



MHA designates 23 more individuals, including 11 from J&K, as terrorists under UAPA

Close aide of Masood Azhar figures in list
Modi govt committed to eliminating every terror module: Amit Shah

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 04: The Centre on Saturday designated 23 more individuals as terrorists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), including 11 natives of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the move is intended to dismantle terror networks operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a notification adding the names to the Fourth Schedule of the UAPA, taking the total number of individuals notified as terrorists under the law to 57 since the 2019 amendment empowered the Centre to designate individuals as terrorists.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said PM Modi led-government remains committed to its policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism and would continue taking action against those involved in activities targeting India.



In a post on X, Shah said the 23 individuals, affiliated with banned terrorist organisations, had been designated under the UAPA for their alleged involvement in anti-India activities, terrorist attacks, infiltration, arms smuggling, recruitment and financing of terrorism.

Shah said "Pursuing PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision of zero tolerance against terror: the

MHA today declared 23 dreaded terror functionaries affiliated with banned organisations as terrorists under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The designated terrorists are involved in anti-India activities, carrying out terror attacks, inciting terror, trafficking arms, infiltrating through the border, facilitating terrorist organisations, raising

funds and recruiting terrorists. Out of the 23 terrorists announced today, 17 are Pakistani nationals and 6 are Indian nationals. However, all of them at present operate terrorist activities from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir."

An official said that formally designating these individuals as terrorists will not only help dismantle the terror ecosystem by curbing their financial networks, movements, recruitment capabilities, and terror-linked activities, but will also send a strong message of deterrence against anti-national and terrorist acts. Furthermore, it will enhance the capacity of security and law enforcement agencies to initiate coordinated legal, investigative, and preventive actions at both national and international levels.

According to the MHA, 17 of the newly designated individuals are Pakistani nationals while six are Indian nationals. It said all 23 are currently operating from Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. | More on P6

AMARNATH YATRA

LG Sinha urges pilgrims to travel only with valid registration

Chairs high-level review meet; directs depts, security agencies to work in close coordination



Umaisar Gul Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review the overall management and ground situation of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra 2026.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) LG Sinha directed all departments to ensure seamless coordination for the safe and smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police

Nalin Prabhat, senior officers of the Civil Administration, Police, Security Forces, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Intelligence Bureau, Home Department and other concerned agencies.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed pilgrim movement, traffic management, security arrangements, accommodation, registration status and other logistical aspects of the Yatra.

During the meeting, it was observed that an unusually large number of pilgrims have been arriving without valid registration, resulting in long waiting times and

operational challenges.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that the Yatra is being conducted in accordance with the prescribed ceiling on pilgrim movement along the Yatra tracks, as mandated by the Supreme Court, and said strict adherence to the registration schedule is essential to ensure the safety, security and convenience of all pilgrims.

ONLY PILGRIMS POSSESSING VALID REGISTRATION FOR DESIGNATED DATE WILL BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED

He reiterated that only pilgrims | More on P6

The Ghosts of Education

Over 1,500 J&K schools crippled by empty desks, lone teachers

146 schools report zero student enrolment
1355 function with single teachers

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jul 04: There are more teachers than students in 146 schools across Jammu and Kashmir—and in over 1,350 others, the teaching faculty can fit in a single selfie.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Ministry of Education (MoE) has said that in Jammu and Kashmir, at least 146 schools have reported functioning without any student enrolled and over 1,355 other schools are functioning with single teachers.

"141 primary schools and five upper primary schools were reported with zero enrolment," MoE said.

It also said that 1,762 primary schools and 135 upper primary schools had enrolment of less than 15 students, while 5,175 primary schools | More on P6

LG Sinha suspends 8 officials over 'inappropriate content' for school books

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jul 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday ordered suspension of eight officials of School Education Department (SED) for procuring and approving two textbooks containing 'inappropriate' content for school children.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Commissioner Secretary School Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma in an order said that on the orders of LG Sinha eight officials of the department have been placed under suspension with immediate effect.

Sharma in the order said that Samagra Shiksha got the Library Grant for procurement of 'Age Appropriate Books' for 18,328 Government Schools and 394 PM SHRI School and accordingly EOI was floated

"For selection of Age Appropriate Books, 4 Sub Committees of Experts, Academicians from both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions were constituted for selection of Library Books," it reads.

It also said that these sub



committees are for Primary Classes Series (1), Upper Primary Classes Series (2), Secondary Classes Series (3) and Higher Secondary Classes Series (4).

"These four Sub Committees selected 463 books submitted by 364 publishers. Out of these books, two books have been noticed on 03.07.2026 to have inappropriate content," it reads.

The Commissioner Secretary further said, "Accordingly, these books were withdrawn. These two books include 'Personalities and Legends of J&K', authored by Hilal Ahmad and Mr Santosh Meena, published by Oberoi

Book Service, Jammu and 'Great Personalities of Jammu and Kashmir' authored by Dr Sushant Giri, published by Anurag Prakashan, Delhi."

"It has been observed that 123 number of books at Serial-I were supplied to Jammu, Ramban and Udhampur Districts and 128 number of books mentioned at Serial-II were supplied to Jammu and Baramulla Districts," reads the order.

Sharma also said that it has come to the notice of the department that these books have highly inappropriate content, it is quite evident that there was serious negligence, dereliction of duty and lack of proper due diligence was carried out by the members of the Sub Committee Series-IV and Supervisory Officers while recommending such books which contained content related to separatism which has potential for creating law and order situations

"Keeping in view the above facts and circumstances of the matter, the members of the Sub Committee Series-IV appear to be responsible for such serious lapses | More on P6

Let Yatris visit markets to boost Kashmir economy: CM Omar

Welcomes PM Modi's appeal to spend 10% travel budget in Valley

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said Amarnath pilgrims should be allowed to step out of their buses and visit local markets so they can contribute to Kashmir's economy during the annual pilgrimage.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, CM Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said he hoped a large number of

devotees would undertake the Amarnath Yatra, have a smooth darshan and return home safely.

He said the elected government has made all arrangements within its scope, while security, law and order and arrangements related to the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board were being handled by the concerned agencies.

The Chief Minister appealed to pilgrims to pray for | More on P6

DGP directs heightened vigil, strict security measures for SANJY

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 04: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Saturday directed security agencies to maintain a high level of operational preparedness and intensify surveillance across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the safe conduct of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

Chairing a Union Territory-wide security review meeting at the Police Control Room here the DGP, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) assessed the security and logistical arrangements | More on P6

Over 26,000 devotees pay obeisance: Div Com

Says only registered pilgrims allowed to undertake pilgrimage

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 04: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Saturday said that more than 26,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy Amarnath cave shrine during the first two days.

Addressing a joint press conference with IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the Yatra, which commenced on July 3 through the twin routes of Pahalgam and

Baltal, has been witnessing a smooth flow of pilgrims amid elaborate arrangements put in place by the administration and the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

The Divisional Commissioner urged devotees to undertake the pilgrimage | More on P6

Srinagar simmers at 34°C, MeT predicts wet spell from today

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 04: Hot and humid weather continued across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, with most places recording temperatures above normal, while the Meteorological Department predicted widespread precipitation from July 5.

According to the data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 34.0 degrees Celsius, which was 4.4 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 20.0 degrees Celsius, 2.7 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a high of 32.8°C and a low of 18.2°C, both 5.3°C and 2.5°C above normal, respectively. Pahalgam, the tourist resort, registered 26.9°C as the maximum and 14.5°C as



the minimum, while Kupwara recorded 33.5°C and 18.9°C.

Kokernag recorded 30.9°C, Gulmarg 24.4°C, Banihal 31.2°C, Batote 28.2°C, Katra 34.0°C, Bhaderwah 31.4°C, and Jammu city 37.6°C, remaining 1.6°C above normal. The minimum temperature in Jammu settled at 25.9°C, marginally

0.1°C below normal.

No rainfall was recorded at most stations during the day, though Kokernag, Gulmarg, Banihal, Batote and Katra received light rainfall during the previous 24 hours.

WEATHER CONDITIONS TO CHANGE FROM TOMORROW The MeT | More on P6

Srinagar airport withdraws full runway closure; flights to operate all days

Traders term it major relief for tourism, business
Night-time runway maintenance to continue till Oct

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 04: As part of a major relief for air travellers, tourists and the business community, Srinagar Airport on Saturday withdrew the proposed Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) envisaging full runway closure on Mondays and Tuesdays, announcing that flight operations will continue on all days this year.

In an operational update, the airport said there will be no full



CM thanks Centre, says decision will protect tourism, trade

KT News Desk

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday expressed his gratitude to the Government of India for its prompt and positive response to the concerns raised over the proposed runway closure at

Srinagar Airport, stating that the decision to suspend the closure would ensure uninterrupted air connectivity to Jammu & Kashmir and provide much-needed relief to passengers and the tourism sector. The Chief Minister had personally taken up the matter with the Government of India to | More on P6

Div Com Kashmir chairs Airfield Environment Management Committee Meeting

‘Convene coordination meeting with all concerned departments to expedite development of connectivity between Ring Road and airport’

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 04: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Saturday chaired a meeting of the Airfield Environment Management Committee to review critical issues concerning aviation safety and environmental management around Air Force Station (AFS) Srinagar.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama and Anantnag, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Director Airport Authority, senior officers of Indian Air Force, and representatives of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

A comprehensive review was conducted on a range of issues impacting airfield safety and operational preparedness, including the construction of an emergency access road, regulation of brick kilns in the vicinity of the airfield, scientific management of solid waste, removal of unlit obstructions affecting flight operations, and measures to curb the menace of stray dogs in and around the airport.

During the meeting, officials informed the chair that Air Force Station Srinagar has three designated emergency exit gates for launching search and rescue operations in the event of an aviation



emergency. However, one of the emergency gates on the north-western side does not meet the operational requirements for the movement of Crash Fire Tenders.

Taking note of the issue, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to convene a coordination meeting with all concerned departments to expedite the development of connectivity between the Ring Road and the airport. He also instructed that the feasibility and construction of an emergency access road be taken up on priority

to strengthen emergency response capabilities.

Reviewing the issue of brick kilns operating within an eight-kilometre radius of AFS Srinagar, the Divisional Commissioner observed that a standard operating procedure is already in place under which brick kilns remain closed from November to March to maintain visibility and ensure safe aircraft operations during the winter season. The meeting also assessed the progress of the solid waste management project at the Achan-Soura dumping site, a key initiative aimed at reducing bird

activity that poses a significant hazard to aircraft.

The Commissioner, SMC, informed the meeting that work on the project is progressing steadily and is expected to be completed by June 2028.

Emphasising the need for a coordinated approach to waste management, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to strengthen solid waste collection and disposal mechanisms in villages surrounding the airfield, noting that indiscriminate garbage dumping attracts birds and adversely impacts aviation safety.

The committee further reviewed the issue of unlit obstructions that pose risks to safe flying operations. It was decided that telecom service providers would be directed to ensure proper illumination of communication towers, while a detailed survey would be undertaken to identify and rectify other unlit structures in the aircraft operational area.

Addressing the growing menace of stray dogs within and around the airport, the Divisional Commissioner described the issue as a serious threat to both air operations and public safety. He instructed the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, to get the issue addressed at the earliest.

NMJKA DIPR organises seminar on drug abuse awareness at GBHSS Gulab Bagh



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 04: As part of the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Saturday organised an awareness seminar on drug abuse at Government Boys' Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Gulab Bagh, Srinagar.

The seminar, as per an official statement, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who shared their views on the harmful effects of drug abuse and highlighted the importance of making informed choices to build a healthy and addiction-free society.

Speaking on the occasion, Cultural Officer Kashmir, Abdul Raqib Bhat and AECO, Syed Shakeel Shan underscored the need for collective community action to combat the growing menace of drug abuse. They stressed that Kashmir, renowned for its rich Sufi heritage, has always stood

for values of peace, spirituality, and moral integrity, leaving no room for social evils such as substance abuse. They urged students to become ambassadors of awareness within their families and communities.

The Principal, Oosia Jabeen appreciated the initiative undertaken by DIPR and assured the institution's full cooperation in organising similar awareness programmes in the future to educate and empower the younger generation.

Vice Principal, Mumtaz Hussain, who conducted the proceedings, expressed gratitude to the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising the seminar and for its sustained efforts in promoting social awareness through meaningful outreach programmes.

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants were felicitated with awards in recognition of their active participation and valuable contributions to the programme

37 vehicles Challenged during enforcement drive in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JULY 04: On the directions of the Transport Commissioner, J&K, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, and the Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, a special enforcement drive was conducted by the ARTO Bandipora team across the district to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and the notified fare regulations.

