



Amarnath Yatra: LG Sinha to flag off first batch of pilgrims from Jammu today

Visits Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas reviews arrangements; directs officials to strengthen manpower to efficiently manage devotees' rush

Yogesh

Jammu, Jul 01: Jammu, the City of Temples remained abuzz on Amarnath Yatra eve on Wednesday with devotional fervour amidst the arrival of thousands of Amarnath pilgrims at the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas ahead of the flagging off of the first batch of pilgrims by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday morning.

The 57-day pilgrimage will commence from the twin routes of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 3 and conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) ahead of the ceremonial flag-off, LG Sinha on Wednesday visited the Bhagwati Nagar base camp to review the arrangements made for the pilgrims. He inspected lodging facilities, logistics, security, healthcare, sanitation, help desks, power and water supply,



emergency response systems and other essential services to ensure a smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage.

The Lieutenant Governor directed officials to strengthen manpower deployment to efficiently manage the anticipated rush of devotees. He also instructed authorities to make regular public announcements at Bhagwati Nagar and the Tawi Riverfront so that pilgrims receive timely information and

guidance.

The Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of logistics, lodging, security arrangements, health facilities, help desks, sanitation, power and water supply, emergency and other essential services and facilities, ensuring a seamless and hassle-free experience for the devotees.

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the devotees of Baba Barfani and wished them

a safe, peaceful and blessed pilgrimage. He extended his best wishes and prayed for a safe, peaceful and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage.

The first batch of pilgrims will leave Bhagwati Nagar under a multi-layer security arrangement on Thursday. Authorities said only registered pilgrims with valid RFID cards and completed e-KYC formalities will be allowed to enter the Yatri Niwas | [More on P6](#)

LG inaugurates Tawi Aarti and Light & Sound Show to welcome pilgrims

'Each lamp lit will shine as beacon of hope, purity, renewal & faith'

**KT News Desk**

Jammu, Jul 01: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated Tawi Aarti and Light & Sound Show on Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra to welcome Pilgrims of Baba Barfani, saying that this sacred journey of faith, discipline and spiritual awakening is a source of inspiration for countless generations. He invited seekers from across the country to participate in this spiritual journey.

"Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has long been a living thread, weaving together people of diverse languages, cultures and traditions into one shared fabric of faith. With only a few hours remaining before the yatra's commencement, Jammu Kashmir reverberates with chants to Lord Shiva, and the holy banks

of the Tawi are lit by lamps of devotion. On this auspicious occasion, I extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to all pilgrims. The Tawi Aarti, rooted in ancient practice, stands today as a vibrant symbol of our collective spiritual consciousness, cultural unity, spiritual values and social harmony," the Lt Governor said.

He said the river's uninterrupted flow reminds us that just as its waters move freely without distinction, so too should human life be guided by love, cooperation, and mutual respect. Throughout Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Tawi Aarti will be offered every evening, and each lamp lit will shine as a beacon of hope, purity, renewal, and faith, illuminating not only the path of the pilgrim but the spirit of our society as well. | [More on P6](#)

Elaborate security arrangements in place for Amarnath Yatra: IGP Birdi

- Urges pilgrims to follow guidelines, traffic advisories
- Assesses readiness at Nayvug Tunnel
- Says hi-tech security grid ready across J&K

Umair Gull Ganie

Qazigund, Jul 01: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi, on Wednesday said that elaborate security arrangements have been put in place by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in coordination with the CRPF and other security agencies to ensure a safe and incident-free Amarnath Yatra.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine nestled in Himalayas, will commence on July 3 through the twin tracks of the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in South Kashmir's Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi today visited the Nayvug Tunnel in Qazigund to review the security arrangements and assess preparedness ahead of the arrival of the first batch of pilgrims tomorrow. The first batch of yatratis is scheduled to leave the Jammu base camp on Thursday.

Talking to | [More on P6](#)

Mutton crisis looms over Kashmir

- Livestock dealers' strike enters 9th day
- KMDA reports over Rs 173 crore loss

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 01: A sword of mutton crisis is looming over the Kashmir Valley as livestock dealers continue their strike on the ninth consecutive day, which is severely affecting livestock supply movement to Jammu and Kashmir and also giving the valley losses in crores.

Mutton dealers said they are no longer dependent on official facilitation and have gone to Punjab, where they are managing the situation independently on the ground.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association (KMDA) General Secretary Mehraj-ud-Din said traders were compelled to take charge of the situation themselves after repeated warnings and earlier communications to authorities failed to produce any visible resolution on the ground.

"We are managing the situation on our own now. Despite informing the government in advance, no concrete action was taken," he said, adding that the disruption has continued for several days without any breakthrough.

"We have been in Punjab for the last five days and are managing everything on our own. We are struggling on our own, doing everything ourselves. No one from the ruling NC government even checked on us after we reached here or asked what we were doing. Nothing was done for us. They are only sending letters and issuing statements," Mehraj-ud-Din said.

The estimated loss of the mutton industry in the last nine days, calculated based on data shared by mutton dealers and as accessed by KNO, suggests that each truck carries around 160 sheep, while around 60 trucks move daily.

This means around 9,600 sheep per day are affected due to the suspension of movement. With the strike continuing for nine days, a total of around 86,400 sheep have not been transported to the Valley so far. Taking the | [More on P6](#)

Flash floods, cloudbursts mark monsoon's arrival in J&K

Flash floods, cloudbursts hit J&K parts; temps dip, intense showers forecast

**Sajid Raina**

Srinagar, Jul 01: The south-west monsoon became active across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, bringing widespread rain that triggered flash floods, cloudbursts and a sharp rise in water levels in several districts, while forecasters warned that more intense showers over the next few days could lead to localised flash floods, landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Guridraman village in the Larnoo area of Anantnag district witnessed flash floods

following intense rainfall during the afternoon. The sudden surge of water created panic among residents as several students were inside a local school when the flooding occurred.

Villagers rescued the children before police, SDRF and civil administration teams reached the area to launch rescue operations. There were no immediate reports of casualties, while the extent of damage was being assessed.

In the Chenab Valley, two cloudbursts were reported in Kalagisar village of the Bhalessa region in Doda district after | [More on P6](#)

Statehood protest at Jantar Mantar

NC to invite INDIA bloc, J&K parties

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 01: The ruling National Conference on Wednesday said it has decided to invite constituent parties of the INDIA bloc, along with other political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, to participate in its protest programme on statehood in New Delhi on the first day of the Monsoon Session.

The party leadership met NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah at his Gupkar residence in Srinagar today to review and finalise arrangements for the proposed protest at Jantar Mantar.

During the meeting, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), it was resolved that all constituent parties of the INDIA bloc, along with other political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, would be formally invited to participate in the protest.

The NC also decided to send invitations to leaders of parties that are not part of the INDIA bloc but are also not aligned with the NDA. The party said formal invitation letters will be sent to all political parties | [More on P6](#)

Cabinet expansion, reshuffle around Jantar Mantar protest: Omar

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Jul 01: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that the cabinet expansion and reshuffle would take place around the party's protest on statehood at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

Speaking to Gulistan News Channel, the CM, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the cabinet expansion and reshuffle would happen either slightly before or shortly after the Jantar Mantar protest.

"Expansion and reshuffle are my responsibility. After Dachigam meeting, I feel it is necessary to make some movement. This could take place slightly before our Jantar



Mantar protest or slightly after it, but it would happen around that time," Omar said.

The ruling NC has decided to stage a protest at Jantar Mantar on the first day of the Monsoon Session, which is likely to begin on July 20.

In Dachigam meeting held on June 03, Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary had come under sharp criticism over allocation of funds in the Roads & Buildings | [More on P6](#)

810m viaduct, 3.5-km tunnel completed; LG thanks PM, Gadkari

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jul 01: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari for completion of 810m long Viaduct near Ramsoo in Ramban district and 3.5-km AT-03 Tunnel connecting Digdole to Panthyal on National Highway-44.

"Heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji and Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji for transforming J&K's highways and road connectivity. The completion of 810m long Viaduct near Ramsoo in Ramban district and 3.5-km AT-03 Tunnel connecting Digdole to Panthyal on NH-44 is yet another monumental feat. These key infrastructures secure smooth and all-weather movement for locals, tourists, freight and security forces, while ensuring a safer and seamless journey for the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, bypassing landslide-prone stretches," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The landmark road infrastructures are scheduled | [More on P6](#)

Census 2027 Phase-I successfully completed in J&K, Ladakh: Director

'100% digital House Listing Operation over in 30 days; 24,071 blocks covered in J&K, 567 in Ladakh'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 01: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations Amit Sharma said on Wednesday said the first phase of Census 2027—House Listing Operations (HLO), stands completed across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Sharma as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), while addressing a news conference here said, "The month-long exercise, conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026, was carried out in a fully digital and paperless mode for the first time, marking a significant technological shift in India's census system."

He said the entire operation was completed smoothly

without any major technical disruption, ensuring 100% coverage across both Union Territories.

He said, a total of 24,071 geo-referenced House Listing Blocks and 295 Census Charges in Jammu & Kashmir were covered during the exercise, while in Ladakh 567 House Listing Blocks across 17 Charges were successfully enumerated.

EXERCISE ENSURED COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF ALL AREAS

Sharma said the exercise ensured comprehensive coverage of urban, rural, border, tribal, remote and high-altitude areas, reflecting the reach of the digital census framework.

He said extensive capacity building was undertaken



before field operations. In Jammu & Kashmir, 30 Master Trainers, 614 Field Trainers and 29,269 Enumerators and Supervisors were trained, while in Ladakh 2 Master Trainers, 20 Field Trainers and

722 field functionaries were trained for digital operations, he said.

Sharma added that more than 27,000 census kits in J&K and around 800 kits in Ladakh were distributed to facilitate

fieldwork.

He said special arrangements were made to ensure 100% coverage of tribal and nomadic populations, including Gujar-Bakarwal, Gaddi and Sippi communities, with field teams reaching remote and snow-bound areas using difficult terrain routes.

SELF-ENUMERATION PHASE WITNESSED STRONG PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

He said the Self-Enumeration phase witnessed strong public participation, with over 6.67 lakh households in Jammu & Kashmir and 7,009 households in Ladakh submitting their data digitally before field verification.

Sharma said the

success of Phase-I was the result of coordinated efforts of the Directorate of Census Operations, district administrations, Principal Census Officers, Charge Officers and thousands of field staff, supported by continuous monitoring and review meetings.

He also shared that preparations for the next phase have already begun. The District Census Handbook (DCHB) exercise will start from August 1, 2026, focusing on infrastructure and civic data at village and town level.

Population Enumeration in snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will begin in September 2026, while remaining areas will be covered in February 2027, he said.

LADAKH | [More on P6](#)

Amarnath Ji Yatra

DC Anantnag emphasises readiness for smooth, enriching pilgrimage

• Visits Yatra Transit Camps

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, JULY 01: In a bid to give the final touch to the necessary arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, commencing on July 03, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Wednesday made an extensive tour to Yatra Transit Camps, FCI Godown Mir Bazaar and Walnut Factory, Qazigund.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, was accompanied by SDM Dooru, SEs PWD and KPDC, ACR, CMO, CAO, AD Fisheries, Exens of various engineering wings, CEO MCA, officers from Police and other concerned departments.

During the visit, the DC took first hand stock of arrangements and facilities that have been made for ensuing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, assessing the need for any reinforcements or modifications.

At both Transit Camps, the concerned officers informed the DC that adequate arrangements for amenities including toilets, health care, drinking water, power supply, langars, toilets, hygiene, sanitation and bedding have been put in place and the same will be fully functional during Yatra. He interacted with the deputed staff and inquired about their operational readiness for the Yatra. He directed that



every facility committed be provided to the devotees in a seamless manner so they have a pleasant and enriching Yatra experience.

Reviewing the facilities, the DC directed for seamless readiness of all departments for the Yatra, ensuring a smooth and successful conduct of the pilgrimage. He inspected the entry and exits points, parking area and other critical locations and asked the concerned officials to ensure their proper utilisation and monitoring. He

further called for efficient maintenance of the drainage system as well the footpaths and langar spaces.

Traffic and crowd management, besides contingency plans to accommodate Yattris during adverse weather were discussed and finalised during the visit.

Concluding the visit, the DC reiterated the district administration's commitment to ensuring a safe, secure and fulfilling pilgrimage for the devotees.

DC Pulwama stresses intensified awareness, strict enforcement, coordinated action against drug abuse

Chairs NCORD meeting, reviews Anti-Drug Campaign

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, JULY 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the implementation of the ongoing anti-drug campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the status of NDPS cases and various enforcement and preventive measures being undertaken across the district.

