pilgrimage. Pilgrims are requested to stay vigilant, follow the designated routes and cooperate with security personnel," Punjab Police said.

Officials said the extensive security arrangements, surveillance systems and coordinated deployment of forces reflect the preparedness of agencies across states to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of this year's Amarnath Yatra. (KNO)

AK-47, hand

significant blow to terrorist networks by preventing the possible use of the weapons and explosives for subversive activities. They added that investigations are underway to ascertain the source and intended destination of the recovered cache. (KNO)

'Pushed to the

we have treated your mothers, fathers, children and elderly family members under the Ayushman Bharat/SEHAT scheme without taking a single rupee from them. We believed the government's assurance that hospitals would be reimbursed on time. Unfortunately, that promise has remained unfulfilled," Mengi said.

He said hospitals were forced to borrow money, delay payments to suppliers and, in several cases, even defer staff salaries in an effort to ensure uninterrupted patient care.

"Today our pharmacies are running empty. We have no dialyzers, cancer medicines, surgical consumables or even adequate oxygen refills. Vendors have stopped supplying us because outstanding bills have remained unpaid for a prolonged period," he said.

According to the association, repeated representations were made before government authorities through meetings, memoranda, press conferences and media appeals, but no concrete action has followed.

"We knocked on every door. We approached officials, raised the issue through newspapers, television debates and press conferences. Every time we were told that the matter would be resolved soon. Unfortunately, only assurances have come while the financial crisis has continued to deepen. Files do not save

lives—medicines do," Mengi said.

The association maintained that continuing treatment without essential medicines, consumables and life-saving equipment would compromise patient safety.

"A doctor without medicines is helpless, and a hospital without medical supplies is merely a building. We cannot endanger the lives of patients by pretending that we can continue treatment when critical resources have been exhausted," the statement said.

Expressing concern for patients dependent on regular life-saving treatment, the association urged families of those undergoing dialysis or chemotherapy to immediately consult their respective hospitals instead of waiting until the end of June.

The association appealed to the public to stand in solidarity with healthcare institutions, stressing that doctors, nurses and medical staff are not responsible for the present crisis but have themselves become victims of prolonged financial delays.

It further urged people to appeal to the Chief Minister and the Lieutenant Governor to facilitate the immediate release of pending payments, saying that timely financial support would enable hospitals to replenish medicines and continue serving patients without interruption.

"We do not want to discontinue these services. We took an oath to serve humanity. We earnestly request the government to release the pending funds immediately so that medicines and essential supplies can be procured and treatment can continue. Patients should not suffer because of administrative delays," the association said.

Warning that services under the Ayushman Bharat/SEHAT scheme may cease from July 1 if no immediate intervention is made, the association said: "If hospital doors close on July 1, please remember that it was not our choice. We have been left with no alternative due to prolonged indifference and the non-release of legitimate dues." (KNO)

Diversion of 197

recommended the proposal for grant of 'in-principle' approval for diversion of 197.27 ha. of Forest land (Reserved Forest: 191.95 Ha and Others: 5.32 Ha) for construction of Kirthai-II Hydro Electric Project (820 MW) by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL) on Chenab river within the jurisdiction of Kishtwar Forest Division, District- Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir," it reads.

The clearance however has been subjected to general, standard and specific conditions wherein the 'State Government' has informed that applications for 02 clay quarries and 04 rock quarries are under process with the Department of Geology & Mining, UT of J&K.

"However, approval for quarrying and the Mining Plans have not yet been obtained. As per Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Rules, 2023, the approved Mining Plan is required to be submitted along with the compliance report of Stage-1 approval," reads the documents.

The advisor panel has further informed that all the muck dumping sites are located near the banks of the River Chenab, the State Government will take appropriate engineering and biological measures to prevent erosion, siltation, and any adverse environmental impacts on the river ecology.

"The project site is located within a high mountainous gorge along the river Chenab characterised by moderate to steep slopes. The User Agency (UA) needs to exercise special caution during project implementation, as activities such as rock cutting and earthwork may lead to soil erosion. To mitigate these impacts, the User Agency is required to take appropriate measures to prevent soil erosion," it reads.

The documents further said that the trees proposed to be felled in the project area would affect the ecosystem in general, especially in terms of increased run-off and soil erosion that may lead to landslides. "Therefore, the State Government should take necessary mitigation measures and put in place necessary safety and monitoring measures."