The drive, as per an official statement, primarily focused on checking overcharging by auto-rickshaw drivers and curbing illegal parking, particularly on Hospital Road and at Kalooa, where complaints had been received from the general public.

During the enforcement drive, a total of 37 vehicles were challenged under various provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules, with an expected revenue realization of approximately 39,500. In addition, three auto-rickshaws were seized for serious violations.

To safeguard the interests of commuters and ensure transparency in fare collection, the ARTO Bandipora team also displayed the notified fare lists inside e-autos so that passengers can easily verify the prescribed fares and report any instances of overcharging.

The ARTO Bandipora reiterated its commitment to ensuring safe, lawful and passenger-friendly public transport services and appealed to all transport operators to strictly adhere to the notified fare structure and traffic regulations. The general public has also been urged to report any violations to the concerned authorities for prompt action.

40 farmers flagged off for 7-day Interstate Exposure Training to Himachal Pradesh

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, JULY 04: In a significant initiative to promote modern and diversified agricultural practices, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Ravi Kumar Sihag Saturday flagged off a contingent of 40 farmers for a seven-day interstate exposure-cum-training programme at CSK HPKV, Palampur (HP) under the ATMA (SMAE) 2026-27 programme. The Chief Agriculture Officer Rajouri Rajesh Verma, as per an official statement, along with officers of the Agriculture Department were present on the occasion. The exposure visit has been organised to pro-

vide farmers with practical knowledge and firsthand experience of advanced agricultural technologies and successful farming models. During the training, the participants will be exposed to mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, protected cultivation, horticulture, integrated farming systems, value addition and other innovative farming practices.

The ADC encouraged the farmers to actively participate in the training and learn the techniques thoroughly. He urged them to adopt the best practices on their own farms after returning and share the knowledge with other farmers so that the benefits of modern agriculture reach a wider farming community.

Mission YUVA implementation reviewed in Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JULY 04: A review meeting on the implementation of Mission YUVA was held Saturday, under the chairmanship of Altaf Ahmad Khan, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, in his office chamber. The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Lead District Manager (LDM),

Career Counselling Officer (CCO), Employment Officer (EO), District Programme Manager (DPM), NRLM, Block Programme Managers (BPMs), NRLM, members of the Mission YUVA Team, and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under Mission YUVA was undertaken, with special emphasis on the progress

achieved under Udyam Jagriti 5.0, registration of beneficiaries, counselling, mobilisation, credit linkage, and other programme components. The performance of all concerned departments and agencies was reviewed in detail, and the gaps affecting the achievement of targets were discussed.

The Chair directed all concerned officers to focus on the KPIs where the district

is lagging behind and to take immediate corrective measures for improving performance. He stressed the need for close coordination among all stakeholder departments, timely updation of data on the Mission YUVA portal, regular field-level monitoring, and expeditious disposal of all pending tasks to ensure achievement of the prescribed targets within the stipulated timelines.

Govt of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT SHOPIAN

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications on the prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from eligible female candidates belonging to the Panchayat Wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below-mentioned Panchayat Halqa/Municipal Wards for engagement as Sanganis (Anganwadi Workers) for the Anganwadi Centres under POSHAN Project Shopian, on honorarium basis.

The applications, duly filled in and accompanied by all requisite documents, shall be submitted in the office of the undersigned, i.e., Child Development Project Officer, Shopian, from the commencement date 07.07.2026 up to the closing date 25.07.2026, during office hours, against proper receipt.

Vacancy of Sanganis(AWWs)

S.no	Name of Poshan Project	Name of the Panchayat Halqa/Municipal Ward	Panch Ward No M. Ward No	Name of AWC
1	Shopian	Reban	01	Khujpora
2		Zainapora	02	Zainapora- B
3		Memender -B	16	Shahlatoo -A
4		Bemnipora -A	04	Hanjipora
5		C.S.Khan	06	Kumdalan -A
6		Ramnagri- A	05	Ganie Moh. Ramnagri

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SANGINIS (ANGANWADI WORKERS)

Female candidates in the age group of 18 to 37 years shall be eligible.

The candidate must be a domicile of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

The candidate must be a resident of the Electoral Ward where the Anganwadi Centre is located.

• Appearance of the candidate's name in the voter list of the concerned ward shall be considered as proof of residence.

• In case the candidate's name appears in the voter list along with her parents, she must submit a certificate of being unmarried, issued by the concerned Tehsildar. 0 Minimum educational qualification: 10+2 pass.

Maximum qualification: Graduation.

Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2, and selection shall be made purely on academic merit basis.

No interview shall be conducted.

0 In case an eligible candidate is available from the family of a retired AWW/AWH, the candidate shall be granted additional two percent (2%) points.

0 Candidates possessing qualifications higher than Graduation shall not be considered.

DOCUMENTS TO BE ATTACHED WITH APPLICATION FORM (SELF-ATTESTED COPIES)

• Panch Ward Certificate / Present & Continuous Ward Residence Certificate issued by the concerned BDO.

• Copy of the relevant page of the Electoral Roll of the concerned ward in which the candidate's name is included.

• Domicile Certificate issued by the concerned Tehsildar.

• Date of Birth Certificate.

• Academic Qualification Certificates and Marks Card of 10+2.

• In case the candidate belongs to the family of a retired AWW/AWH, a copy of the e-Ration Card.

• Non-Employment Certificate issued by a Gazetted Officer.

• Unmarried Certificate Issued by the concerned Tehsildar.

• Self-addressed envelope affixed with a postage stamp of T5J-. 1) Affidavit declaring the maximum educational qualification of the candidate.

Child Dev. Project Officer
Poshan Project Shopian

No: CDPO/SPN/Advt/2026/328-41

Dated:- 24-06-2026

S.NO: _____ (ANNEXURE-I) Date: _____

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SANGINI (ANGANWADI WORKER)

- Name of the District: - Shopian
- Name of the ICDS Project: - Shopian
- Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought
- Panch Ward/MC Ward Panchayat Halqa..
- Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters)
- Fathers Name (In Block Letters)
- Marital Status: - Married Ain Married
- Husbands Name (if married)
- Place of Permanent Residence.....Village.....
- Mohalla.....
- Panch Ward Constituency
- Name of the Panchayat Halqa
- House No.....(As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral) Block
- Address for CorrespondenceMobile No.....
- Date of Birth.....

Photograph of the applicant duly attested by Gazetted Officer

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

12. Age as on 01-01-2026

S.No	Examination passed	Board/School	Year of passing	Marks Obtained	Max. Marks	%age
1	10+2					
2	Graduation					

Do candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH (Yes/No).

1. Documents attached.

Panch Ward Certificate / Present & Continuous Ward Residence Certificate issued by the concerned BDO. Copy of the relevant page of the Electoral Roll of the concerned ward in which the candidate's name is included.

4¹ Domicile Certificate issued by the concerned Tehsildar.

Date of Birth Certificate.

○ Academic Qualification Certificates and Marks Card of 10+2.

44 In case the candidate belongs to the family of a retired AWW/AWH, a copy of the e-Ration Card. 4⁴ Non-Employment Certificate issued by a Gazetted Officer.

○ Unmarried Certificate issued by the concerned Tehsildar.

• Self-addressed envelope affixed with a postage stamp of 5f-.

○ Affidavit declaring the maximum educational qualification of the candidate.

Signature of Candidate

UNDERTAKING

I D/o, W/o.....

R/o hereby certify that the contents of

the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.

DIPK-2881/26
DATED: 04-07-2026

Signature of Candidate

Samagra Shiksha book controversy

Sakina Itoo terms separatist leader names in textbooks a 'deliberate attempt'



Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jul 04: Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Saturday termed the inclusion of separatist leaders names in school textbooks a 'deliberate attempt,' warning that those found responsible will face strict action, including termination from duty. Speaking to the reporters, Min-

ister Itoo said, "As soon as the issue of the two textbooks carrying the 'inappropriate content' came to my notice, I immediately asked the secretary of the School Education Department to terminate those persons."

She said that suspension orders against eight staff members of the department have been issued and investigation has also been initiated.

"Strict action will be taken against those who will be found involved in the inquiry report. These things won't be tolerated," Itoo said.

The Minister said, "I also believe that this is a deliberate attempt of including the names of separatist leaders in these books and whosoever will be involved in it will face a strict action and termination from the duties and that is the reason suspension orders have been issued as well."

"The publishers will be banned permanently and if they were found involved in hatching any sort of conspiracy, they will not be allowed to publish any book ever," she said—(KNO)

Delegations call on LG Manoj Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 04: A delegation led by Shah Nawaz Shafi, Principal, Spring Buds Educational Institute, Ompora Budgam called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday.

Subsequently, Kamran Manzoor, Social Activist from Anantnag, and Shri Rehmatt Bashir, author and astrologer also called on the Lieutenant Governor. In the meantime, a delegation of Janata Dal (United), led by its J&K President G.M. Shaheen, called

on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed promotion of tourism in J&K. The members of the delegation also raised various concerns regarding matters of stakeholders associated with the tourism sector, and welfare issues of daily wagers.

Meanwhile, Haji Farooq Ahmed Mir, former Vice Chairman District Development Council Kupwara called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and projected various public important issues of the district including Degree college, Medical Block for North Lolab,

Auditorium and fire station at Lolab. Furthermore, Mohd Rafiq Shah, former MLC and District President BJP Kupwara called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and projected various developmental issues of border areas.

In the meantime, a delegation of Shri Shri Jagat Amba Sharika Chakreshwar Sanstha called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed various issues pertaining to conservation and development of the revered Sharika Temple in Srinagar.

Elderly woman mauled by stray dog in Nowgam

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar: What began as a routine step outside her home turned into a nightmare for 72-year-old Azzia Begum, a resident of Gulshan Nagar, Nowgam, after she was brutally attacked by a stray dog.

The elderly woman sustained severe facial injuries, including serious trauma to one of her eyes, and required multiple stitches.

Family members said that the injuries were so extensive that doctors have advised her to undergo reconstructive (plastic) surgery.

Her son, Manzoor Ahmad, described the incident as devastating.

"My 72-year-old mother had only stepped outside when a stray dog suddenly attacked her. She suffered deep injuries to her face and eye, and doctors have told us that she will now need reconstructive surgery. No family should have to witness an elderly woman endure such pain," he said.

He urged the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to tackle the growing stray dog menace before another innocent person suffers a similar ordeal.

The incident has once again raised
Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

CWC mandates CCTV in school buses

Orders child protection panels in schools

KNO

Srinagar, Jul 04: The Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Srinagar on Saturday issued a circular directing all government and private schools to implement mandatory child protection and safeguarding measures, including installation of CCTV cameras in school buses, constitution of Child Protection Committees.

The committee further stressed implementation of compulsory training of staff on child protection laws. According to the circular, the CWC, functioning as a Bench of the First Class Judicial Magistrate under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, said the directions have been issued to ensure a safe, secure and child-friendly environment in all educational institutions.

The committee has directed that all teaching, non-teaching and support staff, including transport personnel shall undergo mandatory periodic training on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO)



Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, mandatory reporting obligations, positive discipline and child safeguarding practices.

To strengthen transport safety, the CWC directed that no school bus or van shall carry children beyond the approved seating capacity and all prescribed transport safety norms shall be followed without exception.

It also said that every school bus and van must be equipped with functional CCTV cameras covering the passenger compartment, with the surveillance system remaining operational throughout the journey. "The recordings shall be preserved

and produced before competent authorities whenever required."

The circular also directs schools to conduct regular awareness and sensitisation programmes on peer bullying, cyberbullying, ragging, emotional abuse, discrimination and conflict resolution.

CWC asked to establish an effective anti-bullying mechanism along with a confidential reporting system to enable students to report grievances without fear.

Schools have further been directed to organise periodic age-appropriate awareness sessions on personal safety, body autonomy, good touch and

bad touch, personal boundaries, online safety and the importance of reporting any form of abuse to trusted adults or designated authorities.

The CWC has instructed educational institutions to adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment, intimidation or abusive behaviour by students against female teachers and women staff members, while ensuring appropriate counselling and disciplinary action in accordance with law and institutional policy.

The Committee further asked schools to constitute and operationalise a Child Protection Committee or School Safety Committee to oversee implementation of child protection measures, address complaints promptly and periodically review safeguarding practices.

Schools were also directed to ensure regular engagement of counsellors or trained professionals for awareness programmes and counselling sessions on child protection, mental health and emotional well-being. Institutions have also been asked to

organise value-based education sessions and co-curricular activities to promote empathy, compassion, mutual respect, discipline and gender sensitivity among students.