At the outset, the concerned officers, as per an official statement, presented detailed progress reports on the activities being carried out under the 100-day intensive Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan. The presentations highlighted awareness programmes organised across Panchayats, educational institutions and urban local bodies, besides initiatives aimed at prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and community participation.

Reviewing the awareness activities being conducted in Panchayats, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat to further intensify Information, Education and Communication (IEC)



activities and organise multiple awareness programmes at different locations within Panchayats to ensure maximum outreach and community participation.

The Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Pulwama, briefed the meeting on the awareness programmes being organised in urban areas under the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner directed that awareness initiatives be conducted regularly in markets, public spaces and educational institutions to ensure wider public outreach. The Chair was also apprised of the awareness programmes being organised in schools across the district. Stressing the importance of preventive education, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Education Department to organise regular awareness sessions, debates, seminars, counselling programmes

and sports activities in educational institutions to raise awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse.

Furthermore, the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), Pulwama, and the Drug De-Addiction Centre, Tral, was reviewed in detail. Dr. Qayoom sought details from the concerned officers regarding treatment facilities, patient admissions, counselling services and rehabilitation measures, and directed them to ensure effective counselling, timely treatment, proper follow-up of recovered individuals and their integration with skill development and livelihood opportunities.

Reviewing the measures taken against illicit poppy cultivation and wild cannabis, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue presented the action taken report

on destruction drives being conducted across the district. The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to maintain strict surveillance, intensify field inspections and ensure the complete eradication of illicit cultivation and wild cannabis across the district.

Later, the meeting also reviewed the status of NDPS cases registered across the district. The Deputy Director Prosecution presented a detailed overview of cases under investigation, prosecution and trial.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for close coordination among the Police, Prosecution and other concerned agencies to ensure expeditious investigation and effective prosecution, with a view to improving conviction rates and strengthening deterrence. Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner called for intensifying the campaign and stressed inter-departmental coordination, community participation and sustained enforcement to effectively combat the menace of drug abuse and narcotics trafficking in the district.

Commissioner SMC inspects Tattoo Ground Yard

Reviews operational readiness of Water Tankers, Sprinkler Fleet

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, Wednesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Corporation's Tattoo Ground Yard, Batamalo, to review the operational readiness, maintenance standards, and deployment of the water tanker fleet and sprinkler units for ensuring efficient delivery of essential civic services across Srinagar.

During the inspection, the Commissioner, as per an official statement, thoroughly reviewed the condition, functionality, maintenance, and serviceability of the water tanker fleet to ensure its adequate availability for supplying potable water to water-scarce areas on demand, maintaining public fountains, and meeting the operational requirements of the forthcoming SANJY-2026. He also assessed the operational efficiency and deployment of sprinkler units engaged in the irrigation and maintenance



of parks, gardens, medians, roadside plantations, and other green spaces developed across the city.

Emphasizing the importance of a fully functional municipal fleet, Faz Lul Haseeb directed the concerned officers to ensure that all water tankers and sprinkler units remain in optimum operational condition through regular maintenance, preventive servicing, timely repairs, and continuous

monitoring. He stressed the need for scientific fleet management, optimum utilization of available resources, and systematic deployment to ensure prompt, reliable, and uninterrupted delivery of civic services across the city.

The Commissioner observed that a well-maintained and operationally efficient fleet is essential for meeting both routine civic requirements and emergency situations. He noted that

the water tanker fleet plays a crucial role in providing timely water supply to areas facing shortages, supporting the maintenance of public fountains, and ensuring adequate logistical support during SANJY-2026. Likewise, the sprinkler units are instrumental in sustaining Srinagar's green infrastructure through regular irrigation and upkeep of plantations, thereby contributing to environmental conservation and urban beautification. Reaffirming the Srinagar Municipal Corporation's commitment to responsive, efficient, and citizen-centric urban governance, the Commissioner stated that SMC will continue to strengthen its operational capabilities, modernize its municipal infrastructure, and maintain the highest standards of public service delivery to meet the growing needs and expectations of the citizens of Srinagar.

Senior officers and officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

SKUAST-K hosts DHR-ICMR National Workshop on Regenerative Medicine

Focuses on Next-Generation Stem Cell Therapeutics

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JULY 01: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Tuesday inaugurated a 10-day DHR-ICMR-sponsored national workshop on "Next-Generation Biomaterial Scaffolds for Stem Cell Therapeutics in Regenerative Medicine" at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (FVSc & AH), Shuhama, Ganderbal. The national-level workshop aims to strengthen capacity building in regenerative medicine by integrating fundamental science, translational research, biomaterial technologies, and clinical applications.

The inaugural session, as per an official statement, was presided over

by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Dean, School of Life Sciences, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. Abid Hamid; Head, CD Hospital, Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah; Scientist and Consultant (Cell & Gene Therapy), ICMR, New Delhi, Dr. Sangram K. Samal. Senior university officials, faculty members, scientists, clinicians, researchers, and students were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai described the workshop as a significant initiative bringing together academia, medicine, industry, and government on a common platform. He commended the faculty for organizing a program of national importance and emphasized the need for institutional collaboration, innovation-driven research,

and affordable therapeutic solutions. He also stressed the importance of launching short skill-based programs to expand certification opportunities and support continuous professional development.

Prof. Riaz Ahmad Shah, Dean, FVSc & AH, highlighted the transformative potential of regenerative medicine in both human and veterinary health care. Prof. Abid Hamid termed the workshop a timely intervention for developing skilled human resources in the emerging field of regenerative medicine. Building on this, Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah underscored the importance of translational research in bridging laboratory discoveries with clinical applications and stressed the need for stronger multidisciplinary collaborations.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Directorate of State Motor Garages Department Bemina Bypass Srinagar / New Plot Jammu

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Subject: Unauthorized absence from duties and Termination of Service thereof.

Reference: Administrative Department's Letter No. TRPT-SMGON/7/2024-02(7578651) dated 12.06.2026. ORDER No.399-DSMG of 2026. DATED: 01 / 07 / 2026.

Whereas, Mr Gunwant Singh was appointed in the State Motor Garages Department as Cleaner temporarily vide this Directorate's Order No.488-DSMG of 2017 dated 27-11-2017, on probation for a period of two years, and he joined this Department on 28-11-2017; and

Whereas, Deputy Director SMG Jammu reported that Mr Gunwant Singh absented himself unauthorizedly from the Government duties; and

Whereas, Deputy Director SMG Jammu vide Order No. 85 of 2018 dated 16-08-2018, placed him under suspension for dereliction of duties, and a Charge Sheet was also served upon him. Upon submission of a written apology on 12.09.2018, requesting forgiveness, the same was considered, and he was reinstated with a warning to remain careful in future; and

Whereas, Mr Gunwant Singh again absented himself from duties unauthorizedly and sought another chance to improve, which was considered by the Deputy Director, SMG Jammu; and

Whereas, Mr Gunwant Singh was again placed under suspension by the Deputy Director SMG Jammu, for his misconduct, manhandling and use of unparliamentary language with his supervisory staff, but was reinstated after due process in view of his written explanation; and

Whereas, it was subsequently reported that his last biometric attendance was recorded on 09.01.2021, and despite the issuance of notice to resume duties, he failed to do so; and

Whereas, Deputy Director SMG Jammu submitted a detailed report to this Directorate regarding his unauthorized absence with the recommendations that action as warranted under rules may be taken against him; and

Whereas, upon receipt of the detailed report from the Deputy Director concerned, a Departmental Enquiry Committee (DEC) was constituted vide this Directorate's Order No.193-DSMG of 2022 dated 11.04.2022, which, after detailed examination, held Mr. Gunwant Singh guilty of gross misconduct, misbehavior, insubordination, and indiscipline, warranting initiation of major penalty proceedings for his un-authorized absence from duties and violation of the J&K Employees (Conduct) Rules 1971 which submitted its report as under Rule- 30 of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules 1956 read with Article 128 of J&K Civil Service Classification Control and Appeal Rules 1959 read with Article 128 of J&K Civil Service Regulation 1956 and

Whereas, based on the DEC recommendations, a Show Cause Notice was issued by this Directorate, but he failed to respond; and

Whereas, an Inquiry Officer (TO) was appointed to conduct an ex parte enquiry, and after providing due opportunity, the IO submitted a report concluding that:-

"In the above-said background, any further enquiry in the matter seems to be not required against the factual backdrop, would be nothing but an ideal formality. As such, it is recommended that the said official is not interested to serve the department any more, as enough opportunity has been given to him, a reasonable opinion could be derived to put forth the plea that the official has outlived his utility as a Government Servant or that his conduct was such that his continuance in Government Service could be prejudicial in the public interest. Thus, warrants action for his removal from Government Service under Article 128(JKCSR)"

Whereas, the Department issued a Final Notice providing one last Opportunity to Mr Gunwant Singh to explain his position and also published in local dailies, News Now dated 17.06.2023, Kashmir Images dated 15.06.2023, Rising Kashmir dated 15.06.2023 & on the Departmental Website, but he again failed to respond; and

Whereas, the Deputy Director SMG Jammu, further reported that Mr Gunwant Singh attended office on 02.02.2024, requesting to resume duties with assurance of improved conduct, but he again absented himself thereafter;

Whereas, despite repeated opportunities, he has failed to resume duties, demonstrating disinterest in continuing Government service. The case, being one of Alcohol Dependence Syndrome, was referred to the Administrative Department, and as per the opinion of the General. Administration Department, this Directorate was advised to take action under the J&K Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1956, for violation of the JKCSR and the J&K Government Employees Conduct Rules, 1971.

Now, therefore, in view of the above facts and circumstances, and in compliance with the instructions of the General Administration Department, the services of Mr Gunwant Singh, Cleaner, State Motor Garages Department, J&K Cadre (Class-IV), are hereby terminated from Government Services with effect from 10.01.2021 under the provisions of J&K Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1956.

His Lien on the post of Cleaner in the State Motor Garages Department stands terminated accordingly.

Malik Tahir Gani
Director State Motor Garages Department J&K Srinagar

No: MF-1174 (74257) 2347-53 /Dsmg
Dated: 01/07/2026

DIPK-2759/26
Dated: 01-07-2026

Div Com inspects SANJY-2026 arrangements at Nowgam, Pantha Chowk

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 01: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday inspected the arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)- 2026 during an extensive visit of the Yatra Facilitation Centre at Nowgam Railway Station and the Yatra Transit Camp and Yatri Niwas at Pantha Chowk.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir, and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, during the visit to the respective yatra facilities.

During the visit, Garg inspected accommodation arrangements, separate sanitation facilities for men and women, drinking water supply, and the functioning of RFID and eKYC counters. On the occasion, he directed officials to install adequate signages to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims to various service and facilitation centres.

Addressing the media, the Divisional Commissioner said that the district administrations of Budgam and Srinagar have put in place comprehensive arrangements to welcome pilgrims and ensure the safe and comfortable stay



of pilgrims. He informed that nearly four lakh pilgrims have registered online for this year's Yatra, registering an increase over the previous year. He said the pilgrimage will be conducted from July 3 to August 28 and expressed optimism that the number of yatis will increase further in view of the significant tourist footfall witnessed in the Valley this year. To cater to the expected rush, he added that additional RFID and

eKYC counters have been established at Nowgam Yatra Station and Srinagar Airport.

Garg said the Yatra will continue under the convoy system from Jammu with strict security protocols in place. He added that the cut-off timings for the convoys have already been publicised to ensure better awareness among pilgrims.

The Div Com further stated that priority in issuing RFID cards will be accorded

to pilgrims who have completed online registration. However, on-the-spot registration counters have also been established at Pantha Chowk and at base camps along both pilgrimage routes. RFID cards for such pilgrims will be issued subject to the availability of the prescribed quota and accommodation capacity at the Yatra camps, he added.

Highlighting the challenging terrain along the pilgrimage routes, the Divisional Commissioner said that weather advisories issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) will be displayed on digital screens at Pantha Chowk and base camps to keep pilgrims informed. He also informed that mountain rescue teams, along with personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and other security agencies, have been deployed to respond to emergencies and provide timely assistance to pilgrims. During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner emphasised the importance of close coordination among all departments and agencies to ensure the smooth, safe,

Continued on
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Nearly 4 lakh pilgrims registered online for Yatra: Garg

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Wednesday reviewed the arrangements at Nowgam Railway Station for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, saying all necessary measures have been put in place to ensure the safe and smooth movement of pilgrims.

Speaking to media persons here, Garg said that weather remains a natural challenge due to the difficult terrain of the Yatra. He said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is issuing weather advisories every three hours, which are being displayed at Baltal and Nunwan base camps to help pilgrims plan their journey accordingly.