It also said that the 'State Government' shall ensure implementation of the Site-Specific Wildlife and Biodiversity Management Plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), at the cost of the User Agency.

"The State Government shall ensure implementation of the duly approved CAT Plan at the cost of the User Agency. The requisite funds shall be deposited by the User Agency in the account of National CAMPA," reads the document. (KNO)

Yasin Malik among 5

of more than three and a half decades, investigators reconstructed the sequence of events

through protected witness testimonies, independent eyewitness accounts, forensic and ballistic analysis, medical evidence, documentary records, electronic evidence and extensive field investigations.

It reads the investigation established that the killing of Sarla Bhat was not an isolated act of violence but part of a larger terrorist conspiracy orchestrated under the command and control of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

"The investigation has revealed the involvement of Mohammad Yaseen Malik, then Chief Commander of JKLF, along with Khurshid Ahmad Chalkoo, Abdul Hamid Sheikh, Mohammad Yousuf Sofi alias Idrees and Gulam Mohammad Taploo in planning and executing the abduction and brutal killing".

The statement read that while Abdul Hamid Sheikh, Mohammad Yousuf Sofi alias Idrees and Gulam Mohammad Taploo are deceased, Mohammad Yaseen Malik is presently in judicial custody in another case. "Legal proceedings, including proclamation proceedings, have been initiated against absconding terrorist Khurshid Ahmad Chalkoo (man who pulled the trigger), who is believed to have infiltrated to Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir".

It reads the chargesheet establishes offences punishable under Sections 364, 341, 302 read with 34, 201 and 120-B RPC, Sections 3(2), 3(3), 4 and 6 of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 (TADA), and Sections 7 and 27 of the Indian Arms Act, 1959.

It added the investigation has further established that the allegation portraying Sarla Bhat as an "informer" was entirely false and constituted a fabricated pretext employed by terrorists to justify a premeditated assassination.

"Evidence collected during investigation demonstrates that the murder was part of JKLF's systematic campaign of targeted terrorist violence intended to spread fear among innocent civilians, particularly members of the Kashmiri Pandit community, create conditions for their forced displacement from the Kashmir Valley and advance the secessionist agenda of the terrorist organisation," it reads. (KNO)

No form of tobacco

tuberculosis, influenza, COVID-19, herpes and other respiratory infections, it warned.

Health experts further caution that even herbal or tobacco-free hukkah products are not harmless. When heated with charcoal, they continue to produce toxic chemicals and dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. Occasional use also exposes individuals to harmful toxins, while most hukkah tobacco contains nicotine that can cause addiction.

The advisory highlights that second-hand smoke from both cigarettes and hukkah also places family members at risk. Children and non-smokers exposed to tobacco smoke are more likely to suffer from asthma, lung infections, heart disease, lung cancer and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Quitting tobacco, however, offers immediate and long-term health benefits. "Within 20 minutes, heart rate and blood pressure begin to decline. Carbon monoxide levels in the blood return to normal within 12 hours, while circulation and lung function improve within two to twelve weeks. After one year, the risk of heart disease is reduced by nearly half compared to those who continue smoking, and after ten years, the risk of lung cancer falls to about half that of a continuing smoker," the advisory explains.

The campaign also draws attention to tobacco use in India and Jammu & Kashmir. According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2, 2016-17), 28.6 per cent of Indian adults—around 267 million people—use tobacco, while 1.3 million deaths occur annually due to tobacco-related diseases. In Jammu & Kashmir, 23.7 per cent of adults use tobacco, with 10.4 per cent smoking cigarettes and 6.3 per cent smoking hukkah.

The advisory further links tobacco use with the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. Data from NFHS-6 (2023-24) indicates that obesity, hypertension and diabetes are increasing across India, while Jammu & Kashmir ranks among the states with some of the highest rates of hypertension and raised blood glucose. Experts warn that tobacco significantly increases the risk of heart disease, stroke, hypertension, diabetes-related complications, chronic lung diseases and several cancers.