To improve access to emergency assistance, the committee has made it mandatory for schools to prominently display the Child Helpline number 1098 in bold letters at conspicuous locations, including the main entrance, notice boards, corridors, staff rooms, counselling rooms and on the rear glass of every school bus and van.

Reiterating the statutory obligations under the POCSO Act, 2012 and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, the CWC directed all school authorities to report every case of suspected child abuse, neglect, exploitation or any offence against a child to the Special Juvenile Police Unit or the police and other competent authorities without delay.

The committee warned that failure to report such incidents would amount to

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

MLAs call on CM Omar Abdullah



KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 04: Several Legislators called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita here today and apprised him of various developmental and constituency-specific issues requiring the government's attention.

Among those who met the Chief Minister were MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, and MLA Banihal, Sajad Shaheen. The legislators highlighted a range of issues concerning infrastructure development, public services and other matters related to their respective constituencies. The

Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the legislators and discussed the issues raised by them in detail. He assured them that all genuine concerns projected during the meetings would be examined on priority and addressed in a time-bound manner.

Reiterating his government's commitment to equitable development and responsive governance, the Chief Minister said that the concerns and aspirations of the people from every region of Jammu and Kashmir would continue to receive focused attention to ensure balanced and inclusive development.

Mughal Road sees unprecedented tourist flow

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 04: The historic Mughal Road, the picturesque highway linking Shopian in south Kashmir with Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu division, is witnessing an unprecedented influx of tourists and commuters this summer. The growing popularity of the scenic route has, however, brought into sharp focus the glaring absence of basic infrastructure and public facilities, prompting locals, transporters and tourism stakeholders to demand immediate government intervention.

The 84-kilometre road, renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, alpine meadows and historic significance, has emerged as one of Jammu and Kashmir's most sought-after tourist destinations. Every day, hundreds of vehicles carrying local tourists, families and adventure enthusiasts pass through iconic spots such as Peer Ki Gali, Dubjan and Aliabad Sarai.

However, while the number of visitors continues to increase, commuters say the infrastructure has failed to



keep pace with the growing traffic. Officials said that tourist arrivals on the Mughal Road have witnessed a significant rise over the past few months, particularly during weekends and holidays, as visitors from both Kashmir and the Pir Panjal region flock to the high-altitude destinations to escape the summer heat.

Despite being declared a National Highway nearly three years ago, travellers

say the route continues to lack even the most basic facilities required for a safe and comfortable journey.

"The natural beauty is unmatched, but once you enter the road, you are virtually cut off from the outside world. There is no mobile network for long stretches, no emergency assistance, no public washrooms and very few places where families can stop and rest," said Shuby Jan, a tourist from Srinagar

who recently visited Peer Ki Gali with her family.

Regular commuters said the absence of roadside services makes travelling on the highway particularly difficult in the event of mechanical failures or emergencies.

"The stretch between Hirpora and Peer Ki Gali is breathtaking, but if a vehicle develops a fault, there is no mechanic or recovery service nearby. Travellers are left stranded for hours," said Abdul Majid, a driver who frequently uses the route.

Local transporters highlighted the lack of food outlets and essential services across several sections of the road. "There are stretches extending beyond 20 kilometres without a single shop, restaurant or tea stall. Tourists and commuters have no option but to carry everything with them. This discourages many people from choosing the route," said Fayaz Ahmed, a transporter from Rajouri. Safety remains another major concern, especially in emergencies where communication becomes nearly impossible.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

JKCPJ organises mental health session in Srinagar



Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 04: The Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Peace and Justice (JKCPJ) on Saturday organised Chapter 4 of "Let's Connect" at Polo Ground Park, bringing together participants for an engaging session focused on mental health, self-awareness, and peer support.

The session created a safe and welcoming space where participants explored themselves through interactive activities while building meaningful connections with one another. The programme emphasised the importance of emotional well-being and the role of peer support in fostering resilience and community.

Participants took part in a series of thoughtfully designed activities, including Unique Introduction,

Drawing a River, and the Ice Water Game, each encouraging self-reflection, communication, trust, and emotional expression. These activities helped participants better understand themselves while strengthening their ability to support others.

Speaking on the occasion, JKCPJ Director Nadir Ali said, "Mental health begins with connection. Through Let's Connect, we aim to create spaces where people feel heard, understood, and empowered to support one another. Peer support reminds us that healing becomes easier when no one has to face their struggles alone."

Sharing his experience, participant Fasil said, "Today's session helped me understand myself in a
Continued on
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Teen drowns in Jhelum near Lasjan

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Jul 04: A 13-year-old boy drowned in the River Jhelum near the Lasjan area of Srinagar on Saturday, triggering a search operation by rescue teams, officials said.

They said the search operation continued till late Saturday evening but was suspended due to poor visibility. The operation will resume with the first light on Sunday.

An official said that the boy was bathing in the river when he accidentally slipped into deep waters and drowned.

Soon after the incident, teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), assisted by police, launched an extensive search operation. Despite several hours of effort, rescue personnel were unable to trace the boy.

The victim was identified as Lukman Javed Malik (13), son of Javed Ahmad Malik, a resident of Lasjan, Srinagar.

Meanwhile, anxious locals, who remained gathered along the riverbank throughout the operation, urged the authorities to deploy additional rescue boats and equipment, saying more resources were needed to expedite the search and recovery operation.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident, while the SDRF and other rescue agencies are expected to resume the search operation early Sunday morning—(KNO)

E20 Ethanol Blending: Facts Vs Misinformation

10 Point-Wise Responses To Misleading Claims On Social Media

1. The "10,000 Litres of Water" Myth
THE CLAIM: "Producing 1 litre of ethanol consumes 10,000 litres of water" – FALSE
THE FACTS:

Farmers grow paddy and wheat because of MSP and assured FCI procurement for food security – not because of ethanol demand. Only surplus rice, cleared by DFPP after national food security requirements are met, is diverted to ethanol. Attributing the entire agricultural water footprint of paddy to ethanol is fundamentally incorrect.

- Actual water use at an ethanol plant: only 3–5 litres of processed water per litre of ethanol.
- Modern distilleries operate Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) technology to recycle water.

- Maize – now over 40% of EBP ethanol supply – needs partial irrigation on only ~29% of its acreage and yields 360–400 litres of ethanol per tonne.

- Maize MSP has risen from ~Rs. 1,300/ qtl a decade ago to ~Rs. 2,400/ qtl, actively incentivising farmers to shift away from water-intensive paddy.

2. The "Untested Experiment" Myth
THE CLAIM: "E20 is a risky experiment India is trying out on its citizens" – FALSE
THE FACTS:

Ethanol has powered vehicles for over a century. Henry Ford called it the "fuel of the future" – the 1908 Model T could run on pure ethanol, gasoline, kerosene, or any combination.

- USA: E10 is the standard fuel; E15 is expanding with US Government backing; millions of Flex Fuel Vehicles run up to E85.

- Brazil: mandates E27 today and has decided to raise it to about 35%. Over 80% of new passenger vehicles are Flex Fuel.

- Canada, Thailand, Japan (E10) and several European nations have adopted ethanol blending.

India's E20 programme is consistent with international best practice – not a departure from it.

3. The "Drastic Mileage Drop" Myth
THE CLAIM: "E20 causes a drastic drop in vehicle mileage" – MISLEADING
THE FACTS:

Extensive ARAI-led field trials (with IOCL, IIP-Dehradun and SIAM) covered 40,000 km on cars and 20,000 km on two-wheelers and showed no significant negative effect. Any efficiency decline observed was only marginal.

Mileage is influenced by many factors



beyond fuel type: driving habits, maintenance (oil changes, air filters), tyre pressure and alignment, and air-conditioning load.

Ethanol's high octane (~108.5 RON vs petrol's 84.4) means vehicles tuned for E20 deliver better acceleration and ride quality – crucial in city driving. Its higher heat of vaporisation cools the intake, increasing air-fuel mixture density and volumetric efficiency.

4. The "Engine Damage & Corrosion" Myth

THE CLAIM: "E20 damages and corrodes engine parts" – FALSE
THE FACTS:

The Government tasked ARAI in September 2014 with a dedicated study on material compatibility and emission performance with E20, conducted with IOCL, IIP-Dehradun and SIAM. The findings:

- No issues in drivability, startability, metal compatibility or plastic compatibility.

- Only in certain older vehicles, some rubber parts and gaskets may need earlier replacement – that is the full extent of it.

- Carbon monoxide emissions fell ~50% in two-wheelers and ~30% in four-wheelers; unburnt hydrocarbons fell ~20% versus

normal gasoline.

Any future move beyond E20 will happen only after detailed ARAI testing and validation across vehicle categories, in consultation with automobile manufacturers.

5. The "Insurance & Warranty Void" Myth
THE CLAIM: "Insurance companies and car manufacturers will deny claims if you use E20" – FALSE
THE FACTS:

Insurance companies and OEMs have clarified that use of E20 fuel has no impact on the validity of insurance or warranty of vehicles in India.

SIAM, speaking on behalf of the entire Indian automobile industry, has categorically stated that applicable warranty coverage will continue to be honoured for vehicles operating on E20 fuel meeting the required specifications.

PIB Fact Check confirmed this misinformation as incorrect via its post on X dated 16.06.2026.

6. The "Ants & Bees on Fuel Caps" Myth
THE CLAIM: "Ants and bees are attracted to fuel tanks because E20 contains sugar" – NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS
THE FACTS:

BPCL examined these viral claims. The science is clear:

- Fuel-grade ethanol is produced through fermentation and distillation processes that eliminate residual sugars from the final product.

- Fuel ethanol contains denaturants, which are repellent to insects.

- After blending, petrol's characteristic hydrocarbon odour dominates any ethanol odour.

- Ethanol-blended petrol actually forms less fuel vapour than conventional petrol.

There is no identifiable attractant in E20 fuel. The claims have no scientific basis. (BPCL clarification on X, 17.06.2026.)

7. The "Government Called E20 an Experiment in Court" Myth

THE CLAIM: "The Government told the Supreme Court that E20 is an experiment to be assessed next year" – FALSE
THE FACTS:

The Supreme Court proceedings did not concern the merits of the EBP Programme at all. The matter related to interpretation of contractual provisions for ethanol procurement by OMCs from Dedicated Ethanol Plants – the annual allocation methodology and the "best endeavour" clause.

The Office of the Attorney General for India issued a detailed clarification on 30.06.2026, stating in explicit terms that any suggestion the Government described E20 as an "experiment" before the Court is incorrect and does not represent the submissions made on behalf of the Union of India. The AGI's office also cautioned the media to report judicial proceedings with due accuracy.

8. The "Water in Fuel Tanks" Myth
THE CLAIM: "E20 causes water to enter vehicle fuel tanks" – FALSE
THE FACTS:

As clarified by MoP&NG's Press Release dated 23.06.2026: entry of water into a fuel tank is undesirable for any fuel – ethanol blended or otherwise.

- Modern vehicles are equipped with design features and safeguards to prevent water entry into fuel tanks.

- Underground tanks at retail outlets carry all necessary safety gear – silica gel traps, gaskets, sealants – to prevent water ingress into petrol/diesel tanks.

9. The "Sugarcane Juice Mixed in Petrol" Fake Videos

THE CLAIM: "Viral videos show sugarcane juice being mixed directly into petrol,

and petrol 'separating'" – FAKE
THE FACTS:

MoP&NG has made it clear these claims are misleading and baseless. Ethanol used for fuel blending is produced through established industrial processes and conforms to stringent quality specifications before blending.

Videos showing "separated" petrol are fake – deliberately created to spread falsehood. Ethanol blended petrol does not separate at room temperature.

10. The "Ethanol Plants Harm Farmers & Environment" Myth

THE CLAIM: "Ethanol plants deplete groundwater, pollute, and hurt agriculture" – THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE
THE FACTS:

Modern ethanol plants require environmental clearance from MoEF&CC, must comply with groundwater norms, mandate Zero Liquid Discharge systems, and generally run on biomass-based electricity. Ethanol's carbon is biogenic – no net increase in carbon emissions at the tailpipe.

And the EBP Programme's record for farmers and the nation (ESY 2014-15 to May 2026):

- Foreign exchange savings exceeding Rs. 1.90 lakh crore.

- Expedited payments of more than Rs. 1.60 lakh crore to farmers.

- CO₂ emissions reduced by approximately 930 lakh metric tonnes.

- Crude oil substitution of more than 310 lakh metric tonnes.

Ethanol blending rose from a meagre 1.5% in 2013-14 (38 crore litres) to 20% in December 2025 – achieved ahead of schedule – with projected procurement of over 1,200 crore litres in ESY 2025-26 and installed capacity of 2,000 crore litres.