"Rain shelters have been installed along both Yatra routes, while mountain rescue teams of the SDRF, NDRF and other paramilitary forces have been deployed at designated locations on the tracks with clearly defined jurisdictions to ensure prompt response to any weather-related emergency," Garg said.

The Divisional Commissioner said nearly four lakh pilgrims have already registered online, surpassing last year's figure.

He said the 57-day Yatra, commencing
Continued on
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Adv Vikram calls on LG Sinha

KT News Desk

Srinagar: Adv Vikram Sharma, former President, J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday.

Woman dies post-surgery, family alleges medical negligence

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar: A 35-year-old woman from Baramulla died after suffering medical complications during a surgical procedure at a private hospital in Srinagar, following which her family alleged medical negligence and demanded a thorough investigation.

The hospital, however, has denied the allegations, saying that all standard medical protocols were followed and that the patient suffered complications before the procedure was completed.

The deceased has been identified as Haneefa, wife of Zahoor Ahmad Wani, a resident of Wagoora in Baramulla district. Her husband, Zahoor Ahmad Wani said that Haneefa had been undergoing treatment at Harkar Hospital

in Srinagar for a uterine ailment. She was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday morning for a scheduled surgical procedure and was taken to the operation theatre later in the afternoon, he said.

Zahoor alleged that he became suspicious after his wife was taken inside the operation theatre. "The doctors appeared to be in a hurry. I sensed something was wrong, but they repeatedly assured me that she was fine and that there was nothing to worry about," he said.

The husband further alleged that around midnight, his wife was shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, where doctors declared her brought dead.

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Sakeena Itoo reviews development issues of five constituencies



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 01: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and School Education, Sakeena Itoo on Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess developmental issues and public service delivery in the Khanshab, Hazratbal, Pampore, Sopore and Zainpora Assembly constituencies.

The meeting was attended by the MLAs including Hasnain Masoodi, Salman Ali Sagar, Showkat Hussain, Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Irshad Rasool Kar, who

highlighted key issues and development priorities pertaining to their respective areas.

Senior officers from the concerned departments were also present.

During the meeting, the Minister conducted a detailed review of issues related to health infrastructure, school education, social welfare and ongoing developmental works. She directed the concerned departments to ensure prompt redressal of public grievances and timely implementation of all approved projects.

Reviewing the Health and Medical

Education sector, the Minister stressed the need for strengthening healthcare facilities across the constituencies. She directed officials to expedite the operationalisation of identified Primary Health Centres as 24x7 facilities, complete pending infrastructure works, improve ambulance services, undertake mapping of medical blocks and ensure accountability in project execution.

The Minister also called for enhanced diagnostic facilities, including CT scan services at the Trauma Centre, besides taking up the reconstruction of

unsafe health buildings on priority.

The Minister also directed that necessary action be initiated against any officer found responsible for unauthorized changes in Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). She emphasized transparency in tendering processes and instructed officials to discourage below-estimate tendering while ensuring contractors adhere to quality standards and timelines.

Reviewing the School Education sector, Sakeena Itoo directed officials to

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J&K Bank Loan Fraud

Criminal liability can't be wiped away: HC

KNO

Srinagar, July 01: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed a batch of eight petitions seeking to quash the chargesheets in the Jammu & Kashmir Bank loan fraud case, holding that a prima facie offence of cheating is made out against the promoters and directors of Aman Hospitality Pvt Ltd (AHPL) and connected entities.

According to the details available, the common judgment was pronounced by Justice Sanjay Dhar in CRM(M) No.235/2023 and seven connected petitions filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. by Madhu Bakshi, Raj Singh Gehlot, Sheela Gehlot, Mohan Singh and four connected companies.

The petitions challenged the charge sheets arising out of FIR No.15/2019 of Police Station Anti-Corruption Bureau (Central), Srinagar, and Crime No.RCBD12021E0004 dated 02.09.2021 registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation, Bank Securities Fraud Branch, New Delhi, for offences under Sections 120-B, 409 and 420 RPC read with Sections 5(1)(c) and 5(1)(d) read with 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, pending before the Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar. Petitioner Raj Singh Gehlot is the promoter of the Ambience Group.

Appearing for the respondents the Anti-Corruption Bureau and the CBI, Central Government Counsel Vikas Malik,



with Mushtaq Ahmad Dar and Syed Gowhar, resisted the quashing pleas, urging that the charge sheets disclosed ample material showing diversion and siphoning of the loan tranches through entities controlled by the borrower, and that such disputed questions of fact could not be examined under Section 482. They relied on State of Haryana v. Bhajan Lal, 1992 Supp (1) SCC 335, Rajiv Thapar v. Madan Lal Kapoor, (2013) 3 SCC 330, and Pradeep Kumar Kesarwani v. State of Uttar Pradesh, 2025 SCC OnLine SC 1947. For the petitioners, Senior Advocate Tanveer Ahmad Mir argued that there was no conspiracy with the bank management,

that the funds were merely reimbursed to the turnkey contractor M/S APL, that the forensic audit disclosed no fraud, and that the completed hotel and the bank's own One-Time Settlement showed a purely civil dispute.

Rejecting these contentions, the Court held that "the Bank has been dishonestly induced to release the tranches of loan in favour of the borrower company and upon release, the loan amount has been utilized for a purpose for which it was not sanctioned. Thus, prima facie, offence of cheating is made out against the

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Doctors' Day

J&K health minister visits Children Hospital Bemina

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 01: On the occasion of Doctors' Day, Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Minister Sakeena Itoo visited Children Hospital Bemina to extend her greetings and appreciation to the medical fraternity for their unwavering commitment to patient care and public health.

Interacting with doctors, healthcare professionals and hospital staff, the Minister lauded their dedication, compassion and tireless service, particularly in providing quality healthcare to children. She described doctors as the 'pride of society' and acknowledged their invaluable contribution to safeguarding lives and strengthening the healthcare system.

"Doctors serve humanity with unmatched commitment and compassion. Their selfless service,



professionalism and resilience make them the pride of our society. On this

Doctors' Day, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to every

member of the medical fraternity," the Minister said.

Sakeena Itoo said that doctors play a very responsible role in the society and their contribution cannot be measured in words. She highlighted apart from doctors, public also has very responsive role in the society.

During her visit, Sakeena Itoo also interacted with patients and their attendants, enquiring about the healthcare services being provided at the hospital. She directed the hospital administration to ensure the highest standards of patient care, timely medical attention and a patient-friendly environment.

The Minister emphasized that the government remains committed to strengthening healthcare infrastructure, improving medical facilities and

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Doctors are healers, pillars of healthcare system: Itoo

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar: Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo on Wednesday paid tributes to doctors and paramedical staff on the occasion of National Doctors' Day, acknowledging their unwavering dedication, compassion and sacrifices in safeguarding lives. She called on people to show respect and

appreciation to healthcare professionals for their invaluable contributions to society. In her National Doctors' Day message, the minister said doctors remain the backbone of the healthcare system, serving humanity with commitment even in the most difficult and challenging circumstances.

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EDITORIAL

A Welcome Reprieve, But A Lasting Solution Needed

The decision by the Jammu and Kashmir Private Hospitals and Dialysis Centres Association (JKPHDA) to defer its proposed strike for two weeks has come as a huge relief for thousands of patients who depend on private healthcare institutions under the Ayushman Bharat/SEHAT Scheme. For patients undergoing dialysis, chemotherapy, or awaiting emergency surgeries, any disruption in services

would have been a matter of life and death. The association's decision to prioritise patient welfare over confrontation deserves appreciation. At the same time, the fact that private hospitals were pushed to the brink of financial collapse due to nearly six months of unpaid claims is deeply concerning. These hospitals are not charity institutions; they run on operational costs that include salaries, medicines, equipment

maintenance and utilities. When government reimbursements are delayed for months, it becomes impossible to sustain quality care. The association's warning that several hospitals were on the verge of collapse was a cry for help from an essential pillar of the region's healthcare system. The assurance given by the CEO of ABPMJAY/SEHAT Scheme to begin releasing pending payments is a positive first step. However,

the government must go beyond temporary fixes and ensure that timely payments become the norm, not the exception. Delays in reimbursements create uncertainty, erode trust, and ultimately hurt the poorest patients who depend on the scheme the most. The government must recognise that private hospitals are partners in delivering healthcare to the underprivileged. If this partnership is to succeed, payments

must be cleared on time, every time. The two-week window given by the association should be used by the authorities not just to clear old dues, but to put in place a robust mechanism that prevents such crises in the future. The JKPHDA has shown responsibility by putting patients first. Now it is up to the government to match this responsibility with prompt action. The health of lakhs of beneficiaries depends on it.

Nine Years Of GST: Simplifying Taxation, Strengthening India

Press Information Bureau

GST has marked a major shift in India's indirect tax system by replacing fragmented central and state taxes with an integrated framework. It has helped create a common national market and support the vision of One Nation, One Tax. Since its implementation in 2017, GST has evolved through continuous reforms, digital systems and stronger Centre-State coordination. The Next-Generation GST reforms of 2025 further simplified the structure through lower rates, exemptions and easier processes. These measures aim to benefit households, MSMEs, farmers, artisans, exporters and various trade sectors.

GST: A Milestone in India's Tax Reform Journey

The launch of Goods & Services Tax (GST) on 01st July 2017, marked a historic achievement in India's reform journey. The principle of "One Nation, One Tax" has now become a reality, helping India move towards an integrated tax system.

Over the past nine years, GST has strengthened India's vision of 'Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat'. It has brought transparency, accountability and economic growth through rationalised tax rates and standardised procedures.

GST subsumed 17 different taxes and 13 cesses into a common framework. Earlier, India's indirect tax system included several Central and State-level taxes, creating differences in rates and structures. This added hidden costs for trade & industry and led to cascading of taxes, often described as "tax on tax". Also, supported by a strong IT infrastructure, it aimed to broaden the tax base and improve tax discipline.

Salient features of GST

The structure of GST brought together several key features defining how the tax would be levied and administered.

Applicability: Under GST, tax is charged on the "supply" of goods or services, rather than on manufacture, sale or service separately.

Destination-based Consumption Tax: GST is a destination-based consumption tax. This

means the tax accrue to the State where the goods or services are finally consumed.

Coverage and uniformity: It applies to almost all goods and services, with alcoholic liquor for human consumption kept outside its scope. It also brings greater uniformity by applying common tax rates across the country. There are 5 goods on which GST can be levied as and when approved by the GST Council.

GST Council: The Council guides key decisions on GST and supports its implementation across the country.

Building co-operative federalism

The GST Council has strengthened co-operative federalism by bringing the Centre and States together in decision-making. It is a statutory body that has played an important role by regularly reviewing issues and responding to emerging challenges. This flexible approach has allowed timely changes and course corrections in the tax system to support the economy.

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN): GSTN, a 50% Centre: 50% State Government owned company, provides the common digital infrastructure for the GST system. It supports the Centre, States, taxpayers and other stakeholders by enabling various digital services.

Dual GST: GST follows a dual structure where Centre levies Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and States levy State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) on intra-state supplies. Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) is levied on all inter-State supply of goods and services. IGST rates are generally 2x CGST/SGST.

Next-Generation GST Reforms

The 56th meeting of the GST Council approved the Next-Gen GST reforms to improve the lives of common people and simplify tax processes for businesses. The reforms revised rates and exemptions, which came into effect from 22nd September 2025. Hailed as GST 2.0, these reforms mark a new phase of tax reform that reinforce growth prospects.

A detailed overview is available here: GST Reforms 2025: Relief for Common Man, Boost for Businesses.

Key Measures

Streamlined Rate Structure: The tax structure has primarily moved to two slabs - 5% and 18%.

Luxury and Sin Goods Tax: A 40% rate on luxury and sin goods has been introduced to help maintain revenue balance while ensuring a fairer tax structure. This includes lottery/online gaming, tobacco, aerated drinks, high-end cars, yachts and private aircrafts.

Easier Compliance: GST 2.0 also makes registration and return filing easier, while speeding up refunds and lowering costs. This brings procedural ease for businesses, especially MSMEs and startups.

Lower Costs, Wider Impact

Beyond rate reduction, GST 2.0 is supporting India's growth cycle by lowering costs, improving affordability, encouraging compliance and economic activity. With a wide sectoral reach, GST 2.0 aims to benefit exports, artisans, farmers and sustainable manufacturing.

Relief for Households and Consumers:

Cheaper goods and services bring rise in consumption and support savings.

GST exemptions on insurance and essential medicines strengthen household protection and improve access to healthcare.

Boost for MSMEs and Industry:

Reduced GST rates on key inputs and sectors such as cement, handicrafts lower production costs and improve business competitiveness.

A simplified structure reduces classification-related disputes and makes tax decisions easier for businesses. Over time, this helps expand the tax base and support revenue growth.