Calling for greater public awareness, the advisory urges people to reject the myths surrounding tobacco and recognise that there is no safe form of tobacco consumption. It appeals to citizens to protect their families from second-hand smoke, encourage tobacco users to quit and work together to build tobacco-free communities. (KNO)

Ram Mandir donation theft accused facing legal, social consequences; guilty won't be spared: BJP



PTI

New Delhi, Jun 29: The BJP on Monday said that the accused in the alleged Ram Mandir donation theft case are facing not only legal action but also social boycott, reflecting the sentiments of Hindu society. The ruling party cited a resolution by the Faizabad Bar Association, which resolved that none of its members will represent the eight accused arrested in the alleged embezzlement of Ram temple donations and warned that any lawyer who goes against the decision will face a Rs 5-lakh penalty. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has made it very clear that exemplary punishment will be meted out to the guilty and speedy justice will be ensured, the party said, adding the case will proceed as per the rule of law. BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said that those who betray faith or defend such be-

trayal will never receive the blessings of the Hindu society.

"This is a powerful message from Hindu society. Those accused of looting in Ayodhya are not only facing the full force of the law, they are also facing social boycott," he said in a post on X on the Bar Association decision.

Bhandari alleged that opposition parties, driven by "appeasement politics", have repeatedly stood with the accused for "vote-bank gains".

"The Samajwadi Party backed those accused in the Ayodhya and Varanasi blast cases. Lawyers like Kapil Sibal have also represented accused in high-profile matters such as the CAA and Delhi riots cases," he claimed. "The contrast is clear: Hindu civilisation has endured for centuries because it has upheld Dharma above individuals -- despite repeated attempts by Mughal invaders, the Congress ecosystem,

and vote-bank politics to weaken it," he added.

Another BJP national spokesperson Tuhin Sinha told PTI that the party understands the "sentiments and anguish" behind the Faizabad Bar Association's decision and the matter will ultimately be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law.

"We clearly relate to the sentiments and the anguish of the Faizabad Bar Association. But India is a country where the rule of law is sacrosanct, and the case will proceed as per the rule of law.

"Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has made it very clear that the guilty will not be spared. Exemplary punishment will be meted out, and speedy justice will be ensured," Sinha said.

The Monday resolution was passed at the Association's general body meeting after lawyers on Sunday indicated they were unlikely to defend the accused, saying their sentiments had been hurt by the alleged theft of temple offerings.

The eight accused -- Avinash Shukla, Anukalp Mishra, Lav Kush Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ram Shankar Mishra, Subhash Srivastava and Ramashankar alias Tinnu Yadav -- are associated with counting cash and valuables received as donations at the Ram Temple. They were arrested in connection with the alleged embezzlement and were remanded to judicial custody till June 29.

At the Bar Association meeting, lawyers vocally demanded that Champat Rai, Anil Mishra, and Gopal Rao, all associated with the management of the temple (but not mentioned as accused in the FIR), "must leave" Ayodhya.

The lawyers warned that if the trio did not leave within three days, the entire city of Ayodhya would be blockaded and no one would be allowed to enter.

Delhi govt approves EV policy

Electric cars up to Rs 30 lakh to get road tax exemption



PTI

New Delhi, Jun 29: All electric cars with an ex-showroom price of Rs 30 lakh or less registered in the national capital will be granted 100 per cent exemption on road tax and registration fees, as the Delhi government approved a new EV policy on Monday.

Under the new policy, people buying e-two-wheelers will get a subsidy of Rs 30,000 in the first year, Rs 20,000 in the second year and Rs 10,000 in the third year.

As part of the policy, only electric autorickshaws will be registered in Delhi from January 1, 2027, while registration of new petrol and CNG two-wheelers will be phased out, with only electric two-wheelers to be registered from April 1, 2028. Addressing a press conference, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that around Rs 15,000 crore will be invested under the new policy over the next four years to promote electric mobility and reduce vehicular pollution in the national capital.

The policy, approved by the Delhi Cabinet, will come into effect from July 1. Gupta said, describing it as a major step towards making Delhi a pollution-free city by March 31, 2030.

Gupta said that the new policy lays special emphasis on the transport sector and provides a roadmap for the phased transition from conventional fuel-powered vehicles to electric vehicles.

To encourage the adoption of electric vehicles, the government has announced purchase incentives for buyers.

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Bilal Ahmad Dar w/o: Gh Rasool R/o: Kechri Qazipora.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore

(Registrar of Birth and Death)

...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Bilal Ahmad Dar S/o: Basit Bilal as 15-07-2023 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Nazakat Mehraj w/o: Mehraj un din Lone R/o: Seer Jager Sopore.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore

(Registrar of Birth and Death)

...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Self namely Nazakat Mehraj D/o: Mehraj un din Lone as 08-04-2008 at Home Seer Jager.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

Govt to lift curbs on petrol, diesel sales to commercial buyers from Jul 1

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 29: The government will lift restrictions on the sale of petrol and diesel to commercial and industrial consumers from July 1, easing emergency measures imposed to manage fuel supplies.

The move will also end the cap on the diesel quantity that can be sold to a single vehicle in a day at retail fuel stations, reflecting an improvement in the country's fuel supply situation.

In an order dated June 29, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas rescinded its June 12 directive that had capped diesel sales to a single vehicle at 200 litres a day and barred industrial, commercial and institutional consumers from purchasing petrol and diesel from retail fuel stations.

The restrictions had been introduced to prevent local fuel shortages amid global supply disruptions. "The temporary



measures were considered necessary and expedient in the public interest to maintain supplies of motor spirit (petrol) and high speed diesel...and secure their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices," the June 29 order said.

After a review of the prevailing supply situation of petroleum products in the country, the ministry said it is "satisfied" that it is no longer necessary in the public interest to continue with the June 12 order.

"Therefore, in exercise of powers conferred by clause 3 of the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Temporary Regulation

of Supply through Retail Outlets) Order, 2026, the Central Government hereby withdraws its Order of even number dated 12th June, 2026 with effect from 1st July, 2026," it said.

The move follows an improvement in crude oil and fuel supplies from Gulf producers after tensions in the region eased, allowing energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz to resume.

On June 12, the government had ordered that retail outlets could sell diesel only into a vehicle tank or PESO-approved container, and not more than 200 litres per customer or vehicle per day.

Also, industrial, commercial and institutional consumers were no longer allowed to buy petrol or diesel from retail outlets. They must source their fuel from their own consumer pumps.

The restrictions, which were put in place for up to 90 days, followed abnormal demand growth, particularly that of diesel, in some pockets after bulk users started buying fuel from petrol pumps due to the pricing difference. While diesel at petrol pumps costs Rs 95.20 a litre in Delhi, bulk sales are priced at Rs 134.50.

The differential arose as state-owned oil companies modulated retail prices to insulate common users from the spike in cost that followed the West Asia crisis in late February. While bulk users, such as telecom towers and industries using diesel for power generation and other feedstock needs, are charged market price, the retail pump rates are way lower than the cost.

Centre designates Adani Group-promoted Navi Mumbai airport as immigration post

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 29: The Union Home Ministry has designated Navi Mumbai airport as the 38th immigration post for entry into and exit from India under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

The Centre has added the Adani Group-promoted airport to the list of airports notified as designated immigration posts in September last year, according to a gazette notification issued Monday. The Navi Mumbai International Airport is expected to start international operations from the greenfield facility from July 15, a top official had said earlier this month.

Along with international passenger flights, the airport will also commence international freighter operations, he had said.

Haryana, Rajasthan sign pact for implementation of Yamuna Water Project

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 29: Haryana and Rajasthan on Monday signed an agreement in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the construction and implementation of the Yamuna Water Project, officials said.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on May 12, 1994 by the Yamuna basin states -- Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and the National Capital Territory of Delhi -- regarding allocation of the surface flow of the river.

After its creation in 2000, Uttarakhand was also included in the MoU.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil and senior officials from the central government and the state governments were present during the ceremony.

Addressing the meeting, Shah said the project seeks to facilitate the conveyance of Rajasthan's allocated

share of Yamuna waters through an underground pipeline system from the Western Yamuna Canal, enabling the state to effectively utilise the water allocated to it under the 1994 MoU on the sharing of utilisable surface waters of the Upper Yamuna Basin.

The agreement will ensure that 580 Million Cubic Meters (MCM) of water will be supplied from the Yamuna Canal to Rajasthan through three underground pipelines from July to October, he said.

Shah said this agreement has today resolved the nearly three-decade-old water-related problem faced by the people of Haryana and Rajasthan.

The home minister said the agreement is an excellent example of the mantra 'Solution through Dialogue', given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"This agreement demonstrates that if states move forward with the spirit of cooperative federalism, even a problem persisting for three decades can be resolved easily," he said.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE BONIYAR

Boniyar-193122, Baramulla, J&K(UT)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS (NIT)

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Government Degree College Boniyar invites e-Tenders from registered and eligible agencies/vendors for outsourcing of College Canteen Services for the period July 2026 to June 2027. Interested bidders are required to submit their bids online through the J&K e-Tendering Portal (www.jktenders.gov.in). The bidder shall also submit a hard copy of the complete tender document in a sealed envelope superscribed "e-Tender for Outsourcing of College Canteen Services, Government Degree College Boniyar" in the office of the undersigned on or before the prescribed date.