Official References

- MoP&NG PIB Release dated 12.08.2025 (PRID 2155558).

- PIB Fact-Check post on X dated 16.06.2026.

- BPCL post on X dated 17.06.2026 (ants/bees claim).

- MoP&NG PIB Release dated 23.06.2026 (misleading claims and old images).

- PIB Release dated 30.06.2026 (clarification on Supreme Court proceedings in BPCL's SLP on ethanol allocation).

Source: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas – "Ethanol Blending Programme in India: A Journey"

Will AI Yield Abundance Without Purpose?

Some meaning will emerge organically. But will it be felt broadly enough to replace what work once supplied?

Carl Benedikt Frey

In Kurt Vonnegut's 1952 novel "Player Piano," machines have automated most industries, leaving just a few engineers and managers to oversee things. Everyone else is fed and housed by the state, with nothing to do.

Was Vonnegut prescient? Whether artificial intelligence will render a large share of the workforce redundant is of course unknowable. But we do already know that AI poses challenges in two critical dimensions of human flourishing: happiness and meaning.

In terms of happiness, automating much of our work should make us richer, on average, and that should lead to higher life satisfaction. Research finds that doubling your income lifts how you rate your life by a similar amount, whether you are rich or poor. The challenge that AI poses here is one of redistribution.

Meaning is different. As Betsey Stevenson of the University of Michigan shows in her analysis of the cross-country evidence, reported meaning and purpose do not track income growth the same way. Work supplies more than money. Joblessness harms mental health even when incomes are fully replaced. Alongside a paycheck, work offers structure and a sense of belonging, status and contribution. These attributes cannot easily be redistributed.

In fact, AI threatens meaning in at least three ways. To undermine your sense of purpose, AI does not have to be better than you, only functionally adequate and cheaper. It is one thing to be surpassed by something truly extraordinary; it is another thing to be made irrelevant by something merely good enough.

Moreover, AI-powered entertainment and companionship could capture enough of people's time and social appetite to displace the more challenging activities that generate meaning. By offering a frictionless sense of connection, AI could crowd out the effort – the obligations, reciprocity, selflessness and



inconveniences – that real relationships require. AI companionship asks nothing of us. It is consumption dressed up as connection.

Digital life has already reshaped human connection and not always for the better. Across the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, face-to-face interaction has declined and heavy social media use tracks lower well-being among the young. None of this is AI's doing (yet) but it does suggest that easier digital connection does not reliably deepen the human variety. Convenience tends to win out, even when people know that the alternative is better for them.

Lastly, meaning is rarely produced from a state of comfort. It comes from effort in the service of a chosen goal, be it raising a child or mastering a craft. What people value, in retrospect, is not ease but having struggled toward something that mattered. If AI removes friction at scale, it may remove one of the raw materials from which meaning is made. This may explain why richer societies report more comfort without more purpose.

True, not all work will disappear even if AI exceeds human capabilities. Humans did not stop playing chess when computers surpassed them. People still run, cook, make music, build furniture and pay a premium for live performances. Meaning comes from competition, mastery and self-expression within human-scaled constraints, not from generating optimal outputs. The value of human effort can grow even as human performance declines.

But this principle has limits. It works where activities are social, embodied and have a tradition of amateur practice, but not where meaning has come entirely from professional prestige or economic necessity. Chess was always a game even if someone made it a job; the same cannot be said for back-office accounting. Moreover, even where meaning may survive, it will live in the process rather than the result. Before the 2025 Open Championship, Scottie Scheffler said that winning a golf trophy is gratifying but fleeting ("awesome for two minutes").

The daily work of mastery is what confers a more enduring sense of meaning.

A common, reassuring refrain from AI boosters is that the meaning problem will solve itself: If AI gives us more time, we will become more rooted in family, place and community, the way people were before industrialization bundled meaning into paid employment. Perhaps that will be true for some people. But preindustrial rootedness was sustained by conditions – low mobility, kinship obligations, religion, local necessity – that were often constraining and sometimes oppressive. We should not wish them back, nor would they reappear automatically with mass leisure.

Material abundance alone does not recreate the structures from which meaning was once drawn. Consider Sweden. It combines a robust welfare state and very high life satisfaction with an unusually large share of single-person households and evidence that younger adults have less meaning in their lives than older ones.

Of course, some meaning will emerge organically. But the question is whether it will be felt broadly enough to replace what work once supplied. There is little reason to assume so. Higher incomes can reduce stress but they do not necessarily produce a role that others depend on, a community that notices your absence or a challenge worth struggling with. Those require functioning traditions of participation and institutions that sustain it.

The institutions that once provided sources of meaning – unions, professions, churches, schools, civic associations – were built over time, through a mix of local initiative and public support. The same will be true of what comes next. We can think of it as meaning infrastructure: the institutions through which people find roles, recognition and a sense of being needed.

What makes such institutions durable is not goodwill but a simple principle: prestige should follow performance. Show up reliably and you earn a voice. Master a craft and you earn recognition. Mentor others and you earn status. Take responsibility for a shared task and you earn authority.

Far from ending the competition for status, abundance would merely redirect it. This new competition would then need to be civilized, such as by expanding what counts as a contribution worth honoring. How this happens will differ from place to place. Societies with strong families, dense civic institutions and high social trust will find it easier; those without will have to build from less. But the challenge would be the same everywhere and no amount of abundance would solve it.

• Carl Benedikt Frey, Associate Professor of AI & Work at the Oxford Internet Institute and Director of the Future of Work Program at the Oxford Martin School, is the author, most recently, of "How Progress Ends: Technology, Innovation, and the Fate of Nations" (Princeton University Press, 2025).
Source: Project Syndicate

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Refrain from investing in unregistered real estate projects: JK RERA

Inspects various Illegal Colonies across multiple locations

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 04: The Jammu & Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JK RERA) has issued a strong advisory to the general public, requesting citizens to refrain from investing in real estate projects that are not registered with the Authority.

The advisory, as per an official statement, follows a series of stringent enforcement actions on the ground. Under the supervision of the Chairperson of JK RERA, Satish Chandra, a team of officers including Deputy Secretary JK RERA, Esha Chib, and Naib Tehsildar, Gias-ud-din carried out extensive inspections of various illegal and unregistered colonies across multiple locations. The enforcement drive targeted unauthorized developments at 90 Feet Road, Nowgam, Zakoor, and Gulab Bagh in Srinagar, as well as several areas in Budgam district.

To protect hard-earned money and avoid falling into legal or financial traps, JK RERA strongly advises prospective buyers to follow a strict verification process before making any financial commitments. Before investing or booking a property, citizens must first ensure that the real



estate project is explicitly registered with the JK RERA. If a project lacks a valid RERA registration number, individuals should not invest in that project under any circumstances.

Furthermore, buyers must ensure that the real estate agent facilitating the transaction is also registered with JK RERA. Under the Real Estate Act 2016, only a RERA-registered real estate agent is authorized to market, promote, or facilitate transactions for a RERA-registered real estate project.

Dealing with unregistered individuals or entities leaves buyers exposed to significant risks. Investing in unregistered

projects or dealing with unregistered agents strips buyers of their legal protections under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act.

Chairperson, JK RERA, Satish Chandra, reiterated the Authority's commitment to bringing transparency and accountability to the region's real estate sector. He warned developers and agents operating without valid registration to halt activities immediately or face strict legal and penal action. He further advised citizens to verify the registration status of both projects and agents by visiting the official JK RERA portal before finalizing any property deals.

MP Jugal Kishore chairs DISHA meeting at Reasi

Reviews progress of centrally sponsored schemes, development works

KT News Desk

REASI, JULY 04: Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) at Reasi to review the implementation, progress and monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and flagship programmes being executed across the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, focused on assessing the physical and financial progress of major developmental schemes and ensuring effective implementation of welfare initiatives aimed at improving public service delivery and accelerating district development.

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek gave a detailed presentation highlighting the current status, achievements and progress under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in the district. A comprehensive review was undertaken of key programmes including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Jal Jeevan Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, besides schemes related to Health, Education, Power and Rural Development sectors. The meeting witnessed



threadbare deliberations on the ground-level implementation of these schemes, with detailed discussions on achievements, challenges and bottlenecks affecting timely execution. Special emphasis was laid on improving inter-departmental coordination, expediting pending works and ensuring timely completion of ongoing projects.

Reviewing the overall progress, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma issued a series of directions covering a wide range of developmental works across the district. He stressed that completed schemes should be made operational without unnecessary delay so that the intended benefits reach the public at the earliest. He further directed that all stalled works be revived through timely intervention and appropriate remedial measures to prevent delays in public service delivery.

During the meeting, the MP directed concerned officers to organize extensive awareness camps across the district to sensitize the public about the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. He emphasized that wider outreach and awareness generation are essential to ensure that eligible households are fully informed about the scheme and motivated to avail its benefits. He asked the concerned departments to strengthen IEC activities and facilitate smooth registration and implementation for beneficiaries.

He also raised concerns regarding road infrastructure and urged the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to take immediate steps for repair and widening of roads to ensure smooth and hassle-free movement of traffic. He highlighted that improved

road connectivity is crucial, particularly during the ongoing pilgrimage season, to facilitate safe and convenient travel for pilgrims and tourists visiting the holy shrines of Shri Amarnath Ji and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. He stressed that timely execution of road improvement works would significantly reduce traffic congestion, enhance commuter safety and improve the overall travel experience for thousands of devotees visiting the region.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma urged NHPC to explore the development of a scenic viewpoint near the iconic Baradari Bridge in Reasi. He observed that such a viewpoint could emerge as a major tourist attraction and help unlock the tourism potential of the area by offering panoramic views of the surrounding natural landscape. He noted that the initiative could also generate local economic opportunities and boost tourism-related activities in the district.

The meeting was also attended by Members of Legislative Assembly from the district, who actively participated in discussions and raised various developmental issues and public concerns pertaining to their respective constituencies. They highlighted issues related to infrastructure development, road connectivity, power supply, drinking water, healthcare, education and other essential public services, seeking timely intervention and effective solutions from the concerned departments.

Baramulla Strikers enter KCFL final with convincing win over Bandipora Blasters

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 04: The Kashmir Champions Football League (KCFL) 2026, organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, moved one step closer to crowning its inaugural champions as Baramulla Strikers defeated Bandipora Blasters 3-1 in Qualifier 2 on Friday to book their place in the grand finale.



Baramulla Strikers have now set up a mouth-watering final against Srinagar United, who had earlier secured direct qualification after winning Qualifier 1.

The championship clash, scheduled for Sunday, promises to bring together two of the tournament's best-performing teams in what is expected to be a fitting finale to an exciting competition.

The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council congratulates Baramulla Strikers on reaching the final and appreciated both teams for displaying exemplary sportsmanship and competitive spirit. The Council also expresses gratitude to the football fraternity and spectators whose overwhelming support has contributed immensely to the success of the league.

As the inaugural edition of the Kashmir Champions Football League reaches its climax, the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council has invited football enthusiasts from across the Valley to witness the grand finale and celebrate the remarkable journey of a tournament that has showcased emerging talent, strengthened grassroots football and reaffirmed Jammu & Kashmir's growing passion for the beautiful game.

With Friday's victory,

JKAACL organises Punjabi Kavi Darbar to commemorate Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 04: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organised a Punjabi Kavi Darbar dedicated to the Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji at the Conference Hall, Tagore Hall, Srinagar, with eminent scholars, litterateurs and poets paying rich tributes to the life, philosophy and teachings of the Sixth Sikh Guru.

The programme, as per an official statement, was presided over by eminent Punjabi litterateur Ajit Singh Mastana, while Jagmohan Singh Raina graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Ideel Saleem, Additional Secretary JKAACL, Kashmir and Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, JKAACL, were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Ideel Saleem, appreciated the sublime teachings of Gurbani and underscored the timeless message of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji. He observed that the Guru's divine wisdom continues to illuminate the path of truth, courage, justice, compassion and selfless service, inspiring generations to uphold righteousness and harmony.

In his address, Ajit Singh Mastana lauded the sustained efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in promoting Punjabi language and literature.



He appreciated the high literary standard of the Kavi Darbar and remarked that such programmes provide a meaningful platform for poets and writers while preserving and strengthening the region's rich linguistic and cultural heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, Jagmohan Singh Raina congratulated JKAACL for organising the event and urged the gathering to imbibe the teachings and ideals of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji in their daily lives. He stated that the Guru's message of righteousness, courage, equality and humanity remains profoundly relevant in the contemporary world.

Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, highlighted the significance of commemorating the Prakash Utsav through literary and cultural activities. Reiterating the Academy's commitment to the promotion of Punjabi language and literature, he expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests, scholars, poets and participants for making the event a success.