Correction of inverted duty structures boost domestic value addition and promote exports.

Easing Compliance for MSMEs and Small Taxpayers

Several measures have also been introduced over time to make compliance easier for MSMEs, startups and small taxpayers.

Higher Exemptions: Effective from April 2019, the GST registration limit for goods suppliers was increased from 20 lakh to 40 lakh. The composition scheme limit was

also increased from 75 lakh to 1.5 crore (other than some special category states).

Composition Scheme

The Scheme is designed for small taxpayers allowing them to pay GST at a fixed rate on turnover. It involves fewer documents and simpler return-filing requirements.

Simpler Return Filings: The quarterly return filing and monthly payment (QRMP) scheme has been introduced in 2020 to allow for quarterly filing of returns. It covers taxpayers with annual turnover of up to 5 crore.

Further, taxpayers with no transactions can also file NIL monthly GST returns even through SMS.

Support for small businesses and e-commerce sellers: Small taxpayers making intra-state supply of goods through e-commerce operators have been exempted from mandatory GST registration from October 2023.

Ease based registration scheme has also been introduced for low-risk applicants, allowing registration within three working days. Relief in disputes and past demands: Amendment has been made to reduce the pre-deposit amount required for filing GST appeals.

A waiver of interest and penalties for certain demand notices has also been provided, subject to certain conditions. This covers fiscal years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Rise of Data-Driven Tax Administration under GST

GST reforms have increasingly shifted tax administration towards a technology-driven framework.

The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) portal and e-invoicing have made administration more transparent by enabling real-time capture of invoice data. This has enabled reduced manual reporting, improved accuracy and helped minimise mismatches in reporting.

Automation has also made filing processes easier for taxpayers. The matching of supplier tax liability with recipient input tax credit (ITC) has streamlined processes. Pre-filled returns, simplified reconciliation and real-time validation have reduced errors and lowered

the overall procedural requirements.

Using AI and Data Analytics for Strengthening GST

Advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and data analytics are being used for monitoring in a more targeted manner. They help identify possible tax evasion by analysing data patterns and risk indicators. These tools have been applied across various processes such as registration, scrutiny etc. This allows the system to focus on high-risk taxpayers, while easing regulatory requirements on compliant taxpayers.

The impact of these measures extends beyond improving administrative efficiency and has supported India's broader macro-economic stability. They have made collections more predictable, thereby supporting stronger revenue buoyancy and greater fiscal transparency.

Formalisation Gains Reflect in GST Growth

GST collections have become a high-frequency signal of economic activity. Rising revenues reflect not only higher consumption and trade, but also a wider taxpayer base, stronger reporting systems and better compliance.

The number of GST taxpayers increased from 66.5 lakh in 2017 to 1.65 crore as on May 2026. This points to greater formalisation of the economy.

Gross GST collection stood at around 7.4 lakh crore in 2017-18 and has increased steadily over the years.

Over the last five years, collections rose from ~ 13.76 lakh crore in 2021-22 to ~ 22.27 lakh crore in 2025-26. The momentum has continued into 2026-27, with GST collections reaching around 4.37 lakh crore during April-May 2026.

GST's Continuing Reform Journey

The significance of GST Day goes beyond commemorating the launch of a landmark tax reform. It reflects India's continued effort to create a simpler, more transparent and integrated indirect tax system. Reforms under GST 2.0 build on this progress by addressing the needs of citizens & businesses, and supporting India's progress towards a Viksit Bharat.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY): A Decade Of Irrigation-Led Agricultural Transformation

Press Information Bureau

Over the past decade, PMKSY has played a pivotal role in strengthening irrigation infrastructure and promoting efficient water management across India. The PMKSY has emerged as a key driver of irrigation-led agricultural transformation, with central assistance exceeding 64,407 crore. Since 2016-17, PMKSY has benefited over 27 million farmers and created or restored irrigation potential across 24.61 million hectares. Under the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme, since its inception, 110.92 lakh hectares have been brought under micro-irrigation. Union Budget 2026-27 allocated 6,587 crore to PMKSY to expand irrigation, improve water-use efficiency, and promote sustainable water management.

Nurturing Sustainability through Water Secure Farming

Water security is fundamental to enhancing agricultural productivity, strengthening climate resilience, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for farmers. Optimizing cropping patterns and adopting efficient water application methods are essential to maximize the use of available water resources.

Launched on 1 July 2015, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has completed more than 10 years of advancing irrigation-led agricultural transformation in India. The scheme expands assured irrigation, improves on-farm water efficiency, and promotes sustainable water conservation. It strengthens irrigation through rainwater harvesting and efficient farm-level water distribution under Jal Sanchay (rainwater storage) and Jal Sinchan (efficient water application).

Through these efforts, PMKSY contributes to wider irrigation coverage, enhanced crop productivity, and environmental sustainability. The judicious use of water improves soil health, enhances crop productivity, provides environmental benefits, and extends irrigation



coverage from the same water source.

Transforming Irrigation through PMKSY

PMKSY combines irrigation expansion with water-use efficiency through four strategic components covering the entire irrigation value chain.

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP): It focuses on the rapid completion of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects, including national projects. AIBP supports the timely creation of irrigation infrastructure and strengthens water availability for farmers. Since 2016-17, it has received 21,023 crore in central assistance, benefiting 17.30 million farmers. It makes it the largest PMKSY component by beneficiary coverage.

In 2025-26, the government has approved the Modernization of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) as a sub-scheme of PMKSY-AIBP. The government has allocated an initial outlay of 1,600 crore under this component. It complements AIBP by delivering water from major and medium irrigation projects through pressurized piped and

micro-irrigation systems.

Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP): It focuses on creating new water sources through minor irrigation (both surface and groundwater) and expanding cultivable areas under assured irrigation. Since inception, 3,462 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) and Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) schemes have been completed. It has also created 5.93 lakh hectares of irrigation potential, while groundwater interventions added 88.55 thousand hectares of irrigation coverage.

Watershed Development: It enhances the productive potential of rainfed and degraded lands through integrated watershed management. Since 2016-17, it has received 12,432.09 crore in central assistance, benefiting 1.34 million farmers and supporting sustainable natural resource management.

Per Drop More Crop (PDMC): It was an integral component of the PMKSY from 2015-16 to 2021-22, with a strong focus on maximizing water use efficiency at the farm level. From 2022-23, PDMC is a part of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-KVY). The scheme

promotes micro-irrigation technologies such as Drip, and Sprinkler irrigation Systems.

Expanding Irrigation Access for Agricultural Growth

The Government approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26 with an overall outlay of 93,068.56 crore. The Union Budget 2026-27 allocated 6,587 crore to PMKSY for irrigation expansion, water-use efficiency, and sustainable water management.

As of August 2025, PMKSY benefited over 27 million farmers through irrigation, micro-irrigation, watershed, and groundwater interventions, supported by 64,407 crore. Collectively, these initiatives have covered or developed more than 24.61 million hectares, strengthening water security and promoting sustainable agricultural growth.

Every Drop Counts: How Sprinkler Irrigation Transformed a Farming Enterprise

In Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, brothers Uma Shankar Verma and Subhash Verma were engaged in farming since the early 1990s. They traditionally cultivated crops such as rice, wheat, mustard, banana, and mentha using conventional flood irrigation methods. However, this approach required substantial amounts of water and labor, often resulting in uneven crop growth and reduced productivity.

A significant transformation occurred in 2016 with the adoption of sprinkler irrigation under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The new irrigation system improved resource efficiency and brought notable gains in agricultural performance. Crop yields increased by 25-30% after adopting sprinkler irrigation. The system ensured uniform crop growth and healthier root development.

The adoption of sprinkler irrigation reduced the use of water, electricity, labour, and fertilizers by nearly 50%. Labour requirements fell by 50-60%, lowering cultivation costs, while fertilizer consumption was reduced to about

one-fourth of previous levels.

As a result, the farmers reported profits of around 60,000-70,000 per hectare. Their success encouraged neighboring farmers to explore and adopt sprinkler irrigation after observing its benefits firsthand. Their experience highlights PMKSY's "Per Drop More Crop" approach in promoting water conservation, enhancing farm productivity, and improving farmers' incomes.

Enhancing Irrigation Efficiency through Micro-irrigation Technology

PMKSY components such as HKKP and AIBP focus on expanding irrigation infrastructure and increasing water availability to farms. PDMC complements these efforts by promoting efficient water use at the field level through micro-irrigation technologies. The component promotes efficient water conveyance and precision water application through drip, sprinkler, and other techniques. Drip irrigation, which delivers precise amounts of water and nutrients directly to the plant root zone. While sprinkler irrigation distributes water through pipes and spray heads, simulating natural rainfall. These technologies help conserve water, improve irrigation efficiency, and enhance crop productivity.

To promote its adoption, the Micro Irrigation Fund has been established under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Micro-irrigation (MI), including drip and sprinkler systems, is an advanced irrigation technology that delivers water efficiently to crops at the field level. Micro-irrigation delivers water directly to the roots, reducing waste and improving soil moisture, productivity, and climate resilience. Under the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component, small and marginal farmers receive 55% financial assistance for micro irrigation systems. Other farmers receive 45% financial assistance to install micro-irrigation systems. Since its inception, the PDMC Scheme has brought 110.92 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation, accounting for about 7.98% of India's net sown area.

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Vibrant Villages Programme-II

MD KPDCL visits Keran, reviews Development Works

Directs all concerned departments to ensure timely completion of approved projects, inter-departmental coordination

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, JULY 01: Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Wednesday visited the border village of Keran to review the implementation and progress of developmental works being undertaken under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II).

The visit, as per an official statement, was aimed at assessing the pace of development, reviewing the implementation of key government schemes, and interacting with local residents to understand their developmental aspirations and concerns.

During the visit, the Managing Director chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Keran, which was attended by officers from the district administration and various line departments. He reviewed the overall developmental profile of the village, with a special focus on infrastructure development, public service delivery, connectivity, livelihood generation, and the status of projects sanctioned under VVP-II.

Reviewing the progress of



ongoing works, the Managing Director directed all concerned departments to ensure the timely completion of approved projects and stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination for their effective implementation. He observed that the Vibrant Villages Programme is aimed at transforming border villages into vibrant, self-reliant, and sustainable communities by strengthening infrastructure, improving essential services, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Emphasizing accountability, he called for regular monitoring of all projects to ensure quality

execution, transparency, and adherence to prescribed timelines. He also instructed officers to proactively identify developmental gaps and address them in a coordinated manner so that the benefits of various government welfare schemes reach every eligible household.

Earlier, the Managing Director chaired a Public Darbar at the Mini Secretariat, Keran, where he interacted with local residents and listened to their grievances and suggestions. The participants raised issues related to road connectivity, drinking water supply, education, healthcare, civic amenities, and other developmental needs.

Giving a patient hearing to the public, the Managing Director assured them that all genuine issues would be examined and taken up with the concerned departments for prompt redressal. He reiterated the Government's commitment to the holistic development of border villages and emphasized that active community participation is vital for the successful implementation of developmental initiatives.

The Managing Director was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Kupwara, Parvaiz Ahmad Lone, along with officers of various line departments during the visit.

SKUAST-K hosts Workshop on Workplace Harassment Prevention, releases Policy Paper

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) Wednesday concluded a two-day workshop on Harassment Prevention at the Workplace, organized by the Women at Workplace Central Committee of the university.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, as per an official statement, presided over the inaugural session and reaffirmed the university's commitment to ensuring a safe, inclusive and equitable workplace. He said preventing harassment is not only a legal obligation but also essential for building a culture of dignity, trust and professionalism.

The workshop was organized under the leadership of Dr. Shaheen Gul, Chairperson of the Women at Workplace Central Committee. The workshop aimed to sensitize officers, administrators, faculty, staff, and students about their legal and ethical responsibilities under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act and strengthen institutional grievance redressal mechanisms.

A plenary discussion chaired by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director, Extension, SKUAST-K, with Prof. Muzaffar Ahmad Malik, Head, Division of Soil Science,



as Co-Chairman, deliberated on recommendations to strengthen workplace safety and promote a more conducive institutional environment. Dr. Faheema Mushtaq and Dr. Mudasar M. Kirmani served as rapporteurs.

The program featured expert sessions by prominent legal and administrative professionals. Adv. Raies Ul Haq Sikander, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, delivered the keynote lecture on employer obligations and responsibilities under the POSH Act.

Mohd. Saleem Wani, Deputy Director, Prosecution, Bandipora, spoke on grievance redressal mechanisms under the POSH Act, while Dr. Masooda Jan delivered a session on the POSH

Act and its legal framework.