A CDR of 5,000/- pledged in favour of the Principal, Government Degree College Boniyar shall be uploaded on the e-tender portal, and the original shall also be deposited in the office of the undersigned before the opening of the technical bid.

The detailed tender document containing terms and conditions, and prescribed menu/rates can be downloaded from www.gdcboniyar.college and www.jktenders.gov.in.

Tender Schedule

Particulars	Date & Time
Date of Issue of Tender on College Website	29-06-2026
Date of Publication of Tender Notice in Newspapers	29-06-2026
Submission Start Date	29-06-2026 (04:00 PM)
Last Date for Submission of e-Tender	10-07-2026 (04:00 PM)
Opening of Technical Bids	11-07-2026 (02:00 PM)
Opening of Financial Bids	14-07-2026 (02:00 PM)

Note:

- Bidders are advised to read the tender document carefully before submitting their bids.
- Incomplete or late bids shall be rejected.
- The Principal, Government Degree College Boniyar, reserves the right to acc any or all bids without assigning any reason.

No: GDCCBN/26/189

Principal

Dated: 29-06-2026

GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE BONIYAR Rate List of Canteen Items for the Year 2026-27

S. No.	Item	Description	Quantity	Rates t- I
1	Tea	With Pure Cow Milk (Disposable Glass)	120 ml	
2	Samosa (Per Piece)	With Potato Filling	80 grams	
	Pakora (Veg)	Vegetable	100 grains	
4	Chola Puri (Full Platel)	Chola Puri	150 grams	
5	Chola Puri (Half Platel)	Chola Puri	75 grams	
6	Egg Boiled	Fresh	Per Piece	
	Omelette (Double)	2 Slices + Two Eggs	Per Plate	
8	Omelette (Single)	2 Slices + One Egg	Per Plate	
9	Aloo Paratha (Per Piece)	Good Quality	Per Piece	
10	Juices of Different Brands Approved by Food Safety DeDepartment	Good Quality and of Permissible Ingredients	As Per Pack	
1 1	Coffee	Good Quality and of Permissible Ingredients	120 nil	
12	Butter Toast	Two Bread Slices + Butter (6 grams good quality only)	Per Plate	
13	Biscuits	Good Quality and of Permissible Ingredients	Per Piece/Pack	
14	Rajma Rice (Per Plate)	Fresh and Hygienic	Per Plate	
15	Vegetable Biryani	Good Quality	250 grams	

Convener College Canteen Committee

DIPK-2663/26
Dated: 29-06-2026

Principal

US says Trump envoys to travel for Iran meeting in Doha today



REUTERS

Washington, Jun 29: The United States said a high-level meeting on Iran would be held in Doha on Tuesday with President Donald Trump's top envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner attending while technical talks would also continue on the sidelines.

In a social media post on Monday, Trump said that Iran had requested a meeting and that it would take place in the Qatari capital without giving any details. Moments later, Trump's

a 14-point memorandum of understanding aimed at ending four months of conflict on June 17, under which both sides agreed to cease hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas typically transits.

But tit-for-tat weekend strikes threatened to derail the fragile accord. A return to talks would follow several days of strikes and counterstrikes since an Iranian projectile hit a cargo vessel in the strait on Thursday, with both the US and Iran accusing each other of breaking the interim ceasefire.

"There were attacks on commercial vessels that the United States of America, directed by the president, responded to, and that will continue to happen, but we hope we don't see that. The president obviously wants to see the peace process play out," Leavitt said on the "Fox & Friends" program.

press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, told Fox News that Witkoff and Kushner would attend the talks.

"Special Envoy Witkoff and Jared Kushner will be flying to Doha for high-level meetings this week, as we continue to discuss the memorandum of understanding. On the sidelines of those high-level talks, will be the technical talks," she said. "As far as we're concerned, we're holding our end of the ceasefire. Violence will be met with violence," Leavitt added. The US and Iran signed

Philippines leads world in rush to solar as power prices soar



REUTERS

Singapore/Manila, Jun 29: People in the Philippines are flocking to install solar power on rooftops and escape the burden of soaring electricity prices, making it the world's biggest spender on solar panels since the war in Iran started. Top power distributor Merco has raised prices by 10 percent since the Middle East conflict began in late February. Now, a median household spends around 12 percent of monthly income on electricity, assuming it consumes 200 kilowatt-hours — approximately the monthly average for three people. The Philippines is one of the few countries in Southeast Asia with barely any power subsidies, and its residential power prices are the highest in the region. Only Singapore comes close, but its citizens' average purchasing power is nearly 13 times higher. Adrian Sabatera, a 39-year-old software engineer, thought about getting

solar for years but found it too costly. That changed as costs came down and electricity prices kept rising. "I wouldn't be shocked if a third of the middle-class population eventually finds their way to this setup," Sabatera said after recently pulling the trigger on a 570,000 peso (\$9,300) installation at the Manila house he shares with three others. The rooftop solar rush has resulted in \$407 million in panel imports in the three months through May, a 145 percent increase from a year earlier, according to trade data from China, which accounts for most global supply. Even when Chinese panel shipments fell 13 percent in May after a tax rebate removal, exports to the Philippines rose by almost a third. On paper, the Netherlands remains a larger market for panels, but experts say that's because it is a transshipment hub.

SURGE IN INQUIRIES
Philegry German Solar, a Manila-based installer, received more than 2-1/2 times the number of customer enquiries in the first five months of this year compared to last year. At one point it fielded 3,000 inquiries a day, according to managing partner Jochen Staudter. Customers are deciding to buy "much faster than before," Staudter said. "Demand will continue to be driven by high electricity prices."

In two years, distributed solar capacity could nearly triple to 3,500 megawatts (MW), matching the current size of the Philippines' utility-scale solar fleet, as loan payback times shrink to 3.1 years from 4 years, said Alnie Demoral, analyst at energy think tank Ember.

Messi becomes first to score in 7 straight World Cup games while extending goals record

AP

Arlington, Jun 28: Lionel Messi didn't have much time to try to become the first to score in seven consecutive World Cup games.

Argentina's superstar did it anyway as a second-half substitute.

Messi made it seven straight while extending the all-time men's World Cup scoring record with his 19th goal in Argentina's 3-1 victory over Jordan in a group stage finale on Saturday night.

In his first match since turning 39 three days earlier, Messi scored on a free kick after being taken down just outside the penalty box in the 80th minute. The low kick barely above the grass surface split two Jordan defenders into the left corner of the net. It was his 72nd career goal on a free kick, including his 12th for Argentina. Messi now has 123 international goals — second all-time to Cristiano Ronaldo's 145 — in 202 appearances.

Messi had been one of only three players to score in six consecutive World Cup games along with France striker Just Fontaine and Brazil great Jairzinho. Messi also scored on a free kick against Nigeria in the 2014 World Cup



and is among six players since records are available dating to 1966 who scored two free kick goals in the World Cup. He joined Pelé, Rivellino, Téofilo Cubillas, Bernard Genghini and David Beckham.

"I am very happy for him, for the moment he is having," Giovanni Lo Celso said in translated remarks after becoming the first Argentine other than Messi to score in this tournament, also on a free kick in the 19th minute. "The truth is that seeing him every day excites, excites and infects a lot. So obviously seeing him like that for us is very important."

Messi didn't start because Argentina had already clinched first place

in Group J, and the game was further meaningless because Jordan was already eliminated from the knockout stage.

Nevertheless, the decidedly pro-Argentina crowd of 70,649 at the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys was eager to see him.

Fans started chanting Messi's name as soon as the second half started, and cheered loudly when he came off the bench merely to go through warmups.

The roar was louder when he stepped onto the field in the 60th minute, replacing Lautaro Martinez, who scored on a penalty kick in the first half. For all the accomplishments of the

eight-time winner of the Ballon d'Or as the best player in Europe, Messi has never won the golden boot as the top scorer in each World Cup. This is his sixth. Messi now has six goals in this tournament, two clear of Kylian Mbappé, Vinicius Júnior and Erling Haaland.

Messi had been dealing with a minor hamstring injury with Inter Miami that slowed him in the lead-up to the World Cup.

The knockout round for Argentina begins Friday in South Florida, and in this expanded 48-team tournament that would be the first of five matches in 17 days if La Albiceleste makes it to the final on July 19.

'It was mistake to not play Sooryavanshi against Ireland'



PTI

New Delhi, Jun 29: Former India wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani reckons selectors missed an opportunity by leaving teenage batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi out of the Ireland T20Is, and says he should now be backed for the white-ball series against England, starting Wednesday.

Much against expectations, Sooryavanshi did not make his senior India debut during the two-match T20I series against Ireland, which India lost 0-2. With all eyes now on the five-match T20I series against England, starting at Chester-le-Street, the teenage batting prodigy is once again in line for a maiden international cap.

Former India wicketkeeper and 1983 World Cup winner Syed Kirmani called the decision to leave out the 15-year-old in Belfast an error of judgement and urged the team management to back him against England.

"Indeed, it was a mistake to not play him against Ireland. I was really surprised not to see him in the second T20I after India had lost the first one against Ireland. And we all saw what happened. We should show more resolve in including him in the India XI rather than letting him sit in the dressing room for the entire duration of the match," said Kirmani.

"He is a super talent. He is an entertainer. I see cricket because of him. They are marketing this series around him. See the broadcasters...we see him in trailers but not in the main movie, what is this?" Kirmani said.

Former India spinner Maninder Singh said Sooryavanshi deserved a place in the playing XI, insisting the batting prodigy should be picked regardless of where he is slotted in the batting order.

Azerbaijan slams ally Israel's recognition of Armenian genocide

AFP

Baku, Jun 29: Azerbaijan on Monday denounced a decision by its ally Israel to recognize the World War I massacres of Armenians as a genocide, a move widely seen as a rebuke by Israel to Turkey.

Azerbaijan and Israel are allies but Baku's closest foreign partner is Turkey and the Caucasus country hinted the move by Israel could hit their bilateral relations.

The recognition by Israel — announced Sunday — was of "serious concern," Azerbaijan's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Armenia has long sought



international recognition that the mass killings under the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1917 amounted to a genocide, saying 1.5 million people died.

Turkey strongly denies the accusation of genocide and says that both Armenians and Turks died as a result of World War I. It puts the death toll

in the hundreds of thousands.

More than two dozen countries, including the United States, France and Germany, recognize the killings as a genocide.

"Such actions do not contribute to reconciliation or mutual understanding," Azerbaijan said of Israel's move.

"Instead, they deepen existing divisions and undermine efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region. We call on the Israeli government to reconsider this decision," the foreign ministry added.

Azerbaijan and Israel cooperate extensively on defense and security measures.

Mandaviya felicitates Indian contingent on winning historic AVC Men's Volleyball Cup bronze medal



PTI

Gandhinagar, Jun 29: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday felicitated the Indian contingent that created history by winning the country's first-ever medal at the AVC Men's Volleyball Cup.

Congratulating the players, coaching staff and support personnel, Mandaviya said, "This medal is historic, but it should only be the beginning. Every

major international sporting events.

The AVC Men's Volleyball Cup is the premier continental men's volleyball competition in Asia. The 2026 edition marked the first occasion that India hosted the tournament, adding another important chapter to the country's sporting calendar.

The Indian national team, comprising 14 players under the captaincy of Jerome Vinith Charles, and coach Dragan Mihailovic of Serbia met Mandaviya in Gandhinagar on Monday.

Expressing confidence in the future of Indian volleyball, Mandaviya said the team's historic achievement would inspire young athletes across the country and provide fresh impetus to the development of the sport at all levels.

India remained unbeaten during the pool stage and displaying consistency and resilience against some of Asia's strongest teams. The home team beat Bahrain 3-1 in the third-place playoff to clinch a bronze, India's first-ever medal and best-ever finish in the history of the AVC Men's Volleyball Cup.

The bronze medal earned valuable FIVB World Ranking points, resulting in the Indian men's team climbing 18 places, from 60th to 42nd.

Movies Watchlist

Tuesday, 30th June

- CARRY ON JATTA 4 (PUNJABI)** (U/A 13+) 08:15 PM
- MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA** (HINDI) (U/A 16+) 11:35 AM, 02:55 PM, 06:15 PM
- COCKTAIL 2** (HINDI) (A) 11:00 AM, 04:30 PM
- SUPERGIRL** (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A 16+) 02:00 PM
- WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE** (U/A 16+) HINDI ATMOS - 10:30 AM, 01:45 PM, 05:00 PM HINDI - 07:30 PM

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