Zorawar Singh presented a scholarly paper on the life and philosophy of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, highlighting the Guru's historic visit to Kashmir and elaborating on the significance of the doctrine of Miri-Piri, which continues to inspire humanity with the ideals of spiritual strength, moral courage and social responsibility.

The Kavi Darbar witnessed soulful poetic recitations by eminent Punjabi poets, including Didar Singh, Kewal Pal Singh, M.S. Jugnu, H.S. Pali, Rikhi Singh, Ichpal Singh, Kavinan Singh, H.S. Upashak, Salinder Singh Sodhi and Jasbir Kaur, who paid eloquent literary tributes to Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji through their inspiring compositions.

The event concluded on a note of literary fervour and spiritual inspiration, reaffirming JKAACL's steadfast commitment to preserving, promoting and enriching the diverse linguistic, literary and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

HADP : Director Agriculture Jammu reviews physical, financial progress

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 4: Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, to assess the physical and financial progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) during the financial year 2026-27 and review the implementation status of infrastructure projects established under various Centrally Sponsored and State-funded schemes.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Sanjay Anand, Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Aman Jyoti Sharma, Deputy Director Planning, Agronomist (Vegetable Improvement Scheme), Regional Level Subject Matter Specialists, Potato Development Officer, Mushroom Development Officer, Spawn Production Officer, Assistant Entomologist (Apiculture Development Scheme), Divisional Seed Certification Officer (DSCO), Agriculture Information Officer (Farm Training Centre), Farm Managers of Chinore and Chakroi, besides other concerned officers. Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) of all districts participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Director undertook a detailed review of the physical and financial

progress achieved under various HADP projects. The performance of each district was assessed with regard to expenditure, target achievement and implementation of field-level activities to ensure timely and effective execution of programme components.

The Director also reviewed the progress and operational status of infrastructure projects established under NABARD, CSS, CAPEX, HADP, JKIP and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). Stressing the importance of timely completion of works, he directed the concerned officers to expedite ongoing projects, ensure optimum utilisation of infrastructure assets and adhere strictly to prescribed timelines and quality standards.

Reviewing the implementation of beneficiary-oriented interventions under HADP, Anil Gupta directed all Chief Agriculture Officers to compile and submit the details of inactive applications pending on the Kisan Sathi Portal under different HADP projects within the stipulated timeframe. He emphasized that the exercise would facilitate the identification of genuine beneficiaries so that, upon reopening of the portal, eligible farmers could upload or reactivate their applications and avail themselves of the benefits under the programme without delay.

The Director further underscored the need for regular monitoring, effective financial management and close field-level

Director IIMM kick-starts season's lavender harvest at Bonera Farm in Pulwama

KT News Desk

Pulwama, JULY 4: In a vibrant celebration of science-led agricultural transformation, Director of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIMM), Jammu, Dr Zabeer Ahmed, formally inaugurated the annual lavender harvest at the Institute's Field Station in Bonera, Pulwama.



The vast expanse of blooming purple fields, as per a PIB statement, marked the beginning of the 2026 harvesting season and showcased one of India's most successful models of technology-driven cultivation of high-value medicinal and aromatic plants in the Himalayan region.

Over the years, CSIR-IIMM Field Station Bonera has emerged as the premier centre for research, technology validation, demonstration and large-scale dissemination of elite medicinal and aromatic plants suited to the agro-climatic conditions

of Jammu & Kashmir. The station has become a vibrant nucleus for innovation in MAPs including Lavender, Rosemary, Clarysage, Damask Rose, Mint, Artemisia, Salvia, Saffron, Olive, Wild Marigold, Tulips, Chrysanthemum, Marigold,

Lilium, temperate floricultural and economically important crops, fostering an integrated ecosystem encompassing quality planting material production, advanced agronomic practices, post-harvest technologies, essential oil distillation, value

addition and entrepreneurship development.

Addressing scientists, farmers, entrepreneurs and stakeholders during the gala harvesting event, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIMM remarked, "The Field Station at Bonera exemplifies the transformative power of science when seamlessly integrated with rural livelihoods. Our vision extends beyond crop cultivation; we are creating a comprehensive innovation ecosystem that encompasses research, technology development, quality planting material, entrepreneurship, industrial linkages and sustainable value chains. Under the visionary guidance of Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister Science and Technology and Vice President CSIR, GOI, the remarkable success of lavender and other medicinal and aromatic crops promoted under CSIR Aroma Mission has positioned Jammu and Kashmir as a

national leader in the bioeconomy driven by natural products.

He added that the lavender harvest symbolises far more than a seasonal agricultural activity—it epitomizes the remarkable journey of scientific interventions translating into tangible socio-economic prosperity. Through sustained research, precision agronomy and extensive field demonstrations, CSIR-IIMM has empowered more than 5000 farmers to diversify from conventional cropping systems towards climate-resilient, high-return medicinal and aromatic crops. The institute has successfully developed standardized cultivation protocols, elite planting material and efficient distillation technologies that have substantially enhanced productivity, oil quality and farm profitability.

On sideline of the event while talking to media persons Dr. Ahmed said that the Bonera Field Station has also evolved

into a thriving incubation platform for agri-startups and rural enterprises. By providing technical mentoring, business incubation, hands-on training and market linkages, the centre has nurtured a new generation of entrepreneurs engaged in essential oil production, natural fragrances, herbal extracts, nutraceuticals and value-added phytopharmaceutical products. These initiatives have strengthened local value chains while ensuring a consistent supply of premium-quality raw materials to India's rapidly expanding aroma, cosmetic, wellness and phytopharmaceutical industries. As demonstration centre of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in J&K, the Field Station is providing the core platform to CSIR for the successful implementation of national missions like Aroma Mission, Floriculture Mission, Phytopharmaceutical Mission, Region Specific Smart Agriculture, Himalayan

Bioresource Conservation Mission.

Highlighting the strategic significance of the Field Station Bonera, Dr. Shahid Rasool, Scientist In-charge, CSIR-IIMM Field Station Bonera, stated, "Bonera Station has evolved into a living laboratory where cutting-edge agricultural technologies are rigorously validated under real farming conditions before being transferred to stakeholders. Every demonstration plot reflects years of scientific refinement aimed at maximizing productivity, essential oil quality and climate resilience. Beyond research, our focus remains on building farmer capacities, supporting agri-startups, facilitating technology commercialization and creating sustainable rural enterprises. The purple fields of Bonera stand today as a testament to the successful convergence of scientific excellence, innovation and inclusive rural development."

MHA designates 23

The ministry also said 11 of those designated are natives of Jammu and Kashmir, who are allegedly operating from across the border after crossing over and are involved in facilitating infiltration, recruitment, logistics, weapons supply and financing for terrorist organisations.

The Jammu and Kashmir natives named in the notification are Masood Ilyas Kashmiri, Abdullah Jihadi, Firdous Ahmad Bhat, Haroon Rashid Ganai, Bilal Ahmed Mir, Abid Qayoom Lone, Nazir Ahmed Gujjar, Mohammad Yaqoob, Owais Farooz, Wasim Noor Jat and Mohammad Shahid Faisal.

Officials said the designation would strengthen legal action against the accused by enabling investigating agencies to target their financial networks, restrict their movements and enhance coordination with domestic and international agencies dealing with terrorism-related cases.

The notification includes operatives linked to Pakistan-based organisations such as Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML), Al-Qaeda and ISIS.

According to the government, several of those designated have been accused of coordinating cross-border infiltration, arranging the supply of weapons and explosives, recruiting youth through social media, raising funds for terror activities and planning attacks in different parts of the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those named are Masood Ilyas Kashmiri, whom the government described as a close associate of JeM chief Masood Azhar and an infiltration coordinator into Kashmir; Mufti Mohammad Asghar Khan, alleged to head JeM's military wing in PoK; and Abdul Rauf, Hafiz Khalid Waleed and Maulana Saifullah Khalid, who are accused of holding senior positions in Pakistan-based terrorist organisations.

The MHA said formally designating the individuals as terrorists would help curb their fund-raising, recruitment, movement and operational capabilities while strengthening the legal framework for coordinated action against them.

The UAPA was amended in 2019 to allow the Centre to notify individuals, in addition to organisations, as terrorists under Section 35 of the Act.

Officials said the latest notification forms part of the government's continuing efforts to target the leadership, facilitators and support structures of cross-border terrorist organisations.

INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED AS TERRORISTS

Masood Ilyas Kashmiri (also known as Mufti Masood Ilyas, Masood Ilyas, Abu Mohammad, or M. Masood Ilyas) is a Pakistani national affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He is a close confidant of Maulana Masood Azhar and the key coordinator for infiltration into Kashmir. He is actively involved in recruiting youth into terrorist groups via social media and raising funds for terrorism. He orchestrated the attack on a police checkpoint near the PDP office in Sunjwan, Jammu, in April 2022.

Mohammad Musaddiq (alias Doctor, Abdul Mannan, Sajjad, Hamza, Wahid Khan) is a Pakistani national affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He serves as the launching commander for the Lasiyakot sector, facilitating infiltration across the border via tunnels. He has been involved in sending consignments of arms and ammunition to India using drones. Additionally, he was involved in conducting reconnaissance of strategic locations such as the RJB complex in Ayodhya, the RSS headquarters in Nagpur, and the IOCL refinery in Panipat.

Mufti Mohammad Asghar Khan, alias Abu Saad or Saad Jimiki, is a Pakistani national affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He serves as the JeM 'Amir' (chief) and head of its military wing in PoK. He is one of the key conspirators behind the terrorist attack on the Indian Army camp in Nagrota, Jammu. He runs camps in Muzaffarabad to provide jihadist and military training to terrorists.

Hafiz Abdul Shakoob alias Qari Jarrar is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM). He facilitated the infiltration of three Pakistani terrorists via the Samba-Kathua sector for the attack on the Nagrota Army camp. He participated in the Afghan war during 1995-96 and coordinates terrorist activities with the assistance of the ISI. He is a member of the JeM's governing council (Shura).

Abdullah Jihadi alias Shah Nawaz alias Al-Hijama is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He is a co-conspirator of Mufti Asghar Khan and facilitates the infiltration of terrorists into the North Kashmir region. He has attempted to incite hatred and disaffection against the Government of India. He used to manage several launching camps located in the Kupwara and Baramulla districts.

Firdous Ahmad Bhat is an Indian national (currently based in Pakistan) associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba. He serves as a 'launching commander' for the group, having crossed into Pakistan via the Wagah border in 2018 using valid travel documents. He facilitates safe passage for foreign terrorists across the Line of Control (LoC). Additionally, he is involved in supplying weapons to Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and radicalizing the youth of South Kashmir to recruit them into terrorist activities.

Ghulam Farid (alias Gulshan Kumar) is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed. He served in the Pakistan Army from 2001 to 2005. Subsequently, in September 2008, he entered India illegally via Bangladesh. He was arrested in Jammu in December 2008 and was later deported to Pakistan in July 2019.

Haroon Rashid Ganai alias Shunu is an Indian national (currently residing in Pakistan) and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba. He traveled to Pakistan with valid documents in March 2018 and joined Lashkar-e-Taiba there. He incites youths from the Kashmir Valley to join terrorist ranks and supplies arms and ammunition to Over Ground Workers for carrying out terrorist activities.

Bilal Ahmed Mir, alias 'Ahmed Bhai', is an Indian national (currently residing in Muzaffarabad, PoK) and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Resistance Front (RF). Operating from across the border (Pakistan/PoK), he conspires to incite and instigate local Kashmiri youth to engage in jihad. Furthermore, he is directly involved in managing the illicit supply chain of arms, ammunition, and logistics into the Kashmir Valley.

Abid Qayoom Lone is an Indian national (currently residing in PoK) and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). He traveled to Pakistan via the Attari check post in February 2020 and did not return. He is involved in planning attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir and raising funds for LeT. He smuggles narcotics on a large scale from Pakistan into India through an organized syndicate operating along the Line of Control (LoC), with the proceeds used to finance terrorist activities.

Nazir Ahmed Gujjar alias Abu Manzil is an Indian national (currently residing in Islamabad, Pakistan) and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). He crossed the Line of Control into PoK in 2006. He recruited local youths to revive terrorist activities in the Doda and Kishtwar regions. He has been a key operator in sending consignments of arms and ammunition into Indian territory via drones across the Samba and R.S. Pura sectors.