On the second day, Mahmood Anwar Al-Nasir, Sub Judge, Senior Division, Uri, shared case studies and practical insights on workplace sexual harassment, while Aftab Alam, former SSP CID, highlighted the role of police in addressing sexual harassment cases.

A major highlight of the workshop was the release of a Policy Paper on Safety of Women at Workplace, underscoring SKUAST-K's commitment to gender-sensitive governance and institutional accountability. The workshop concluded with the distribution of certificates and a renewed commitment to creating a safe, respectful, and empowering workplace for all.

DC Kupwara chairs Block Diwas at Budnambal



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, JULY 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Wednesday chaired a Block Diwas programme at the far-flung village of Budnambal in Block Chowkibal to take a first-hand appraisal of public issues, review the developmental needs of the area, and strengthen public service delivery.

The programme was attended by district and sectoral officers, besides a large gathering of local residents.

During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the grievances and demands projected by the people. The issues raised included improvement of road and mobile connectivity, augmentation of electricity supply, provision of safe drinking water, improvement of healthcare facilities, filling of staff vacancies in educational institutions, completion of pending works under the Rural Development Department (RDD) and the Public Works Department (PWD), and assessment of crop losses caused by

the recent spell of heavy rainfall.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, assured the public that all genuine grievances would be examined on merit and addressed in a time-bound manner. He directed the concerned officers to take immediate cognizance of the issues pertaining to their respective departments and ensure their prompt redressal through coordinated action. He reiterated that the District Administration remains committed to ensuring equitable development in the remote and border areas of the district.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Health Centre at Budnambal to review its functioning and assess the availability of healthcare facilities. He inspected the stock of essential medicines and reviewed the overall healthcare delivery mechanism. He directed the Block Medical Officer, Kralpora, to ensure punctuality and regular attendance of staff, maintain adequate stocks of essential medicines, and provide efficient, accessible, and quality healthcare services to the people.

J&K to host National Coaching Camp for Indian Soft Tennis Teams ahead of 20th Asian Games

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: In a landmark development for sports in Jammu & Kashmir, the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association, under the aegis of the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India (ASTFI) and in active collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, will host the first-ever National Coaching Camp for the Indian Soft Tennis Teams in preparation for the 20th Asian Games, Japan 2026. The camp will be held at the Gindun Sports Stadium, Rajbagh, Srinagar, from 10th July to 13th August, 2026.

The National Coaching Camp, as per an official statement, represents an unprecedented recognition of Jammu & Kashmir's sporting infrastructure and administrative capability at the national level. For the first time in the history of the Union Territory, an Indian national-level training camp ahead of the Asian Games will be conducted on J&K soil, a testament to the confidence reposed by the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India and the Government of India in the region's growing sporting ecosystem.

The J&K Sports Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to providing world-class



facilities and logistical support to ensure the successful conduct of the camp. About Soft Tennis in India and J&K Soft Tennis is a recognized sport under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, and is also sanctioned by the School Games Federation of India and the Association of Indian Universities. The sport is affiliated with the Asian Soft Tennis Federation and the International Soft Tennis Federation and holds the distinction of being featured in both the National Games of India and the Asian Games In Jammu & Kashmir, the sport has witnessed exceptional growth under the stewardship of the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association.

Pertinently, the Association has built an impressive medal tally at national and international competitions, having won 5 Gold, 13 Silver, and 10 Bronze medals. It has also established a robust grassroots

network comprising 18 affiliated district units spread across Jammu & Kashmir and has successfully hosted five National Championships across various categories. Plans are already in place to host additional prestigious national and international Soft Tennis events in the current calendar year.

A senior official of the J&K Sports Council stated that hosting the National Coaching Camp for the Indian Soft Tennis Teams ahead of the Asian Games is a proud moment for every resident of Jammu & Kashmir. "This is not merely an event, it is a signal to the nation that J&K is ready and capable of hosting elite-level sporting programmes. Our local players will have the invaluable opportunity to train alongside the country's finest athletes, absorb the guidance of top national coaches, and benchmark themselves against the highest standards", the official said.

The J&K Sports Council has appealed sports lovers, youth, and citizens across Jammu & Kashmir to celebrate this historic achievement and to extend their full support to the athletes and officials participating in the camp and join in celebrating this historic milestone for sports in the Union Territory.

DLSA Ganderbal convenes meeting of LSUM to review implementation of NALSA Scheme

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JULY 01: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal convened a meeting of the Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM), under the guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, to review and strengthen the effective implementation of the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024, in compliance with the directions issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Mehraj Din, Senior Prosecution Officer, representing the Department of Police, Ganderbal; Mohd. Amin, Sub-Inspector, representing Subsidiary Jail, Dignibal; Shabana Hamid, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, representing the Department of

Social Welfare; Members of the LSUM Unit; Panel Lawyers; and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Ganderbal.

During the meeting, the Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, emphasized the need for co-ordinated efforts among all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme and directed all concerned departments to strengthen institutional coordination, facilitate timely identification and referral of beneficiaries, ensure access to free legal aid, undertake regular awareness and outreach programmes, and strictly comply with the guidelines issued by NALSA and J&K Legal Services Authority.

The stakeholders were further instructed to work in close coordination for safeguarding the legal rights of persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities, ensuring that legal services remain accessible, inclusive, and responsive in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment by all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme through coordinated action and sustained institutional support.

DC Kishtwar reviews banking performance in DLRC, DLRAC meeting

Calls for enhanced priority sector lending

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, JULY 01: The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the quarter ending March 2026 was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma to review performance of banks operating in the district during financial year 2025-26.

Lead District Manager (LDM) Kishtwar Harsh Rawal, as per an official statement, presented a comprehensive review of the district's banking performance, highlighting achievements under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP), Priority Sector Lending, Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio and various government-sponsored schemes.

Against the overall annual credit target of 1,001 crore for FY 2025-26, banks collectively achieved disbursements of 1,181.70 crore, surpassing the target. Under the Priority Sector,

total advances stood at 586.64 crore, with Jammu and Kashmir Bank contributing 545.81 crore, the major share of the district's priority sector credit.

While appreciating the overall performance of banks during FY 2025-26, the Deputy Commissioner said all banks need to enhance their contribution towards Priority Sector Lending, observing that Priority Sector advances reflect a bank's trust in its customers and are vital for inclusive economic growth.

The Deputy Commissioner directed SBI Kishtwar, the Lead Bank in the district, to significantly improve its Priority Sector Lending performance, sought reasons for the decline in the district's CD Ratio and advised banks to focus on improving credit flow. He further directed banks to explore greater lending opportunities in the Renewable Energy and Social Infrastructure sectors to strengthen Priority Sector performance.

DC B'pora holds mega Block Diwas at Balhama

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JULY 01: In a continued effort to strengthen public outreach and ensure responsive governance, the District Administration Bandipora Wednesday organised a Mega Block Diwas at Balhama Arin.

The programme, as per an official statement, was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib and brought together senior officers from various government departments, including Revenue, Rural Development, Health, Education, Public Health Engineering, Power Development, Agriculture, and other line departments, providing residents with a common platform to directly interact with the administration.

A large number of people from Balhama and nearby villages participated in the programme and raised issues concerning road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare facilities, education, and other issues pertaining to welfare of the general public.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to every representation and directed the concerned officers to resolve genuine grievances in a time-bound manner.

She stressed the need for greater coordination among departments to ensure timely completion of projects and improved delivery of essential services. She reiterated that public welfare, transparent and accountable governance remain the administration's top priorities.

Indu Kanwal chib, said District Administration is committed to address issues of general public promptly and ensuring inclusive and sustainable development across the district.

Speaking on the occasion, former DDC Member and general public appreciated the efforts of District Administration for resolving the issues of public at their doorsteps.

Among others the programme was attended by ACD, ACP, CMO, CEO, Executive Engineers and District Officers of various Departments and other concerned.

DC Kulgam chairs Monthly District Level NCORD Committee Meeting

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JULY 01: A District Level NCORD (Narco-Coordination Centre) Committee meeting was held here, Wednesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam to review the progress of the 100-Day Campaign against Drug Abuse being run across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, took a detailed review of the enforcement, awareness, and rehabilitation initiatives undertaken as part of the campaign. It was informed that during the campaign period, 80 FIRs have been registered against 89 individuals involved in drug-related offences. Additionally, 34 driving licenses and 22 registration certificates (RCs) of vehicles used in the transportation of contraband have been suspended as part of the crackdown on the drug trade network in the district.

Reviewing the achievements,



the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to further intensify enforcement action against drug peddlers and to ensure strict implementation of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. He stressed upon erasing the menace of drug abuse from its roots through sustained and coordinated action by all stakeholder departments.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasized the need to focus on the rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse and their reintegration with livelihood opportunities, so that affected individuals and families can return to a life of dignity and self-reliance. He directed the concerned

officers to ensure that de-addiction, counselling, and skill-based livelihood support mechanisms are strengthened and made accessible at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's firm commitment towards making Kulgam a drug-free district and appealed to civil society, religious scholars, and the general public to actively participate in the campaign to eradicate this social menace. An impact report of 80-Day against Drug Abuse was also released by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, highlighting the activities carried out in Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction and Rehabilitation.

KCFL-2016: Baramulla Strikers storm into Qualifier 2 with convincing 4-2 win over Anantnag Heroes

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 01: The knockout stage of the Kashmir Champions Football League (KCFL) 2026, organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, got underway in thrilling fashion today as Baramulla Strikers defeated Anantnag Heroes 4-2 in the Eliminator to book their place in Qualifier 2.

Baramulla Strikers produced an impressive all-round performance, displaying attacking flair and resilience to overcome a determined Anantnag Heroes side in a high-intensity encounter. With the victory, Baramulla Strikers kept their title aspirations alive and advanced to the next stage of the competition. Midfielder Moosa Qureshi,



was adjudged the Man of the Match for his commanding performance in midfield. His creativity, composure and leadership played a pivotal role in Baramulla Strikers' victory,

earning him the top individual honour of the match.

The growing response from fans continues to underline the success of the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council's initiative to

promote football and provide a competitive platform for emerging talent.

Adding further significance to the occasion, the match was graced by distinguished personalities from Indian football. During the half-time break, Anuj Gupta, Co-founder and President of Sudeva Delhi FC, and Steve Harbour, Technical Mentor at Sudeva Delhi FC, shared valuable insights on grassroots football development, talent identification and creating sustainable pathways for young footballers. Their interaction reflected the shared vision of the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council and KCFL in strengthening grassroots football and building a robust ecosystem for aspiring players in Jammu & Kashmir.

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jul 01: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar on Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting of senior officers of the Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Cooperatives Departments to assess the progress of ongoing developmental programmes and key flagship schemes.

The meeting primarily reviewed the implementation of Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) works and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) across the departments.

While reviewing the progress, the Minister directed the

concerned officers to ensure close monitoring of all developmental works for optimum utilisation of funds and timely completion of infrastructure projects. He stressed that every department must adhere to prescribed timelines, maintain quality standards and adopt a result-oriented approach in project execution to ensure tangible benefits reach the people.

Reviewing the Animal and Sheep Husbandry sectors, Javid Ahmad Dar instructed the officers to intensify efforts for bringing the maximum number of livestock under the livestock insurance scheme, thereby providing greater financial security to farmers and livestock rearers.

The Minister also directed the Enforcement Wing of the Agriculture Department to

strictly enforce the prescribed guidelines and strengthen field inspections to ensure transparency, accountability and adherence to quality standards.

While reviewing the Horticulture Department, the Minister instructed officers to optimally utilise the existing canning centres by converging them with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to promote value addition, generate employment opportunities and enhance farmers' income. He further directed the department to establish a robust monitoring mechanism for registered nurseries supplying planting material, ensuring that only quality-certified and disease-free planting stock is distributed among growers while eliminating the supply of substandard material.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Amarnath Yatra: LG Sinha

before joining the convoy.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Nalin Prabhat, DGP; S.J.M.Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Amol V Homkar, IGP CRPF Jammu Sector; M. Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and senior officials from civil administration, police and security forces.

OFFLINE REGISTRATION PROCESS CONTINUES

Meanwhile, offline registration process at the Tawi Riverfront Centre continued smoothly on Wednesday.

Officials said tokens were distributed for both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes, and all pilgrims issued tokens and completing registration would join the first convoy on Thursday morning.

Preparations for the annual pilgrimage in Jammu stand completed, with comprehensive arrangements for registration, accommodation, transportation, medical care, sanitation and security.

EXTENSIVE FACILITIES PUT IN PLACE ACROSS 5 JAMMU DISTRICTS: DIV COM

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar said extensive facilities have been put in place across all five districts of the Jammu division falling along the Yatra route. These include on-the-spot registration, RFID and e-KYC centres, accommodation, langar facilities, medical rooms, sanitation, uninterrupted power and water supply, and robust security arrangements.