Abdul Rauf (also known as Hafiz Abdul Rauf or Hafiz Abdur Rauf) is a Pakistani national associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), and Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF). He has been a senior leader of Lashkar since 1999 and operates under the direct command of the terrorist Hafiz Saeed. He works to mobilize funds and public support for Lashkar at an international level under the guise of charitable organizations such as the 'Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation' (FIF) and Al-Madina Welfare Trust. The United States has designated him a 'Specially Designated Global Terrorist' (SDGT).

Ashfaq Ahmed (alias Ishfaq Ahmed) is a Pakistani national associated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He joined JeM in 2000 and is in charge of 'Shuaba Hadith' and the Al-Rehmat Trust (JeM's charity wing) in Bahawalpur. He received jihadi training in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. He was identified as one of the subscribers of the Pakistani mobile numbers used during the January 2016 attack on the Pathankot Air Force Station.

Hafiz Khalid Waleed (alias Hafiz Khalid Naik/Khalid Waleed) is a Pakistani national associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). He is the son-in-law of LeT chief Hafiz Mohammad Saeed and has been a member of the organization's Central Advisory Committee since 2003. He was the key mastermind behind the June 2016 Pampore attack, in which eight Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed. He was designated as a global terrorist by the US Department of the Treasury in August 2012.

Maulana Imdad Ullah Makki (also known as Maulana Imdad, Imdad Bhai, or Maulana Imdadullah) is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He serves as the 'Amir' (chief) of Jaish's prisoners' wing ('Shoba-e-Aseeran') and heads the organization's legal affairs. He is a very close associate of Maulana Masood Azhar and his deputy, Mufti Abdul Rauf Asghar. He was involved in real-time coordination with the terrorists who attacked the Pathankot airstrip in January 2016.

Maulana Saifullah Khalid (alias Waliul, Mohammad Salim, Wajid) is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML). He serves as the General Secretary of the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League and previously held the position of President of the Milli Muslim League (MML). He has headed several wings of Lashkar and Jamaat-ud-Dawa, such as the propaganda department and the control and reform wing. In April 2018, the United States designated him as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

Mohammad Yaqoob (alias Abu Sumama, Samama Ilyas, Waris Ali) is a Pakistani national affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). He currently operates as an LeT operational commander based in Islamabad (Chatta Bakhtawar). He coordinates financial and logistical support for other LeT cadres active in the Kashmir Valley to carry out terrorist activities in India. A case has been registered against him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) at the CI Kashmir Police Station in Srinagar.

Maulana Yusuf Taibi (alias Mohammad Yusuf) is a Pakistani national associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). He is a key leader within LeT/JuD, currently affiliated with the organization's control and reform ('Dawat-e-Islah') wing. He previously headed the 'Jamia Al-Dirasat Al-Islamia Trust' (JADIAT), a Karachi-based entity linked to LeT/JuD. Currently, he is associated with the 'Al-Qadisia Islamic Center' in Lahore and delivers Friday religious sermons ('Khutba') at the Sargodha 'Markaz' in Punjab.

Owais Farooz (alias Owais Ahmed Mir / Owais Farooz Mir) is an Indian national associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). He traveled to Pakistan via the Wagah border on a valid Indian passport in April 2018 and joined the terrorist ranks of the LeT. In January 2023, his brother, Farzan Feroz, was arrested by the Srinagar Police with 450 grams of heroin (valued at approximately 9.95 lakh) and an LeT letterhead. The NIA Court, Pulwama, has issued a proclamation order against him under Section 82 of the CrPC.

Qari Yaqub Sheikh (also known as Qari Mohammad Yaqub Sheikh, Yaqub Sheikh, Qari Sheikh Muhammad Yaqub, and Mohammad Yaqub) is a Pakistani national and is affiliated with the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). He is a central leader of JuD and a member of its central 'Dawati team' (proselytization team). He contested the 2018 Pakistani general election as a candidate for the Milli Muslim League (MML). He has played a prominent role in missions to raise funds for Lashkar and JuD in Saudi Arabia. In August 2012, the United States designated him as a global terrorist.

Rana Iftikhar (also known as Rana Waleed Atif, Rana Iftikhar Haider, Rana Iftikhar Ahmed, or Haider Khan) is a Pakistani national associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). He is a close associate of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed and serves as the key manager of finances for the organization's Kashmir operations. He heads 'Shoba-e-Aseeran', the wing responsible for the welfare of the families of terrorists who have been killed or are imprisoned in Indian jails. He was arrested in 1993 after being wounded during an encounter in the Mendhar sector of Jammu & Kashmir and remained incarcerated in an Indian prison until 2004.

Wasim Noor Jat alias Qari Wasim is a Pakistani national associated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He is a JeM 'launching commander'

responsible for operations in the Kotli area. During 2021-22, he was involved in activities related to dropping weapons and ammunition into Indian territory via drones. He was previously arrested by security forces in October 2008 and was incarcerated at Kot Bhalwal Central Jail, Jammu, from 2012 to 2015; following his release, he was deported to Pakistan.

Mohammad Shahid Faisal (alias Ustad, Muhandis, Zakir) holds Pakistani nationality (originally Indian, currently active in Rawalpindi) and is affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Al-Qaeda, and ISIS. He is the key mastermind and handler behind the 2012 Bengaluru LeT conspiracy case and the 2013 Nanded LeT case, which involved plots for the targeted killings of right-wing politicians and journalists. He fled to Pakistan in 2013 with the assistance of terrorist Farhatullah Ghori. Investigations reveal his involvement as an online handler in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case (2024), the Mangaluru cooker blast, and the Al-Hind ISIS module case. He recruits youth through anti-national and jihadist videos shared on social media and YouTube/Telegram channels (such as 'Sawat-al-Haq'). (KNO)

LG Sinha urges

possessing valid registration for their designated date will be allowed to proceed on the tracks leading to the Holy Cave Shrine.

Appealing to intending pilgrims who have not yet registered, the Lieutenant Governor advised them to defer their travel for the next few days to avoid inconvenience upon reaching Jammu and Kashmir.

Reviewing the security and logistical arrangements, the Lieutenant Governor directed all departments and security agencies to work in close coordination and maintain continuous liaison with Langar organisations, service providers and other stakeholders to ensure a safe, smooth and spiritually

'OBTAIN VALID YATRA REGISTRATION PERMIT' Meanwhile, the administration has urged all intending pilgrims to complete the mandatory registration process and obtain a valid Yatra Registration Permit for their allotted date before commencing their journey. Pilgrims travelling without confirmed registration will not be permitted to undertake the Yatra.

32,313 DEVOTEES OFFER PRAYERS AT AMARNATH CAVE SHRINE IN FIRST 2 DAYS

Meanwhile, the annual Amarnath Yatra has witnessed a strong start this year, with 32,313 devotees paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine during the first two days of the pilgrimage, a surge in pilgrim turnout.

According to official data available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), 20,145 pilgrims performed darshan at the revered cave shrine on the second day of the Yatra, marking an increase from the corresponding Day-2 figure of 14,515 recorded last year.

On the second day pilgrims comprised 14,611 men, 4,480 women, 379 children, 142 sadhus, 35 sadhvis, 17 transgender devotees and 481 security personnel.

The cumulative number of devotees who have visited the shrine since the commencement of the pilgrimage on July 3 has reached 32,313, including 12,168 pilgrims who offered prayers on the opening day.

Meanwhile, amid unprecedented security arrangements, the third batch of 4,812 pilgrims undertaking the annual pilgrimage reached the twin base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal after departing from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu early Saturday.

Officials told KNO that the pilgrims travelled in a convoy of 259 vehicles, including 95 buses, 47 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 116 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and one two-wheeler.

Of the total pilgrims, 2,041 proceeded towards the Baltal base camp, while 2,771 headed for the traditional Pahalgam route.

The batch included 3,434 male pilgrims, 966 female pilgrims, 11 children, 244 sadhus and 157 sadhvis.

Officials said the Baltal-bound convoy left Bhagwati Nagar at 3:00 am, followed by the Pahalgam-bound convoy at 3:24 am, both under multi-layered security cover.

The 57-day Amarnath Yatra, which began on July 3, is scheduled to conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan. (KNO)

DGP directs

for the annual pilgrimage with senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, Central Armed Police Forces, intelligence agencies and other security organisations.

DGP Prabhat asked all agencies to ensure close coordination and step up area domination and night domination exercises, particularly along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, critical road corridors and the twin Yatra routes.

He directed field officers to maintain a close watch on anti-national and disruptive elements to prevent any attempt to disturb peace during the pilgrimage.

The DGP also instructed officers to strictly verify the identity credentials of pilgrims and ensure effective use of the RFID-based tracking system for real-time monitoring of registered yatis.

He said issues relating to unregistered pilgrims should be handled in coordination with the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board while ensuring that only duly registered devotees are allowed to undertake the Yatra in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

Reviewing disaster preparedness, the Director General of Police directed all agencies to keep contingency plans and adequate resources ready to respond to weather-related emergencies, including evacuation, medical assistance, shelter and other essential services.

He also asked officers to ensure adequate security and assistance for both pilgrims and tourists across the Union Territory.

Emphasising public service, the DGP instructed officers to remain accessible and responsive and provide prompt assistance to pilgrims throughout the Yatra.

Senior officers of the police, Army, CAPFs, intelligence agencies, Traffic Police, Railway Police and other security organisations attended the meeting and reviewed the implementation of security measures, traffic management plans and standard operating procedures for the pilgrimage. (KNO)

Let Yatis visit

lasting peace, communal harmony and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir during their visit.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal urging pilgrims to spend 10 per cent of their travel budget in Kashmir, Omar termed the suggestion a welcome step for the local economy. "It is a very good thing. If pilgrims spend 10 per cent of their budget here, it will benefit our people. But they must be allowed to get off their buses and visit markets and other places. Otherwise, how will they spend their money? They are being kept confined to their vehicles. Let them move around a little," he said.

CM Omar further said the plan to suspend flight operations on Monday and Tuesday had been withdrawn for the time being after he took up the matter with the Centre.

"The proposed closure had badly affected tourism, with several groups cancelling their visits. I spoke to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu and also raised the issue with the Prime Minister. We have got relief for now," he said.

He, also said the government would continue pursuing alternate flight arrangements, including operations from Awantipora, when Srinagar Airport undergoes scheduled closure in October.

Responding to questions on calls for dialogue with Pakistan, Omar said unnecessary controversy was being created whenever he or National Conference president Farooq Abdullah advocate engagement.

"When leaders of the RSS make similar statements, nobody highlights them. But when Farooq Sahib signs a memorandum or I speak about dialogue, it becomes a controversy," he said.

Quoting former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Omar said neighbours cannot be changed and better relations with neighbouring countries should eventually be pursued.

On a reported controversy over a book, the Chief Minister said he had neither read nor heard about the publication and therefore could not comment.

Earlier, commenting on the resolution of the mandi tax issue, Omar said the levy on Jammu and Kashmir traders was unjust as the goods neither originated from nor were sold in Punjab.

"Our goods were coming from Rajasthan through Punjab. Imposing mandi tax on them was unfair. We consistently took up the matter with the Punjab government, and it is good that the issue has now been resolved," he said. (KNO)

Over 26,000 devotees

strictly according to their allotted registration dates to ensure seamless management and avoid overcrowding.

Div Com Garg said comprehensive facilities, including accommodation, healthcare, drinking water, sanitation, rest shelters, disaster management teams, emergency response services and adequate lighting along the Yatra tracks, have been put in place to ensure a safe, comfortable and hassle-free pilgrimage for devotees.

He said the administration is strictly adhering to the Supreme Court-mandated carrying capacity for the pilgrimage. "Online registration for the Yatra began on April 15 and registered pilgrims are being facilitated after completing all mandatory formalities," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner, said that a number of devotees have arrived in Jammu and Kashmir without prior registration, resulting in inconvenience for both pilgrims and the authorities.

He urged such pilgrims to wait for their turn, reiterating that only those holding valid registration for their allotted date will be permitted to undertake the pilgrimage. Garg also clarified that 'the Tatkal quota' is limited and depends on vacancies created by registered pilgrims who fail to report.

Appealing to devotees who have reached Jammu and Kashmir ahead of their scheduled dates, Garg said they should undertake the pilgrimage only on the dates mentioned in their registration slips to facilitate smooth movement and effective crowd management.

He also advised pilgrims planning to undertake the Yatra in the coming days to complete the online registration process well in advance to avoid inconvenience.

Div Com Garg said the administration, in close coordination with the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, security agencies and other stakeholder departments, is making every possible effort to ensure that the pilgrimage remains safe, smooth and incident-free.

Pertinently, Amarnath Yatra commenced on July 3 amid multi-tier security arrangements across Jammu and Kashmir. Pilgrims are undertaking the pilgrimage through the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route and the shorter 14-km Baltal route in South and Central Kashmir respectively. (KNO)

LG Sinha suspends

and negligence of government servants," it reads.