He said pilgrims who have registered online can collect their RFID cards at Lakhnapur, Chichi Mata Temple in Samba, Jammu Railway Station, Tawi Riverfront and Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas. Pilgrims have been advised to complete e-KYC and collect RFID tags before entering the Bhagwati Nagar base camp by 10 pm a day before their departure.

The Divisional Commissioner said accommodation for nearly 55,000 pilgrims has been arranged across Jammu Division, while more than 2,100 toilets have been installed at accommodation centres, transit camps, Yatri Niwas facilities and along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

He urged pilgrims to strictly adhere to the cut-off timings and guidelines issued by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board and district administrations to ensure a safe and convenient pilgrimage.

To facilitate pilgrims and tourists, the Tourism Department has introduced dedicated air-conditioned buses on four routes covering attractions such as Suchetgarh Border, Gharana Wetland, Akhnoor Fort, Raghunath Bazaar, Bahu Fort and Mahamaya Temple. The Transport Department has also notified fixed fares for autos, e-rickshaws and taxis to prevent overcharging.

ELABORATE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE ALONG 260-KM YATRA ROUTE: IGP JAMMU

Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti said elaborate security arrangements have been put in place along the entire 260-km Yatra route, including transit camps and langar sites. He advised pilgrims to rely only on the official Shri Amarnath Shrine Board platform for registration-related information.

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Minhas said the district administration remains committed to ensuring a safe, smooth and convenient pilgrimage. He informed that 18 counters have been established for transparent token distribution and registration, while additional centres at Gita Bhawan, Mahajan Hall, Shri Ram Mandir Purani Mandi and Jammu Railway Station will continue to function as before.

He also appealed to the people of Jammu to extend their traditional hospitality to the visiting pilgrims and encouraged tourists to explore the city's religious and heritage destinations during their stay.

FIRST GROUPS OF PILGRIMS ENTERING J&K ACCORDED WARM WELCOME

Meanwhile, the first groups of pilgrims entering the Union Territory through Lakhnapur in Kathua and Tappal in Samba received a warm traditional welcome from the respective district administrations before proceeding to the Bhagwati Nagar base camp under security arrangements.

Traffic authorities have also issued an advisory regulating movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Heavy Motor Vehicles will not be allowed to ply from

Qazigund towards Jammu and from Jakheni in Udhampur towards Srinagar after 7 pm on July 1, while Light Motor Vehicles will be permitted until 11 pm. (KNO)

LG inaugurates Tawi

The Lieutenant Governor applauded the efforts of Jammu Smart City Limited for building Tawi riverfront and ensuring the river's rightful place at the heart of community life. He said banks that were once neglected have become vibrant centres of culture, tradition, social engagement and spiritual values.

"For centuries Jammu has been known as a centre of spiritual awareness, cultural richness and learning. This land, with its ancient temples, has long embodied spiritual reflection and the finest values of Indian culture. It is therefore heartening to see Jammu reclaiming the distinguished identity for which it has been celebrated in history. I call for people's active participation to keep the city clean and vibrant. On this sacred occasion I envision a Jammu that emerges as a global centre for spiritual tourism, cultural studies and human values. I want to see a Tawi riverfront that sets a model for environmental protection, sustainable development and modern urban planning, where nature, culture and contemporary amenities complement one another to create a new model of development," the LG said.

The Lieutenant Governor also stated that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra stands as a timeless symbol of our spiritual traditions, cultural legacy, and collective faith. He said it is one of India's most revered religious gatherings and embodies a responsibility that echoes the devotion of millions across the nation.

"It is therefore incumbent upon us to uphold the sanctity of this pilgrimage by ensuring that every devotee who undertakes this journey is met with the highest standards of safety, dignity, comfort, and care. We must strive to ensure that devotees carry back with them an indelible impression of love, warmth and spirit of service shown by the people of Jammu Kashmir. It is our responsibility to make every pilgrim an ambassador for Jammu Kashmir," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also launched 'Raahi: Hop Jammu' Bus Service, an initiative of District Administration Jammu. It is designed to offer locals and tourists a seamless, convenient, and environmentally sustainable way to explore the rich cultural, heritage, and recreational landscape of Jammu.

With a fleet of air-conditioned e-buses, the service will operate on distinct thematic routes: Tirath Line, Chenab Line, Sarhad Line and Fun Line, connecting the Jammu's most significant landmarks.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated Exhibition on Shri Amarnathji Yatra. He also presented Swachhta Souvenirs to Yatrias.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Sat Sharma, Member of Parliament and President, Bharatiya Janata Party, J&K; Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; S.J.M.Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shridhar Patil, DIG JSK Range; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and CEO Jammu Smart City Limited and senior officials were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly- Yudhvir Sethi, Arvind Gupta and Surinder Bhagat; Rajesh Gupta; President Vishwa Hindu Parishad (J&K and Ladakh); Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; religious leaders; prominent citizens and people from all walks of life also attended the Tawi Aarti.

Elaborate security

reporters, IGP Birdi, as per KNO, said that senior police officers are inspecting deployments across all Yatra districts to identify any shortcomings and further strengthen the security grid. "We have deployed personnel at transit camps and other strategic locations. Pilgrims are requested to follow the Shrine Board guidelines, traffic advisories and cut-off timings to ensure a smooth pilgrimage," he said.

Officials said that Road Opening Parties (ROPs) are carrying out daily sanitisation of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Security pickets have been established at designated locations as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), while every ROP is responsible for thoroughly checking a stretch of four to five kilometres, including adjoining areas.

They said a multi-layered surveillance

network comprising CCTV cameras, drones, Facial Recognition Camera (FRC) systems, watch towers and round-the-clock night patrolling has been established along the route. Anti-drone systems have also been activated to counter any aerial threats, while control rooms have been set up at strategic locations for real-time coordination among security agencies.

According to officials, around 140 CRPF companies have been deployed from Anantnag to the holy cave. The deployment has been reinforced by specialised CRPF units, the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security formations to maintain a robust security grid throughout the pilgrimage.

Officials said transit camps have also been fully prepared to receive pilgrims. The FCI Godown transit camp at Mir Bazar has the capacity to accommodate nearly 3,000 pilgrims, while the Walnut Factory transit camp at Levдора, Qazigund can host more than 1000 pilgrims. Both camps have been equipped with accommodation, food, medical facilities and other essential services.

HI-TECH SECURITY GRID READY ACROSS J&K Officials said that a multi-layered security network backed by advanced surveillance systems, anti-drone technology and round-the-clock deployment of security personnel has been put in place across Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said elaborate arrangements have been made to secure the entire pilgrimage corridor, beginning from the Jammu base camp to the holy cave shrine, with multiple agencies working in close coordination. "The first line of security begins on National Highway-44, the main route used by Yatra convoys. Every morning, road-opening parties comprising personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF and Army conduct extensive sanitisation of the highway before pilgrims are allowed to move," they said.

"Teams inspect stretches of the highway, bridges, culverts, forests and roadside areas for any suspicious objects or security threats. Bomb Detection and Disposal Squads and sniffer dogs have also been deployed, while road-opening exercises continue in phases to ensure uninterrupted surveillance along the route," officials added.

Authorities have also strengthened security beyond the highway by establishing checkpoints on link roads connecting to the convoy route. Security personnel have been deployed at vulnerable locations, while convoy movement will remain regulated and escorted under a predetermined schedule.

TECHNOLOGY KEY COMPONENT OF THIS YEAR'S SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

Officials said that anti-drone systems capable of detecting and neutralising aerial threats have been installed at strategic locations, while an extensive network of CCTV cameras, high-resolution surveillance equipment and mobile monitoring units has been deployed along the pilgrimage routes, transit camps and the cave shrine.

Integrated control rooms have been established to enable real-time coordination among various security agencies and facilitate a swift response in case of any emergency.

Special arrangements have also been made for women pilgrims. An all-women contingent of the CRPF has been deployed at the Nunwan base camp, where female personnel will conduct frisking, assist with queue management and provide guidance to women devotees during security checks.

Officials said the deployment is aimed at ensuring smooth movement of pilgrims while maintaining privacy and convenience during security procedures.

Meanwhile, ahead of the pilgrimage, security agencies carried out a series of mock drills simulating different emergency situations to test coordination and operational preparedness. The exercises involved police, CRPF, Army and other agencies and focused on improving response mechanisms under various scenarios.

Officials said the security framework combines manpower with technology through continuous road sanitisation, surveillance cameras, anti-drone systems, bomb disposal units, integrated command centres and multiple security layers to ensure the safe conduct of the annual pilgrimage. (KNO)

NC to invite

in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to NC leadership, party president Dr. Farooq Abdullah will personally write to the respective leaders, inviting them to join the protest.

The protest at Jantar Mantar is being organized by the NC to press for the restoration of

Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. (KNO)

Cabinet expansion

Ministry as well as his behaviour with MLAs.

Two other ministers- Javid Rana and Satish Sharma- had also faced brickbats from NC and independents legislators supporting the party.

The CM today also said that Jammu and Kashmir's revenues are not enough even to cover government salaries.

"We don't earn that much. Even after adding all taxes, the central share, and the state share, it is not enough to pay salaries. We should be able to bear the burden of salaries, pensions, and other expenses, but the financial condition of Jammu and Kashmir is not good," he said.

Omar added that J&K's dependence on the central government for funds has become habitual. "Our habits are not very good. We feel that everything must come from the central government and that we will not do anything ourselves. Whichever government comes here will have to bend before the central government," he said. (KNO)

810m viaduct,

to open for traffic on 3rd July, 2026.

Flash floods, cloudbursts

heavy rain lashed the area. Authorities were monitoring the situation amid continuing unstable weather.

Heavy overnight rainfall also pushed up water levels in rivers and seasonal streams across Rajouri district. The district administration kept vulnerable locations under close watch and advised people living near rivers, nallahs and low-lying areas to remain alert and shift to safer places if water levels rose further.

In Kashmir, widespread rainfall was recorded in Pahalgam, Ashmuqam and adjoining areas, bringing relief from the prolonged heatwave. Cloudy skies and showers led to a noticeable fall in temperatures, improving weather conditions across many parts of the Valley.

Earlier in the day, weather monitoring centres had indicated rain and thundershowers over many parts of Ganderbal, Bandipora, Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam, Poonch, Baramulla, Uri, Gulmarg, the Banihal-Ramban axis, and parts of Doda and Kishtwar. They had also warned that brief but intense showers over Poonch, Budgam, the Ganderbal-Kangan-Sonamarg-Zojila axis, Pahalgam, Shopian, Kulgam and the Banihal-Ramban corridor could trigger localized flash floods, mudslides and landslides. Several of these areas subsequently witnessed intense rainfall.

The active weather coincided with the southwest monsoon advancing across the entire Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh meteorological subdivision on July 1, a day later than the normal onset date. Rainfall during the past 24 hours was highest in Samba at 62.5 mm, followed by Jammu with 35.8 mm, Kathua 23.8 mm and Rajouri 19.6 mm, while light rainfall was recorded at several other stations.

Forecasts indicate generally cloudy conditions with light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places between July 2 and July 4. Heavy rainfall, brief intense showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds are expected at a few locations, particularly across the Jammu division, the Pir Panjal range, Chenab Valley and adjoining parts of south Kashmir.

Between July 5 and July 8, weather is expected to turn hot and humid again, although scattered rain and thunderstorms are likely to continue, especially over parts of Jammu division.

Weather experts said the current spell is being driven by the interaction between active monsoon winds and a series of weak western disturbances expected to affect the region through the week. While prolonged widespread flooding is not anticipated, short-duration intense rainfall and isolated cloudbursts remain possible, increasing the risk of localized flash floods, rising water levels in streams, waterlogging and landslides.

Authorities have advised residents, tourists and trekkers to stay away from rivers, nallahs and landslide-prone areas, monitor official advisories and plan travel carefully over the next few days.

Meanwhile in view of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) now-cast warning forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall across Poonch district, the Health Department has placed all government health institutions on high alert and ordered the immediate cancellation of all staff leave to ensure uninterrupted emergency healthcare services.

According to an official order issued by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Poonch, all health institutions, including District Hospital Poonch, Sub-District Hospitals at Mendhar, Surankote and Mandi, as well as all Primary Health

Centres (PHCs), New Type Primary Health Centres (NTPHCs) and Sub-Centres, have been directed to remain fully prepared to deal with any emergency arising from adverse weather conditions.

The directive follows the IMD's warning predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall, with the possibility of flash floods, landslides, road blockages and other rain-related emergencies in the district.

As part of the emergency preparedness measures, the CMO has instructed the Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Poonch and Block Medical Officers of Mendhar, Surankote and Mandi to immediately cancel all kinds of leave, except maternity leave, for medical officers, paramedical staff and other employees working under their control. They have also been directed not to sanction any fresh leave until further orders.

The order stresses that all health institutions must ensure full attendance of doctors, nurses, paramedics and support staff so that medical services remain available round the clock during any emergency situation.

The CMO has further directed all hospitals and healthcare facilities to maintain adequate stocks of emergency medicines, oxygen cylinders, dressings, consumables and life-saving equipment to meet any sudden increase in patient load resulting from weather-related incidents.

Authorities have also been instructed to ensure the 24x7 operational readiness of ambulances and emergency response systems, enabling rapid transportation and treatment of injured or affected persons.

The order further calls for close coordination with the district administration and disaster management authorities to facilitate timely rescue, relief and medical response in the event of floods, landslides or any other natural disaster.

Additionally, the Block Medical Officers of Mandi, Mendhar and Surankote have been asked to establish dedicated control rooms in their respective jurisdictions and submit details of the designated nodal officers, including their names, designations and contact numbers, to ensure effective monitoring, communication and coordination during any emergency.

The CMO warned that any violation of these directions will be viewed seriously, adding that strict disciplinary action will be initiated against officials found negligent in implementing the instructions. (KNO)

Mutton crisis

average market price of one sheep at Rs 20,000, the total estimated loss comes to nearly Rs 1,728,000,000, which is approximately Rs 172.8 crore (about Rs 173 crore).

The issue comes amid a long-pending dispute over livestock transportation through Punjab, where traders have repeatedly alleged stoppages, delays and additional charges at various points, leading to increased costs and disruption in supply chains feeding Kashmir's meat market.

The current crisis also follows formal government-level engagement on the matter. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has earlier said he has taken up the issue with his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann, stating in his communication and public remarks that action against Jammu and Kashmir's mutton dealers in Punjab was "unjustified".

Traders added that they acknowledge the limited powers of the PDP government, and said that PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, MLA Waheed Para and AAP MLA Mehraj Malik have personally called them.

"The ruling NC government has not even messaged us," Mehraj-ud-Din said, adding that before leaving Kashmir five days back, they had informed the CM office about their visit.

Moreover, concern is growing in Kashmir over a potential supply crunch, especially with the marriage season approaching.

Repeated attempts to contact CM's advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zadibal and Minister for Food & Civil Supplies Satish Sharma received no response. (KNO)

Census 2027 Phase-I

EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE 100% POPULATION ENUMERATION IN SEPTEMBER CYCLE ITSELF

Sharma added that Ladakh is expected to achieve 100 percent population enumeration in the September cycle itself, given its climatic conditions, calling it a key milestone in the census schedule.

He said the completion of Phase-I is a historic digital milestone and highlighted end-to-end digital execution, extensive training, coordination and field-level participation. (KNO)

Digital India has given country new identity worldwide: PM Modi



PTI

New Delhi, Jul 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lauded the Digital India initiative of the government, and said it has redefined governance, empowered citizens and accelerated all-round development by touching every aspect of life.

Eleven years of Digital India has given India a new identity worldwide, he asserted.

"Today, we mark 11 years since the Digital India initiative was launched. This initiative has redefined governance, empowered citizens and accelerated all-round development. It has touched every aspect of life," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister said from seamless digital payments and direct benefit transfers reaching beneficiaries with transparency to the expanding digital public infrastructure, technology has become a powerful instrument for furthering 'Ease of Living.'

"Digital India has taken the wave of innovation to all parts of India, especially villages, tier-2 and tier-3 cities," he said.

Modi said young entrepreneurs, startups and innovators from every corner of the country are creating solutions to the pressing challenges that the planet faces.

This initiative has strengthened education, healthcare, agriculture, commerce and public service delivery, making governance more transparent, efficient and accessible, he said.

Modi said the government's strides in the digital world have ensured that India

is making rapid progress in emerging technologies such as AI, semiconductors, quantum computing and more.

"This too will open new avenues for growth and opportunity. Our focus will remain on creating a future where technology serves humanity, empowers every citizen and drives sustainable development," he said.

Modi said Digital India is the strong foundation of a developed and self-reliant India and over the past 11 years, it has played a crucial role in empowering the poor and deprived while making the lives of citizens easier.

"From the expansion of optical fibre networks to digital transactions, the unprecedented success of this campaign has drawn the attention of the entire world towards India," he said, adding, "When over a billion people embrace technology, the impact is transformative!".

Officials noted that before 2015, public services often meant long queues, paperwork, and limited connectivity but Digital India helped bridge the digital divide by expanding internet access and bringing services online.

The programme also promoted the democratisation of digital technologies through affordable internet and digital access at population scale.

Over the last decade, Digital India has become the foundation of India's digital economy and Digital Public Infrastructure. India now leads global real-time digital payments, with UPI handling nearly 49 per cent of worldwide transaction volume.

PM Modi conveys greetings on CA & Doctors' Day

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday conveyed greetings to doctors and CAs on the occasion of Doctors' Day and Chartered Accountants' Day, and said their tireless efforts have earned the trust and gratitude of countless people.

The prime minister also appreciated all the doctors and medical professionals from India working tirelessly in quake-hit Venezuela as part of 'Operation Amistad', saying their efforts to serve those in need in such a challenging time are shining examples of how medical professionals rise to the occasion every time society faces a challenge.

In separate messages, Modi said as the government works towards building a 'Viksit Bharat', the country's doctors will continue to play a pivotal role in promoting preventive healthcare, advancing medical research, embracing innovation and delivering affordable and accessible healthcare for all.

As the country moves towards becoming a developed nation, efforts of the CAs help create an environment where enterprises can flourish and opportunities can expand for all, the prime minister said.

"On Doctors' Day, greetings to our dedicated doctors whose hard work, compassion and commitment form the backbone of India's healthcare system. Their tireless efforts, often in the most challenging circumstances, have earned the trust and gratitude of countless people," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister also said that over the last decade, India has made significant strides in strengthening the healthcare ecosystem.

The number of medical colleges has more than doubled, while undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats have expanded substantially, he said.

"This unprecedented growth is creating greater opportunities for aspiring doctors, building a stronger healthcare workforce and ensuring that quality medical care reaches every corner of the country," Modi said.

Conveying his greetings to the entire CA fraternity, Modi said they have long been the trusted partners in India's economic journey.

Commercial LPG price cut by Rs 183.50

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 1: Prices of commercial LPG, the one used in hotels and restaurants, were cut by Rs 183.50 per 19-kg cylinder on Wednesday -- the first reduction in rates this year.

Commercial LPG now costs Rs 2,930 per 19-kg cylinder, oil companies said. Commercial LPG rates hit an all-time high of Rs 3,113 per 19-kg cylinder last month as the West Asia crisis fueled a spike in crude oil prices. This is the first reduction in commercial cooking gas rates this year following a series of hikes in the wake of the West Asia crisis that caused energy supply disruptions across the globe.

Commercial LPG rates are revised on the 1st of every month based on average benchmark rates in the previous month.

However, the price of domestic 14.2-kg LPG cylinders remained unchanged at Rs 942. Its rates were last hiked by Rs 29 on June 7.

ATF, commercial LPG prices cut as softer oil eases costs

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 1: Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and commercial LPG prices were cut on Wednesday as easing tensions in West Asia pulled down international oil prices, while private fuel retailer Nayara Energy lowered petrol and diesel prices, becoming the first retailer in more than two years to reduce pump rates.

ATF prices were reduced by about Rs 5 per litre, bringing the price in Delhi to around Rs 110 per litre, industry sources said. The reduction is the first since the recent spike triggered by the West Asia conflict.

Oil marketing companies also cut the price of commercial LPG by Rs 183.50 per 19-kg cylinder, the first reduction this year.

Commercial LPG will now cost Rs 2,930 per cylinder after



touching a record Rs 3,113 last month as geopolitical tensions pushed up crude oil prices.

Alongside, the 5-kg marked-priced or Free Trade LPG (FTL) cylinder cost was also reduced by Rs 13 to Rs 808.50 per 5-kg cylinder.

Prices of domestic 14.2-kg LPG cylinders were left unchanged at Rs 942.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Public Works Department (R&B) Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir

Email: xen.rnbmdsk@jk.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS e-NIT No: 06 of R&B/MDSK/2026-27 Dated: 30-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir, Khanabal, Anantnag invites e-tenders in two (02) cover system, from the Experienced firms/ Eligible Contractors/Reputed Agencies.

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (in Lakh)	Tender Fee	Earnest Money @ 2% of Adv. Cost (in Rs)	Time of Completion
1.	Establishment of Pasteurized Compost Making Unit (Capacity 35 MT) at Newly Alloted State Land Kakapora, District Pulwama (Public Sctro) under HADP Project Promotion of Round the Year Mushroom Cultivation 2025- 26 (Electro-Mechanical Part)	25.33	1100/-	50660/-	45 Days

Intending Authority: Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Pulwama.

Administrative Approval: Authorization Conveyed NO. CAO/Pul/Plg./2025-26/10176-78 Dated:- 17-02-2025 Technical Sanction: TS No: EE/Mech/R&B/TS/02 of 2026-2027 Dated:30-06-2026

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30/06/2026 15:30
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30/06/2026 15:30
3	Bid submission Start Date & Time	30/06/2026 15:30
4	Bid Submission End Date & Time	14/07/2026 12:00
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	15/07/2026 on or after 12:00 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir Khanabal, Anantnag
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.
7	Tender document fee to be deposited in	Upload a Copy of Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH.

8.	Earnest Money Deposit	Upload a copy of Earnest money deposit @2% amounting to Rs 50660/- of the estimated cost, to be deposited in Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH. In case of unsuccessful bidder(s), a system enabled provision for automatic triggering of EMD refunds shall be implemented and in case of the successful bidder the Bid security amount shall upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HOD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security (Performance Security @5%) shall be furnished by the Bidder in cash to the designated Authority. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security/Additional Performance Security shall render the L1 as nonresponsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities. EMD shall be valid for a period of 45 days after bid validity.
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Note: The bidder must get registered on JKPWDOMS, as no payments shall be made unless the bill is processed on JKPWDOMS. In view

of circular issued by Finance Department of JK UT, no p a y m e n t s h a l l be released until and unless bill is processed through JKPWDOMS application and routed through JKPaysys. However, for those bidders who are not yet registered on JKPWDOMS, they shall submit an undertaking that JKPWDOMS registration will be done well on time before release of payment.

Instruction to Bidders

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format with Digital Signature on the official website www.jktenders.gov.in in Two covers viz., Technical Bid & Financial Bid.

Cover-I Shall

1	Cost of tender document	Upload a Copy of Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH.
2	Earnest Money Deposit	Upload a copy of Earnest money deposit @2% amounting to Rs 50660 /- of the estimated cost, to be deposited in Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH. In case of unsuccessful bidder(s), a system enabled provision for automatic triggering of EMD refunds shall be implemented and in case of the successful bidder the Bid security amount shall upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HOD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security (Performance Security @5%) shall be furnished by the Bidder in cash to the designated Authority. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security/Additional Performance Security shall render the L1 as nonresponsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities. EMD shall be valid for a period of 45 days after bid validity.
3	ITR	Income Tax Returns for the last three years. i.e. 2023-24 to 2025-26.

4.	PAN/GST Registration	PAN of firm/proprietor, GST Certificate. Note: Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder.
5.	GST returns	Bidder shall furnish proof of latest returns in GST-3/GSTR-3B. FORM GST -3B, i.e., latest clearance certificate FORM GST- 3B of the month FY May 2026-27/ quarter FY Jan-Mar 2025-26..
6.	Technical Brochure	The bidder shall submit the self-attested copies of detailed brochures/ manuals, technical data sheet of equipment offered.
7.	Maintenance/ Service Schedule	Maintenance/Service Schedule Manuals of the quoted equipment as per NIT.
8.	Manufacturer Eligibility	The manufacturer shall have Manufacturing and Testing facility with more than 07 years existence in field to be established through documentary evidence.
9.	Spares	The manufacturer shall furnish an undertaking regarding availability of spares for the entire life of the Equipment's i.e. 15 to 20 years.
10.	Experience	Registered Experienced Firms must provide documentary proof of substantial completion of "Similar Work" within the last (07) years in any Government or Semi-Government Department/Autonomous Bodies/Reputed agencies, within the country. The value of such completed works must meet at least one of the following thresholds: 1. 80% of the estimated cost in a single work contract; OR 2. 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each; OR 3. 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each. Note: 1. "Similar Work shall mean: • Establishment of Pasteurized Compost Making Unit, OR • Central Heating Works based on Hot Water Generators." 2. Certificates for the "substantial completion" of a project, work, or asset must strictly contain two distinct parts: • Part-I: Shall contain the "financial value of work done". • Part-II: Shall contain a "certificate of functional completion" of the project, work, or asset.
11.	Turn over Certificate	The bidder shall have an annual turnover of at least 30% of the advertised cost of the work to be substantiated with a certificate from any registered Chartered Accountant to be stamped with his valid UDIN No.
12.	JKPWDOMS Undertaking	The bidder must be registered on JKPWDOMS and have to upload documentary proof of the same. In case of non-registration of the firm on JKPWDOMS the firm shall get itself registered on the portal through concerned authority without which no payment shall be released in favor of the firm. The firm shall furnish undertaking (as per enclosed format) on firm's letter head to the effect that in case it is declared as lowest bidder it will get itself registered on JKPWDOMS before claiming any payment.