"Therefore, the officials and supervisory staff of the School Education Department in terms of Rule 31(1)(a) Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, are placed under suspension, with immediate effect," the government ordered.

It also ordered that during the period of suspension, they shall remain attached with the administrative department of the School Education Department.

Furthermore, the government ordered the disengagement of Computer Assistant (Contractual) assisting the Coordinator Library, Samagra Shiksha with immediate effect from his contractual engagement.

Keeping in view the seriousness of the matter and misconduct of these officials, the government appointed Ashwani Kumar, IAS, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department appointed as Inquiry Officer to conduct an enquiry into the matter.

Besides, the government appointed Rohit Sharma, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department as the Presenting Officer in the case.

"The Inquiry Officer shall submit his report to the Competent Authority within 30 days," it reads.

The government also ordered ban and black-listing of these authors and publishers in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Furthermore, any printed material authored

or published by them shall also be withdrawn from the Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," reads the order. (KNO)

Over 1,500 J&K

and 748 upper primary schools had enrolment of less than 30 students.

The Ministry said that a large number of schools with low or zero enrolment was highlighted as a matter of concern.

The MoE advised the Jammu and Kashmir authorities to undertake a detailed analysis of these schools and adopt strategies to improve enrolment.

About the single teacher schools in Jammu and Kashmir, MoE said that there are 1278 primary and 77 upper primary schools with single teachers in the UT.

MoE urged the Jammu and Kashmir authorities to undertake a detailed review and appropriate corrective measures, and ensure compliance with RTF norms at all levels.

Earlier in March, the Jammu and Kashmir government had said that over the past four years, nearly 3200 schools in the UT were either functioning with less than ten or zero student enrolment—leaving over 2500 teachers deployed in empty schools.

The figures were revealed in the Legislative Assembly that said 3192 schools in Jammu and Kashmir reported less than ten or zero enrolment since 2022 including 1494 schools in Jammu and 1698 in Kashmir region respectively.

The house in the March was also informed that 2518 teachers were posted in these schools including 1934 teachers in 1494 schools of Jammu division and 584 teachers in 1698 institutions of Kashmir region.

In 2024 KNO reported that nearly 4400 government run schools were closed in Jammu and Kashmir owing to 'zero or extremely low' enrolment of students.

In the year there were a total of 23,117 government run schools in Jammu and Kashmir out of which 4394 were deleted from the UDISE data.

In 2024, the official figures had revealed that a total of 12,977 government primary schools were functioning in Jammu and Kashmir. However, after the merger, only 8966 primary schools were functional.

Similarly, 392 government middle schools, three high schools and one higher secondary were deleted from the UDISE+ list.

Overall, Jammu and Kashmir used to have over 28,800 government and private schools. However, as per the official figures, the count has reduced to nearly 24,00 schools. (KNO)

Srinagar simmers

Department said weather conditions are expected to change from July 5, with rainfall activity likely to increase across the Union Territory.

In Jammu division, fairly widespread rainfall is likely from July 5 to 6, followed by widespread showers on July 7 and 8, and fairly widespread rainfall again on July 9 and 10.

The department has issued a weather advisory for Jammu division, warning of isolated thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph on July 5, 6, 9 and 10. It has also forecast isolated heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds from July 6 to 8.

The MeT Department warned that the expected weather activity could trigger landslides, mudslides, shooting stones and flash floods at vulnerable places during the period.

For Kashmir division, isolated thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph are expected on July 7 and 8, it said.

The department advised residents, tourists and commuters to follow official weather updates and exercise caution, particularly while travelling through hilly and vulnerable areas during the forecast period. (KNO)

Srinagar airport

Night closures for runway maintenance will continue until October 2026," the airport said, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The airport further said that the previously proposed NOTAM regarding full runway closure on Mondays and Tuesdays has been withdrawn, adding that airlines will continue updating their schedules in accordance with the notified operational timings.

Passengers have been advised to check the status of their flights with their respective airlines before leaving for the airport and rely only on official channels for authentic updates.

Meanwhile, the Valley's trading fraternity welcomed the decision, describing it as a timely relief for the tourism and business sectors.

"We welcome the airport authorities' decision to withdraw the proposed weekly runway closure. It will ensure seamless connectivity during the peak tourist season and prevent inconvenience to travellers as well as losses to trade and tourism," Manzoor Ahmad, a tour and travel operator from Srinagar said.

Moreover, traders also expressed hope that the remaining runway maintenance would be completed during night hours without affecting normal flight operations in the coming months. (KNO)

CM thanks Centre,

safeguard the interests of passengers, the tourism industry, trade, and the people of Jammu & Kashmir, who would have been adversely affected by the proposed closure.

Expressing his appreciation, the Chief Minister said, "Grateful to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Ji and Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Ji for acceding to our request and suspending the airport closure order. This closure had created a lot of difficulties for regular travellers and forced tour groups and tourists to cancel their planned visits."

He said the decision to suspend the proposed runway closure would ensure uninterrupted air connectivity to the region, preventing disruption to travel, tourism, and economic activity.

The Chief Minister reiterated that maintaining seamless air connectivity is vital for Jammu & Kashmir's economy, particularly during the peak tourist season, and thanked the Government of India for responding promptly to the concerns raised by Jammu and Kashmir government.

Youth will power AI with indigenous chips: PM Modi

■ Inaugurates semiconductor facility at Sanand



PTI

Sanand (Gujarat), Jul 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that India is building the entire electronics value chain from products and components to semiconductors which is the country's roadmap to 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India).

The PM, who inaugurated the CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility here, also said that India's youth will power AI, robotics and next-gen tech revolution with Made in India chips.

"The expansion of the semiconductor industry in India did not happen overnight. It is the next step in the electronics revolution that has taken place in India over the past decade," he said as he was handed the first semiconductor chips made at the company, to be exported to Japan.

"First products, then components and now semiconductors... India is building the entire electronics value chain. This is the roadmap to Viksit Bharat. This is the next phase of Make in India," Modi noted.

The government's goal is to build a complete semiconductor ecosystem in India, from chip design to fabrication and packaging, he said.

"The Semicon India programme is gathering rapid momentum... Step by step. Brick by brick. Chip by chip," the prime minister said.

"India's youth will power the AI, robotics and next-gen tech revolution with Made in India chips," he said.

PM launches revamped UDAN scheme, inaugurates Jodhpur airport terminal

PTI

Jodhpur, Jul 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the next phase of the Centre's flagship regional connectivity scheme, UDAN, and inaugurated a new terminal building at Jodhpur airport, marking a major push to expand aviation infrastructure and improve air connectivity across India. The revamped UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet earlier this year, entails an outlay of nearly Rs 29,000 crore over the next 10 years and aims to connect more underserved regions while strengthening last-mile air connectivity.

Addressing the event, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said the scheme would accelerate aviation-led development and transform regional connectivity by expanding infrastructure and making air travel more accessible and affordable.

Launched in 2016, the UDAN scheme has so far operationalised 669 routes and connected 95 airports, heliports and water aerodromes, benefiting more than 1.66 crore passengers,



officials said.

Under the modified scheme, the government plans to develop 100 additional aerodromes with an investment of over Rs 12,000 crore, build 200 helipads, continue viability gap funding to sustain regional airline operations, and provide support for the maintenance of smaller airports.

The prime minister also inaugurated the new terminal building at Jodhpur airport, developed by the Airports Authority of India at a cost of Rs 480 crore, significantly enhancing the airport's passenger handling capacity.

Spread across over 23,000 square metres,

the terminal is designed to handle up to 20 lakh passengers annually and around 1,500 passengers during peak hours. It is equipped with modern infrastructure, including multiple check-in counters, advanced baggage handling systems and aerobridges to ensure seamless passenger movement.

Officials said the new facility would cater to growing air traffic demand in western Rajasthan and boost tourism, trade and economic activity in the region.

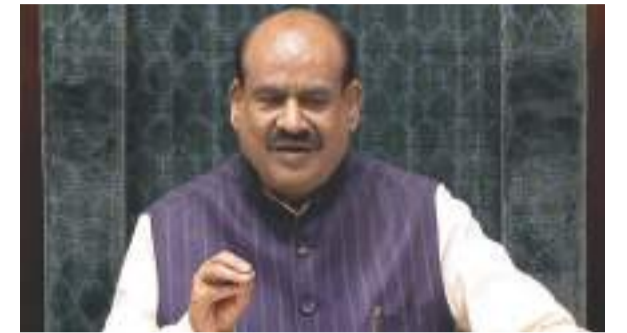
The terminal's design draws inspiration from Rajasthan's royal architectural heritage, incorporating traditional

elements such as arches and jharokhas while integrating modern amenities. It also features energy-efficient systems and water conservation measures.

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol were among those present on the occasion.

Officials said the twin initiatives mark a significant step towards building a future-ready aviation ecosystem and advancing the vision of inclusive growth and enhanced regional connectivity across the country.

Constructive ideas build leadership, not sloganeering or disruptions: Om Birla



PTI

Kolkata, Jul 4: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday asked public representatives to be the voice of the last person in society, and said leadership is built through reasoned arguments and constructive ideas, not sloganeering, disruptions or legislative deadlocks.

Addressing the valedictory session of a two-day orientation programme for the newly elected MLAs of the West Bengal Assembly, Birla also said that public representatives derive their strength from the trust reposed in them by citizens.

Elected representatives are expected to raise the concerns, challenges and aspirations of the people and work towards finding solutions through democratic institutions, he said.

"Leadership is built through reasoned arguments, facts and constructive ideas and not through sloganeering, disruptions or legislative deadlocks," Birla said.

His remarks bear significance ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which will begin on July 20 and continue till August 13.

Parliament has seen long disruptions due to opposition

protests and sloganeering on different issues, leading to adjournments and virtually no work for days in several past sessions.

Stressing that legislatures are forums for discussions, deliberations and solutions, the Lok Sabha speaker urged the MLAs to enrich the quality of parliamentary discourse and ensure that debates in the House contribute to addressing public concerns and advancing the development of the state.

He said that democratic institutions derive their strength from informed dialogue, mutual respect and a shared commitment to public welfare.

Birla also expressed confidence that the members would justify the faith reposed in them by the people of Bengal through dedicated public service and responsible conduct.

He said that MLAs are not merely representatives of their constituencies but stakeholders in the overall development and future of the state.

The speaker also urged the members to adopt a broad and inclusive vision while discharging their responsibilities and work collectively towards shaping policies, laws and developmental initiatives capable of providing a new direction to Bengal.

Indian Navy's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft arrives in Hawaii for world's largest naval exercise



PTI

Washington, Jul 4: India's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft has arrived in Hawaii to participate in the 30th edition of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise, the world's largest multinational naval drill hosted by the US Pacific Fleet.

The exercise, held in and around the Hawaiian Islands from June 24 to July 31, has brought together 30 nations, more than 30 surface ships, five submarines, over 206 aircraft, 15 national land forces and about 30,000 personnel.

"Indian Navy's participation reaffirms its commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific by enhancing interoperability, Maritime Domain Awareness and cooperation with partner navies," the Indian embassy in the US said in a post on X.

The theme of RIMPAC 2026, the 30th edition of the exercise that began in 1971, is "Partners: Integrated and Prepared". According to the US Navy, RIMPAC provides a unique opportunity for participating countries to strengthen cooperation

while enhancing their ability to safeguard sea lanes and maritime security across the world's oceans. "By training together in complex, realistic scenarios, participating nations improve readiness, sharpen warfighting skills, and strengthen the interoperability required to operate effectively alongside one another whenever and wherever needed," Vice Adm. Jeff Jablon, RIMPAC 2026 Commander, Combined Task Forces (CTF), said in a statement issued by the US Navy.

The US Navy said RIMPAC 2026 builds on previous editions by bringing together allies and partner nations to demonstrate the flexibility and capability of maritime forces. The exercise features a broad range of operational activities, including amphibious operations, gunnery and missile exercises, anti-submarine warfare, air defence operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, counter-piracy operations, mine countermeasures, explosive ordnance disposal, and diving and salvage operations.

EAM Jaishankar to embark on 6-nation tour from today

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 4: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will embark on a six-nation tour of Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Belgium and the US beginning Sunday. Jaishankar's visit to the four Gulf nations from July 5 to 10 comes against the backdrop of fast-evolving political dynamics in the region following the peace agreement between the US

and Iran.

After concluding his engagements in the Gulf nations, he will travel to New York to launch on July 13 India's official campaign for the UN Security Council tenure for 2028-29, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In the last leg of his trip, Jaishankar will visit Brussels to participate in the third India-EU Trade and Technology Council meeting.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will be on an official visit to Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman from July 5 to 10," the MEA said.

"During the visit to these countries, he will be meeting with his counterparts and the leadership," it said.

The MEA said the visit will focus on enhancing bilateral relations with the four countries and also provide an opportunity to exchange views on regional

developments and issues of mutual interest. "The external affairs minister will thereafter visit New York to launch on 13 July India's official campaign for the UN Security Council tenure 2028-29," it said.

"He will then attend the third India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) meeting and interact with his EU and Belgian counterparts in Brussels on July 14 and 15," the MEA said in a statement.



Centre asks Telegram to curb pirated content

Seeks compliance report in 15 days

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 4: The Centre has issued a notice to messaging platform Telegram, directing it to curb the widespread circulation of pirated films, OTT content and other copyrighted audio-visual material on its platform. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has sought an Action Taken Report within 15 days, warning that continued non-compliance could invite legal action under the country's copyright and information technology laws.

According to government officials, the move signals a shift in the Centre's anti-piracy strategy from targeting individual piracy channels to holding digital platforms accountable for preventing copyright violations.

The ministry is learnt to have informed Telegram, which was temporarily blocked in India in June as a precautionary measure to prevent any paper leak during the NEET re-examination, that copyright infringement is not merely a civil violation

but also a criminal offence under the Copyright Act, 1957, and the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

"The Ministry has made it clear that Telegram cannot merely wait for the government to identify each piracy channel one by one. A purely reactive, channel-by-channel takedown approach may not be enough to demonstrate due diligence by the platform, as required under the IT Act, 2000, and the IT Rules, 2021," officials said.

The I&B Ministry has also sought details of Telegram's grievance redressal mechanism for film producers, OTT platforms and law enforcement agencies. Sources said Telegram has been reminded that, as an intermediary, it is required to observe due diligence under the Information Technology Act and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The notice comes amid a broader regulatory push by the Centre to tighten oversight of digital platforms.

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Subject : Notice inviting e-tender for Running College Canteen

e-NIT NO: ET -03 OF 2026

Dated: 04-07-2026

Principal, Govt. College For Women Nawa Kadal on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir invites e-tender from the prospective contractor(s)/ reputed agency(s)/Person(s) for running the college canteen for a period of one year/ Till the Commencement of Winter Breaks (2026-27).

The Tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, and detailed terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website www.iktenders.gov.in or www.gcwnk.ac.in as per schedule given below :-

Name of the work: Operation /Running of College canteen with in the college premises		
1	Date of Publication	04/07/2026.
2	Period of downloading of Tender documents:	04/07/2026 to 11/07/2026.
3	Tender Bid Submission start date	04/07/2026 from 3:00 PM
4	Tender Bid Submission end date	11/07/2026 up to 1:00 PM
5	Date of opening of E01 Bid online	11/07/2026 at 1:30 PM

DIPK-2876/26
DATED: 04-07-2026

Principal
GCW Nawakadal

US turns 250 as Trump warns of 'attack' on American identity

AFP

Washington, Jul 4: America turned 250 on Saturday — a landmark birthday that coincides with a time of deep national division and a president determined to seize the festive center stage.

The independence anniversary also comes in the middle of a brutal heat-wave that has placed some 160 million Americans under major or extreme heat warnings, playing havoc with planned parades and block parties in towns and cities across much of the country.

But the searing temperatures have done little to deter President Donald Trump, who has gone to great lengths to ensure the event becomes, in large part, a celebration of himself.

On Saturday evening, Trump will hold a huge campaign-style political rally on the National Mall in the capital Washington, along with roaring military flyovers and what he has touted as the world's biggest fireworks display.

"It's going to be approximately 107 degrees (41C) out, and I'm going to go and I'm going to make a really long speech — just to show that I can do anything," he earlier said.

Late Friday, the president visited the Mount Rushmore national monument for an address under the gaze of the giant granite heads of four of his legendary predecessors.

'Menace in our land'

While he lauded American



exceptionalism and praised the country's past leaders, he said that the American identity was "under a renewed attack."

Taking aim at domestic "radicals and extremists," he charged that there was "a resurgence of the communist menace in our land."

It is a theme that Trump has repeatedly hammered home in recent weeks, as the anti-establishment left of the Democratic Party carried a string of US primary victories.

The president has cast the rise of the left ahead of November's midterm elections as "communists" on the rampage, posing a major "threat" to the country.

On Friday, Trump said there has been an attempt to "beat the American spirit

out of us, alienate us from our history" in recent years.

While his language fell short of the more violent anti-immigrant rhetoric he has wielded in past speeches, the underlying message was clear.

"You do not have to be born here, but you do have to love what we have built," he said. The location of Trump's speech was a fitting backdrop for a president who views himself as one of the greats.

Trump's supporters have even introduced legislation to have his likeness chiseled beside those of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

Celebration and reflection For Americans, the 250th festivities

offer a moment for reflection as well as celebration.

After two and a half centuries of triumphs and tragedies, slavery and freedom, civil war and world wars, multiple surveys indicate a nation divided about where it is and where it's going.

A Quinnipiac University Poll showed 61 percent of Americans thought the US was not living up to the ideals stated in the Declaration of Independence — though even opinion on that was divided, with most Republicans thinking it did, and most Democrats thinking it didn't.

"There's too many people that hate on each other, steal from each other. They don't love each other," said Los Angeles-based artist Johnny Presley.

"I'm sick of the way this country treats its foreign neighbors," he added. "I'm sick of a lot of damn things."

For others, like American-Iranian Karisa Tavassoli, an educator in Atlanta, the basics of the American dream still ring true.

"I have safety, I have freedom of speech, I have freedom of religion, I can wear whatever I want as a woman," she told AFP.

"There are many flaws here, but we have something very special that's worthy of protecting," she added.

Alonzo Coby, a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, is grateful to be able to celebrate 250 years of the United States.

Prince William reveals King Charles 'hates football'



AFP

Washington, Jul 4: Prince William revealed that his father King Charles "hates football" in an appearance on Travis Kelce's podcast that aired Friday, just hours before the NFL star was due to celebrate his marriage to pop megastar Taylor Swift.

The World Cup, rather than the wedding, was the main theme of the chat with Kelce and his co-host brother Jason Kelce, with the prince saying he would travel to the competition in the United States if England made it into the final.

The prince is known as a fan of the Premiership side Aston Villa and, when asked if King Charles was the one who got him interested, he responded: "Absolutely not. My father hates football."

Thanks to a powerhouse performance from team captain and FC

Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane, who made two late goals against DR Congo, England is in the round of 16.

The "Three Lions" are slated to play Mexico at high-altitude Azteca Stadium on Sunday.

When Kelce asked if the Prince of Wales would cross "the pond" to see the final if England make it that far, William said "definitely."

"If we're in the finals... maybe see you both there for the final?"

The interview also coincided with the July Fourth celebrations in the United States, marking 250 years of independence from Britain.

"Be honest, are you surprised we made it?" Kelce asked.

"There were times... there were times," William said, adding "yeah, but I'd like to think the UK and the US have been together for those 250 years."

Modi greets Trump, people of US

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 04: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday greeted President Donald Trump and the people of the United States on the 250th anniversary of America's independence and said the two countries' shared belief in democracy and the rule of law, and the limitless potential of their people make the friendship a

force for global good.

Modi asserted that India and the United States share more than a strategic partnership.

"On behalf of 1.4 billion Indians, I extend my warmest congratulations to President Trump and the people of the United States on the historic 250th anniversary of your independence," the prime minister said in a post on X. He said the shared belief

of India and the US in democracy and the rule of law, and the limitless potential of "our people make our friendship a force for global good."

"May the next 250 years bring even greater prosperity, peace and progress for America and take the India-US partnership to new heights," he said.

Trump ushered in the 250th anniversary of American independence

on Friday. The signing of the Declaration of Independence, one of history's most-celebrated articulations of democratic ambitions, is being marked in myriad ways. Set to take a central role in the festivities, Trump plans to speak at the National Mall in Washington ahead of what is being billed as a historically-enormous fireworks show that will rain down over the US capital.



China's military promotes two new generals

AP

Beijing, Jul 4: China's military promoted two officers to the rank of general in what may be a precursor to a reorganization at the top following the removal of several of its leaders in a long-running anti-corruption drive.

The shake-up is believed to be in part an effort to ensure the military's loyalty to China's ruling Communist Party and its leader, Xi Jinping.

Xi, who is also head of the military, presented orders promoting Zhang Shuguang and air force commander Wang Gang to generals at a ceremony Friday. Zhang was also named the head of

the division investigating corruption at the Central Military Commission, the military's top body.

The promotions could put them in line to fill vacancies on the seven-member commission, which has been effectively reduced to two by the corruption investigations.

The commission is chaired by Xi. Its only other active member is Vice Chair Zhang Shengmin.

Two former vice chairs, including the military's top general, have been removed or effectively removed.

A new commission is expected to be announced in the fall of next year, at the end of the current commission's five-year term.

All Asian Games-bound track, field athletes to compete in one-day event in Delhi on Sept 10

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 04: All the Asian Games-bound track and field athletes will compete in the final leg of the Indian Athletics Series scheduled to be held here on September 10, the national federation said on Saturday.

The Indian athletics team for the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya in Japan from September 19 to October 4 is yet to be announced.

The entries in the final-leg of the Indian Athletics Series will be through invitation as per their ranking in their



respective events. It will be held on September 10 instead of September 12 scheduled earlier.

"All Japan Asian Games bound athletes

will also compete in the final-leg of the series," Athletics Federation of India (AFI) President Bahadur Singh Sagoo said.

The dates of the remaining legs of the Indian Athletics Series have been rejigged but the venues of the competition remained the same.

After the revised schedule, the 13th-leg of the Indian Athletics Series will now be held on August 18, instead of August 14. The 14th leg of the Indian Athletics Series will be held on August 25 instead of August 16.

The date of the 15th leg of the series has been changed to September 2 from August 29.

FIFPro union denounces racist abuse of players at World Cup

AP

Washington, Jul 4: The FIFPRO players union said on Saturday that more must be done to protect footballers from racist abuse at the World Cup being held in North America. The Netherlands-based union said in a statement that players are suffering from "a growing pattern of abuse" on social media and in person.

"In recent weeks, players have faced abuse online and in person, much of it racist and discriminatory," the union said. "There has been intimidation and hostility beyond the pitch. These incidents are not isolated; they point to a systemic pattern that cannot remain an accepted part of football or society."

The union did not give specific examples of abusive incidents. It asked for soccer authorities, public officials and private institutions "to increase their efforts as monitoring and reporting alone cannot change behavior or prevent harm."

Sooryavanshi surpasses Tendulkar to become India's youngest international debutant

PTI

Manchester, Jul 04: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, the 15-year-old boy wonder from Bihar's Samastipur district, on Saturday became India's youngest debutant in international cricket surpassing the legendary Sachin Tendulkar who held the record for nearly 37 years.

The contrast in eras and personalities could not be starker though.

At 16 years and 205 days, Tendulkar walked into the nation's collective consciousness with a game that was built on solid defence and artistic offence, defined by Mumbai's school of 'Khadoos' batsmanship.

At 15 years and 99 days, Sooryavanshi seems unfamiliar with the concept of defence, his style tailor-made for the demands of cricket's slam-bang T20 version. And he fittingly made his India debut in the same format, against England here in the second contest of the five-match series. While Tendulkar's maiden international



game was a grainy live PTV footage in that 1989 Test against Pakistan, Sooryavanshi has entered the cauldron with 4k cameras tracking his every move since he landed in the UK.

The chubby Gen Z teenager is already starting out from the screens of high-end smart phones, a testimony to the immense growth of Indian cricket establishment that has traversed several country miles to become a behemoth.

It's fair to say that Tendulkar was the cause, Sooryavanshi is the effect.

On that Wednesday of November 1989, Tendulkar stepped out at the National Stadium in Karachi to

face an attack that comprised Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Abdul Qadir.

It was a time when the Berlin Wall was still intact and the Soviet Union was very much in existence.

Rajiv Gandhi was still two and half weeks away from losing a Lok Sabha election and stepping down from the post of India's Prime Minister.

The era of economic liberalisation ushered by Dr Manmohan Singh was still a year and half away.

Tendulkar was from the age of floppy disc while Sooryavanshi's generation is looking towards a future run by Artificial Intelligence.

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01:00 PM, 06:30 PM

COCKTAIL
(HINDI) (A)
11:20 AM

MINIONS AND MONSTERS
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HINDI - 11:00 AM

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