Cover-II (Price bid) shall contain:

1. Price bid as per BOQ uploaded by this Authority. Price Bid will not be accepted in physical form in any case.
2. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Cover-II.
3. The complete bidding process shall be online. The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir Anantnag after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.

4. Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
5. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they shall attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
6. The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.

7. Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
8. The Allotment Order shall be issued only after receipt of funds from the Intending Department.
9. Unbalanced Bid: In case, bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security within 07 days after opening of price bids as per JKPWD rules.

10. The intending bidders are requested to personally visit the site before quoting their rates for the tender. The associated minor civil works (excluding the works mentioned in the BOQ) envisaged for the completion of the work shall be deemed to be included in the price bid. The price(s), so quoted, shall be inclusive of all taxes, duties, freight, insurance etc. upto the site. Note: - The additional performance security shall be released only after successful completion of work/DLP The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir Anantnag. Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Authority shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Authority even during the currency of the contract. The Authority reserves the right to debar/blacklist such firm(s).

No. (R&B)/MDSK/894-900
Dated:30-06-2026

DIPK-2735/26
Dated: 01-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Mechanical Division
South Kashmir Anantnag

DISTRICT POLICE QUARTERS DODA

Email: dpododailipolice.gov.in FAX No. 01996233501
Phone No.01996233396 No. CRB/L.O.N/26/ 31976-96
Dated: 30-06-2026

DISCONTINUATION OF LOOK OUT NOTICE.

Ref:- CRB/L.O.N/2026/17081-89 dated 10.04.2026.

In continuation to the subject cited above, regarding missing of one Aqib Javed Thuker S/O Ghulam Mohd Thuker RIO Ward No. 04 Mohalla Drumri Doda, who went missing from Doda and accordingly his missing report was entered in the daily dairy of Police Station Doda vide DDR No. 18 dated 07.04.2026' and search was started.

In this regard, as intimated by SHO Police Station Doda that the above said missing person has been traced out. It is therefore, requested to kindly discontinue the Look Out Notice of the above said missing person.

DIPK-2751/26
Dated: 01-07-2026

Sr. Superintendent of Police, Doda

Breakaway Catholic society defies Vatican again by ordaining bishops

AFP
Econe (Switzerland), Jul 1: Decades after triggering a rift with the Vatican by consecrating bishops in 1988, the Society of Saint Pius X was doing it again on Wednesday — in defiance of Pope Leo XIV.
The ultra-traditionalist breakaway group, which has around 600,000 followers worldwide, intends to appoint four bishops: two French, one American and one Swiss.
The ceremony was due to take place during a mass in Latin lasting around four hours before an expected 15,000-strong congregation in the fields of Econe in southwest Switzerland — the very spot where the society's founder Marcel Lefebvre controversially consecrated four bishops 38 years ago.
"It is a historic day. Something very important is happening now; it won't stop here," Jean-Pierre Stauffer, a 79-year-old worshipper, told AFP.



He had traveled from Geneva to attend the ceremony, which began around 8:30am (0630 GMT) in the rain with a long procession of priests. "I plead with you and ask you with all my heart: please turn back!" Pope Leo wrote Monday in a letter to the society, calling it a "schismatic act." "To tear the seamless garment of Christ is a sin of extreme gravity," the pontiff said.
The Society of Saint Pius X

comprises fundamentalist Catholics who strongly oppose the liberal reforms imposed by the Vatican II Council in the 1960s.
The brotherhood was founded in 1970 by Lefebvre, a French bishop.
The new consecrations were set to take place near the society's seminary in Econe, a village at the foot of the mountains in the Rhone valley.
"It is not an act of rebellion, it is an act born of love for the Church," Father Michel Rion, a theology professor at the seminary — one of the society's five worldwide — told AFP.
As in 1988, the society's future bishops will be consecrated without assigned jurisdiction from Rome.
"We would rather die"
"There is absolutely nothing schismatic or anti-Church in our actions. We hope that one day the pope will see that. For us, being schismatic is the worst thing that could happen, we would rather die than be schismatic," Rion insisted.
The society says it is present in more than 75 countries across six continents, with more than 750 priests. Adhering to a strict interpretation of Roman Catholic tradition, the society holds masses in Latin celebrated by priests with their backs turned to the congregation.
"The Church constantly seeks to adapt — to adapt its message to lead souls to heaven," but has "adapted too much to the world," said Rion.
For the Holy See, consecrating bishops without the approval of Pope Leo would be a direct act of insubordination, leading to the automatic excommunication of the bishops — both those being consecrated and those performing the act.
The society's superior general, Father Davide Pagliarini, said in a statement published Tuesday that the group would go ahead with the consecrations and insisted it was "neither schismatic nor hostile to the

Church." Andre, a 46-year-old Gabonese worshipper from Versailles in France, told AFP at the ceremony: "This is a historic moment. In a few years, we will almost certainly be told that the choice we made was the right one."
Only two bishops left
In 1988, Pope John Paul II issued a similar appeal but failed to stop the society from ordaining bishops. They were immediately excommunicated, but the sanction was lifted in 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI.
His successor, Pope Francis, had, starting in 2015, recognized the validity of confessions and marriages celebrated by the society's priests.
The society sees consecrating new bishops as a necessity, arguing it has only two bishops left.
Although influential in certain conservative circles, it remains a tiny group within the Roman Catholic Church and its roughly 1.3 billion faithful.

Indian sailors fear returning to Gulf after Middle East war

AFP
New Delhi, Jul 1: Indian sailors shaken by war have finally cleared the Strait of Hormuz after being stranded there for months, but some fear they have little choice but to return to make a living.
The country is one of the largest contributors of sailors to merchant shipping, sending out hundreds of thousands of seafarers to work worldwide.
Thousands of Indian sailors have left the Gulf since the war began, including more than 3,600 aided by the South Asian nation's shipping ministry.
But during the conflict between the United States and Iran, commercial shipping in the Gulf became a target, and some Indian mariners saw their vessels attacked and their shipmates killed or wounded.
Many who have since made it out remain apprehensive despite an interim deal to end the war, as sporadic violence



has continued and traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remains a flashpoint.
Thirty-one-year-old Sitaram Tandel, from a small fishing village in India's Gujarat state, saw the danger at first hand while aboard a Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier.
In March, another vessel owned by his company, the crude tanker Safesee Vishnu, was attacked, killing an Indian

unimaginably scary," he said. "I don't know what lies next. The attack has left me shaken and too scared to go back to the Gulf, but I also have a family to feed."
Escape in the dark
More than 320,000 Indian sailors were working in global merchant shipping in 2025, according to the shipping ministry.
After initial US-Israeli strikes on Iran in February, Tehran effectively blocked the Strait of Hormuz, and ships passing through the wider region risked becoming military targets. In June, an American strike on a Palau-flagged vessel off Oman killed three Indian sailors, and attacks on two other Indian-majority crewed ships left dozens more in need of rescue. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi later raised the strikes with Donald Trump, urging the US president to ensure the safety of civilian mariners.

24 teams, including seven debutants, to feature in Durand Cup starting July 25



PTI
Kolkata, Jul 1: The Durand Cup football tournament this year will feature 24 teams, including seven debutants, with matches to be played across five cities from July 25 to August 23. The tournament begins in Kolkata on July 25 before it is played in Ranchi, Imphal, Shillong and Guwahati over the next four weeks. The final will be held at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata.
The competition will once again bring together Indian Super League clubs, I-League sides, Services teams, emerging domestic outfits and overseas teams. Among the seven debutants are Defenders FC of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and Meghalaya Premier League champions Nongkseh Sports, the Social and Cultural Club (SS&CC).
Kolkata will once again serve as the tournament's hub,

hosting two groups, the opening match, two quarter-finals, one semi-final and the final across the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan and Kishore Bharati Krirangan. The city will play host to record 17-time champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant, 16-time winners East Bengal FC, Mohammedan SC, South United FC, CISF, Indian Army and debutants Baghpat FC and Samaleswari Sporting.
Ranchi will make its debut as a Durand Cup host, with the Birsa Munda Stadium staging league matches from July 26 to August 16 and one quarter-final. The city will host Jamshedpur FC, Sporting Club Delhi, Indian Air Force and debutants Defenders FC. Imphal's Khuman Lampak Stadium will host league matches from July 28 to August 17, besides a quarter-final. The group features local clubs TRAU FC and NEROCA FC, Indian Navy and debutants FC Raengdai.

FIFA explains World Cup ruling that led to controversial disallowed Germany goal

AP
Atlanta, Jul 1: FIFA explained the tighter regulations that resulted in Germany having a potentially game-winning goal disallowed in its shock elimination from the World Cup.
Defender Jonathan Tah's headed goal in extra time against Paraguay on Monday was ruled out after a video review because of a foul on goalkeeper Orlando Gili.
Replays showed Germany's Waldemar Anton push Gili to the ground, but the minimal contact led to criticism of the decision.
Germany went on to lose the round of 32 game in a penalty shootout, with Tah firing a decisive spot kick over the bar.
FIFA's referees chief Pierluigi Collina said officials had been told to punish incidents when players try to block opponents' movement and prevents him from defending, then referees, and VAR when needed, should carefully analyze the incident and intervene," Collina said. "This is especially the case when the tactic aims to prevent the opposing goalkeeper from being able to defend the goal."

Europe's hospitals brace for next heat wave

AP
ORSAY, France: Ice. Urgently and in large quantities.
At a Paris-region hospital, emergency medics needed it to plunge patients into cold-water baths to speedily bring down their temperatures so they wouldn't join the growing tally of dead from a record-smashing heat wave. But lacking an ice-making machine, where to get it?
A fast-food restaurant helped out last week, saying the hospital could take its ice.

Staff also bought ice from the supermarket. The Paris-Saclay Hospital has now ordered its own ice machine, eagerly awaited in the emergency department for a future attack of sizzling heat. Whether that hits next week, as France's weather service says it might, or in summer months ahead, medics and hospital administrators are acutely aware that the battle they've just endured will, because of climate change, be followed by others. Just as they brace for the annual flu season, they know that fighting heat waves is becoming their new normal.

Mexico ends 40-year knockout drought

■ Beats Ecuador 2-0 to reach round of 16

AP
Mexico City, Jul 1: The 40-year wait is over. Mexicans had learned to live with defeats in the knockout stages of the World Cup. On seven occasions, El Tri fans were left heartbroken at this stage.
Not anymore.
Julián Quiñones and Raúl Jiménez scored within a nine-minute span in the first half and Mexico defeated Ecuador 2-0 on Tuesday night to break a four-decade drought in the knockout stage and progress to the round of 16.
Quiñones opened the scoring in the 22nd minute and Jiménez added a goal in the 31st for the Mexicans, who had not won a knockout-stage match since defeating Bulgaria in the round of 16 when they hosted the tournament in 1986. Mexico coach Javier Aguirre was one of the starting midfielders in that team in '86.
"It means a lot to me because I am one of those who could not progress in the knockout stage," Aguirre said. "We are in the round of 16 and it is happening a great connection with the fans. We are like a family. It is spectacular."



Mexico lost seven consecutive times at that same stage from 1994 to 2018 and didn't advance past the group stage in 2022.
Aguirre, who returned as Mexico's head coach in August of 2024, was an assistant in 1994 and was the coach in 2002 and 2010.
"We will be on high alert from here until Sunday. We will try to have the players recover from this and we will see if we are able to win again," Aguirre said. For Quiñones, it was a third goal in the tournament and he is now El Tri's second-highest scorer in World Cup history behind Luis "Matador" Hernández and Javier "Chicharito" Hernández, who scored four each.
Quiñones, who was the scoring leader in the Saudi Pro League last season, has become the spark in the attack that Mexico lacked in previous World Cups.

MOVIES WATCHLIST

THURSDAY, 2ND JULY

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 AT 09:00 AM, 01:45 PM, 05:00 PM
HINDI - 07:30 PM

INOX SRINAGAR
CALL: 95416 13868
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS