



Art 370 abrogation true tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee: PM Modi

Describes late leader as nation-builder, recalls his contribution to J&K, education, industry, urges youth to follow his ideals of public service

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 06: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 125th birth anniversary, saying the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A was a true tribute to his life-long commitment to India's unity and integrity.

In a commemorative article released on the occasion, PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) described Mookerjee as a leader whose public life was shaped by scholarship, patriotism and a commitment to national service. He said Mookerjee's contributions continued to inspire the country's journey towards development and national integration.

The Prime Minister said safeguarding India's unity remained central to Mookerjee's political life. Referring to his campaign on Jammu and Kashmir, PM Modi said Mookerjee's struggle and sacrifice had found fulfilment through the removal of J&K's



special constitutional status.

PM Modi recalled Mookerjee's role during the partition, saying he worked to ensure that West Bengal remained part of India. He also referred to his detention while protesting the permit system in Jammu and Kashmir, describing his death in custody as a sacrifice that became part of the nation's collective memory.

Highlighting Mookerjee's contribution to education, Modi said he became one of the country's youngest university Vice-Chancellors and advocated an education

system that prepared students for leadership roles instead of merely producing job seekers.

The Prime Minister said Mookerjee also played a significant role in laying the foundation for India's industrial growth after Independence. He credited him with supporting projects such as the Damodar Valley Corporation and the Sindri Fertilizer Plant, besides encouraging handloom, cottage industries and artisans.

PM Modi said the revival of the Sindri fertilizer unit during his [| More on P6](#)



Beating the Heat: Boys taking bath in a stream at Hajan, Budgam. Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

LG Sinha thanks PM Modi for granting J&K women their due rights

I envision J&K where every girl believes her dreams are valuable, her future limitless

Remain steadfast in resolve to accord due respect to Nari Shakti

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 06: Terming women empowerment as key to 'Viksit J&K,' Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for granting J&K women their due rights by eliminating discrimination.

Addressing the felicitation ceremony of Fellows (Gender Equity Advocates) in Srinagar, the Lieutenant Governor, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Women empowerment is key to a Viksit J&K; their progress ensures the progress of society. I envision a Jammu Kashmir where women



lead in academia, industry, social organizations and governance, shaping policies, driving entrepreneurship, and

enriching our culture through art and literature."

He said, "I envision a Jammu Kashmir where [| More on P6](#)

J&K Govt modifies CDF guidelines

MLAs can provide medical assistance up to Rs 20 lakh p/a annum for life-threatening diseases

Srinagar, Jul 06: In a significant move aimed at providing major financial relief to patients suffering from life-threatening ailments, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered an amendment to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Scheme guidelines.

As per the official government order, sanction has been accorded allowing Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to utilize up to 20,00 lakh out of their annual CDF allocation exclusively for providing medical assistance to patients from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and other notified economically weaker categories. [| More on P6](#)

Art 370 abrogation brought 'real freedom' to J&K: BJP Chief

» Exudes hope about party forming govt in UT

» Says tricolour now flies proudly across region

» 'J&K youth now known as Ranji Trophy champions, not stone pelters'

Yogesh

Jammu, Jul 06: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Nitin Nabin on Monday said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir attained their "real freedom" after the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35-A in 2019,

and exuded hope that the BJP would eventually form the government in the Union Territory.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Nabin addressed a 'Karyakarta Sammelan' at Mishriwala on the outskirts of Jammu on the concluding day of the nationwide celebrations [| More on P6](#)

Intensify surveillance to ensure safe Amarnath Yatra: DGP

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Jul 06: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday directed security agencies to intensify surveillance, strengthen area domination and maintain close coordination to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

The DGP, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), issued the directions during his visit to the Lakhampur base camp in Kathua district, where he reviewed security arrangements, traffic management and convoy movement along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, officials said.

During the visit, senior police officers briefed him on the multi-layered security grid, access control measures, traffic regulation and implementation of standard operating procedures for the annual pilgrimage.

DGP Prabhat asked all agencies to maintain [| More on P6](#)

Cumulative pilgrim count nears 86,000; expected to cross 1 lakh today

Over 28,800 devotees perform darshan on day 4

Umairsar Gull Ganie

Pahalgam, Jul 06: The annual Amarnath Yatra continued to witness a heavy influx of pilgrims, with 28,818 devotees paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine on the fourth day of the pilgrimage, taking the cumulative number of yatrias who have performed darshan since the commencement of the Yatra on July 3 to 85,779, official figures said.

According to [| More on P6](#)

Rs 5,700 cr power sector reforms under execution in J&K: Omar

Chairs PDD review, calls for power sector reforms, modernisation

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Power Development Department, underscoring his government's commitment to strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's power infrastructure through sustained reforms, modernization and improved service delivery.

The Chief Minister reviewed the overall performance of the power sector, including revenue realization, implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, transmission

projects and the roadmap for future reforms.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department Ashwini Kumar, ACS to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Managing Director Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited Gurpal Singh, Managing Director KPDCCL Mehmood Ahmad Shah, Chief Electrical Inspectorate PDD Sanjay Sharma, senior officers of JKTPCL, senior engineers and other concerned officers.

During the presentation, it was informed that Jammu and Kashmir has made significant strides in implementing power

sector reforms under RDSS, with projects worth over Rs 5,700 crore under execution across the region. Of these, works worth nearly Rs 4,700 crore relating to loss reduction have largely been awarded.

Reforms related to metering is expected to improve billing efficiency, reduce losses and empower consumers through transparent energy usage.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of extensive loss reduction works, including installation of aerial bunched (AB) cables, feeder segregation, augmentation of distribution transformers, underground cabling and strengthening of the distribution network. Officers informed the [| More on P6](#)

CM calls for developing IMPARD as premier training institution

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired the 13th meeting of the Executive Council of the Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development (IMPARD) at the Civil Secretariat, reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening institutional capacity, administrative excellence and good governance across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting comprehensively reviewed the functioning of IMPARD and deliberated on a wide range of measures aimed at enhancing the institute's role as the premier training and capacity-building institution for J&K's civil services. The meeting was attended



by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department M Raju, Director General IMPARD Rehana Batul and other senior officers.

At the outset, Director General IMPARD Rehana Batul

presented a detailed overview of the institute's functioning, ongoing initiatives and future roadmap. She placed the agenda items before the Executive Council, which discussed each proposal extensively before taking considered decisions.

As Chairman of the Executive Council, the Chief Minister engaged in deliberations on important [| More on P6](#)

Not every frozen treat is ice cream: Experts warn of vegetable fat-based desserts

Advise consumers to read product name, ingredient list, manufacturing, dates, nutrition facts

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 06: As temperatures soar, consumption of frozen treats has increased significantly. However, health experts have advised consumers to carefully read product labels before purchasing, saying that not every frozen product sold in the market is actually ice cream. They said many consumers unknowingly purchase frozen desserts, assuming they are ice cream, despite both products differing considerably in ingredients, nutritional value, and fat composition.



Professor Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Department of Community Medicine,

Government Medical College Srinagar, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer

(KNO) that informed food choices are essential for maintaining good health and preventing lifestyle-related diseases. He advised consumers to always read the product name, ingredient list, manufacturing date, best-before date, and nutrition facts before making a purchase.

Health experts explained that ice cream is prepared using milk and cream, with milk fat serving as the primary source of fat. Under FSSAI norms, ice cream must contain at least 10 per cent milk fat. Its key ingredients

Much-awaited ULB polls in J&K unlikely this year

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Jul 06: The much-awaited Urban Local Bodies (ULB) polls in Jammu & Kashmir are unlikely to be held in 2026 due to the absence of an updated electoral roll, which will only be available after Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is undertaken in the Union Territory.

Officials disclosed to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the chances of holding the electoral exercise in the UT this year are almost nil, as the updated electoral roll required for these polls will only be prepared after the SIR exercise is completed. "Unlike Panchayat polls, the

electoral roll for Urban Local Bodies is prepared on the basis of the electoral rolls of the Election Commission of India. No revision of electoral rolls has been undertaken in Jammu & Kashmir by the ECI since the 2024 Assembly polls," they said, adding that this has made the conduct of ULB elections in 2026 highly unlikely.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) had said earlier this year that the SIR exercise in Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh will be announced later, after considering the completion of Phase-II of the Census and weather conditions in snow-bound areas. "After [| More on P6](#)

CS directs for earlier operationalisation of 'Digital Arrest' prevention mechanism

Reviews Cyber Crime Prevention Measures across J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 6: Chief Secretary Atal Dullloo chaired a high-level review meeting on Monday to assess the progress made in strengthening the cybercrime prevention framework and expediting the operationalisation of the Digital Arrest mechanism across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Principal Secretary, Home; Additional Director General of Police (CID); Commissioner Secretary, IT; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Inspector General of Police (Crime), Senior Superintendent of Police (Crime), SP Operations and other senior officers. Officers stationed outside Srinagar participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

Undertaking a comprehensive review of the initiatives, the Chief Secretary directed that progress on cyber crime prevention and implementation of the Digital Arrest mechanism be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure adherence to timelines and effective inter-departmental coordination. He stressed the need for completing all statutory, administrative and technical requirements within the stipulated timeframe so that the system is made fully functional and operational without delay.

The Chief Secretary further directed the concerned departments to ensure that the progress is uploaded on the Pragati Portal by July 20 without any fail. He instructed the departments to submit all pending proposals and requisite documentation within the prescribed timeline



to facilitate the issuance of necessary government orders for its seamless operationalisation.

Highlighting the growing challenge posed by cyber frauds and online financial crimes, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of building institutional capacity through sustained training and skill enhancement of officials associated with cyber crime investigation and digital enforcement.

He also called for a comprehensive public awareness campaign through print, electronic and digital media platforms to educate citizens about emerging cyber threats, including digital arrest scams, online financial frauds and cyber safety practices.

The Chief Secretary observed that public awareness, technological preparedness and coordinated

institutional response are critical to effectively combating cyber crime and safeguarding citizens from increasingly sophisticated online frauds.

Earlier, the meeting was given a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the roadmap for implementation of the Digital Arrest mechanism, the status of infrastructure and institutional preparedness, key milestones achieved, existing gaps and the action plan for strengthening the cyber security ecosystem across the Union Territory. The presentation also highlighted the measures being undertaken to enhance coordination among stakeholder departments for ensuring a robust and responsive cyber crime prevention framework.

DC Baramulla visits Sopore Industrial Estate, interacts with traders

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JULY 06: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid Monday visited the Sopore Industrial Estate, where he interacted with traders, entrepreneurs and industrial unit holders to review the functioning of industrial establishments.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, inspected various industrial and business units and reviewed their

production activities and infrastructure. During the interaction, traders and entrepreneurs highlighted the need for construction of a boundary wall (fencing), establishment of a single regulated entry and exit point, and augmentation of other essential infrastructure and facilities within the industrial estate. The Deputy commissioner, assured them that all demands would be examined on priority and taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action. He emphasized that a well-developed industrial

ecosystem is essential for promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and boosting the local economy.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among the concerned departments to facilitate industrial growth and improve infrastructure at the estate.

He reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to supporting local entrepreneurs and ensuring a conducive environment for the growth and expansion of industrial activities.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

E-NIT NO. 07 of 2026-27

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K U.T , e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on "Percentage basis" (Single Click) from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K U.T Govt./ CPWD/Railways/Other Governments/ Union Territories for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Advt. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Amt in Rs)@3%	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender Opening Authority
	Construction of FP Work Cement Concrete Lining Wall on Rather Khul at Muslimabad (FM School) Near Land of Gh Mohamad Gundoo and others	1.23	3700/=	5 Days	DEE	200/=	District Capex CDF (43 Anantnag West)	Executive Engineer

Position of Funds:

Budgetary allocation 2026-27.

Position of Administrative Approval: -

Accorded

Position of Technical Sanction: -

Accorded

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, set of terms and conditions, and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	07-07-2026 at 10:00 AM
2	Date of start of downloading	07-07-2026 at 10:00 AM
3	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial	07-07-2026 at 10:00 AM
4	Bid submission end date	13-07-2026 at 18:00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	14-07-2026 at 10:00 AM

Terms and Conditions:

Bids must be accompanied with proof of the cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (tender inviting authority).

The name of the work shall be legible along with NIT number and item number neatly written on the face of TR. Any deficiency/ correction will lead to cancellation of the tender also the date of treasury challan should be in between the date of start of Bid and bid submission end date.

01. The successful bidder shall have to submit the hardcopy of EMD/Performance Security @ 3 % in the shape of CDR/FDR and duly uploaded, treasury challan and other allied documents.

02. Unbalanced and Abnormally Low Bids

a. In case the bid is found to be unbalanced, the successful bidder (L1) shall have to deposit an Additional Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG from any scheduled bank, in accordance with the Govt. of J&K-Finance Department Circular No: FDCode/441/2021-02-158, Dated: 08/08/2025,

03. Bidders are advised to use the pre-qualification document area in their user on www.j&k-tenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below

a. Latest GSTIN clearance Monthly / Quarterly(Both GSTR -1 & GSTR -3 B as opted for the Month of May 2026 along with PAN.

b. Registration Certificate of GST NO.

c. Registration card with the latest renewal(2026-27 /onwards)/ Online Registration Card updated.

d. Treasury challan (0702) must be uploaded in vivid format carrying no corrections or omissions so that they can be verified discretely by the Tender opening committee. (The name of the work shall be legible along with NIT number and item number neatly written on the face of TR. Any deficiency/ correction will lead to cancellation of the tender also the date of treasury challan should be in between the date of start of Bid and bid submission end date).

e. Scanned copy of EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR/BG.

f. Card verification letter

g. Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.

h. BOQ(xls)

i. The Bidder shall have to upload an Affidavit that he has not been defaulter in any Department for the last year i.e.2025-26.(The Affidavit must be in between the date of e Nit) and must have written E NIT NO. and S.NO for which the tender is submitted)

j. As per the Circular issued by the finance department Vide No.01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025. That "Every participating contractor/ Agency to mandatorily disclose the bank account number, which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payment shall be released by the Govt department / agency to any other bank account, except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder"

k. The Bidder must Upload the self-declaration/undertaking to the effect that in case of being first lowest tenderer he shall produce the hard copies of the uploaded document, security deposit as per condition within two days after the opening of tenders, failing which, it will be deemed that the contractor is not interested and the same work will be allotted to the 2nd lowest without any Notice to the 1st one, besides action as warranted under rules shall be invoked.

l. The scanned documents must be uploaded in PDF format. Any deficiency in the above-mentioned conditions will lead to rejection of the bid which shall be noted.

04. That in case if there is any doubt in documents of L1 the undersigned reserves right to verify the same upto his satisfaction and if anything found malafied/fabricated the bid shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the defaulting bidder.

05. The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message at their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (Tender Receiving Authority).

06. Contractor/ Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/Treasury Challan as required, there EMD will be forfeited besides they will be barred/ prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of One year (01 Year) or which the authorities may deem fit and proper in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be considered for the said period.

07. The bid for the work shall remain valid for 60 days from the date of the opening of the bid.

08. The earnest money shall be forfeited if: Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

09. The successful bidder(L1) shall execute the agreement within 28 Days after fixation of contract.

10. In case of tie for the position of 1st lowest bidder the bids should be outrightly rejected, and the work shall be put to fresh tenders.

11. Instruction to bidders regarding the e-Tendering process: -

A) Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from the "Bidders Manual Kit" on web site www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint with the bid submission process.

B) To participate in the bidding process, bidders have to get a "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per the information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor.

C) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

No.FCD/Ang/2026/1889-1911

Dated :- 06-07-2026

SD/= Executive Engineer, Flood Control Division Anantnag

DIPK-2929/26

Dated: 06-07-2026

DDC Shopian reviews the progress of SASCI, PMGSY, other developmental projects



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, JULY 06: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian to assess the progress of projects being executed under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), PMGSY and other developmental sectors in the district.

The DDC, as per an official statement, reviewed the status of ongoing projects, to address bottlenecks in implementation and directed for ensuring timely completion of works for the benefit of the people of the district.

The meeting aimed to strengthen inter-departmental coordination and to accelerate the pace of infrastructure development in the district.

During the meeting, the DDC reviewed the status of PMGSY road projects and took stock of issues related to obtaining forest clearances. It

was informed that forest clearance cases pertaining to three PMGSY road projects are under process, while work on 15 PMGSY road projects under SASCI are presently underway in the district.

The meeting was further informed that R&B Division Shopian, has undertaken seven road projects under SASCI, of which five have already been completed while the remaining works on two projects are progressing steadily.

The DDC also reviewed the status of projects being executed by departments, including Health, KPDCI, Horticulture Planning & Marketing and other sectors.

Emphasising the need for timely execution of developmental works, the DDC exhorted all executing agencies to expedite the pace of work, resolve bottlenecks in a coordinated manner and ensure completion of all projects within stipulated timelines so that the benefits of development reach the people at the earliest.

DC Budgam chairs Land Acquisition meeting on 220 KV Wagora-Budgam-Zainakote Transmission Line project



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, JULY 06: Deputy Commissioner (District Collector) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Monday chaired a meeting to review the land acquisition process for the 220 KV Wagora-Budgam-Zainakote Transmission Line project.

The meeting, as per an official statement, focused on various aspects of the land acquisition process, including the proposed compensation for land required for the construction of transmission towers.

During the meeting, the DC directed the concerned

officers to ensure that all procedures are followed diligently and that eligible landowners receive fair compensation as per the applicable rules.

The meeting also reviewed the status of procedural formalities and directed the concerned officers to work in close coordination for the timely implementation of the project.

The meeting was attended by the Collector Land Acquisition Budgam, Collector Land Acquisition Chadoora, Collector Land Acquisition Beerwah, Collector Land Acquisition Khanshib, and other concerned officers.

MY Bharat Srinagar celebrates birth anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 6: MY Bharat Srinagar commemorated the birth anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee at the MY Bharat Kendra, Rajbagh, Srinagar, with active participation from youth. The programme, as per a PIB statement, was conducted under the guidance of District Youth Officer, Srinagar, Gopal Namdeo. Around 50 participants, including MY Bharat Volunteers and Presidents of various Youth Clubs, took part in the celebration.

To mark the occasion, a series of activities were organised, including a Plantation Drive, Cleanliness Drive, and an Essay Competition highlighting the life, vision, and contributions of Dr. Syama

Prasad Mookerjee towards nation-building and youth empowerment.

Addressing the gathering, District Youth Officer Gopal Namdeo encouraged the youth to actively participate in community service and adopt the values of patriotism, selfless service, and social responsibility. He appreciated the enthusiasm of the volunteers and youth club members for making the programme successful.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment by the participants to continue working for environmental conservation, cleanliness, and nation-building through various community initiatives under the banner of MY Bharat.

Perfect Start, Perilous Finish

J&K's secondary school student retention crisis

- Foundational Stage stands at a strong 90%
- Preparatory Stage remains robust at 80%
- Secondary Stage retention rate falling to just 38%

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jul 06: Jammu and Kashmir is confronting a deepening educational paradox, while the primary schools are on the cusp of achieving a perfect retention rate, the secondary level on the contrary is facing an 'exodus' of students, with more than half dropping out before completing the senior stage.

The data presented by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in a recent report said that J&K boasts an impressive 90 percent retention at the foundational stage and 80 percent at the preparatory stage.

However the official data indicates a concerning picture of retention rate at the secondary stage with only 38 percent.

"The retention rate in Jammu and Kashmir is 90 percent at the foundational stage, 80 percent at the preparatory stage, 76 percent at the middle stage and only 38 percent at the secondary stage," the Ministry said. It also said that the sharp decline



in retention at the secondary level was highlighted as a matter of concern.

MoE observed that enrolment in

government schools has declined over the last three years.

The Ministry advised the Jammu

and Kashmir authorities to undertake a detailed analysis of the factors contributing to student dropout and develop a comprehensive strategy to improve retention, particularly during the transition to secondary education.

About the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), MoE said that the percentage of government primary schools with adverse PTR has increased from 16 percent in 2023-24 to 17 percent in 2024-25. "Similarly, at the upper primary level, the percentage of schools with adverse PTR has increased from 6.7 percent to 7.5 percent during the same period."

"The increase in the number of schools not meeting the prescribed PTR norms was highlighted as a matter of concern," MoE said.

The Ministry has advised J&K to undertake a detailed review of teacher deployment across schools and take appropriate measures to ensure compliance with PTR norms—(KNO)

CM Omar meets mutton traders, vows to fix transit issues

- J&K team to visit Punjab within two days

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday assured the Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association (KMDA) of taking up with the Punjab Government the issues faced by livestock transporters, with a high-level delegation set to visit Punjab within the next two days to seek an early resolution.

After meeting the Chief Minister, KMDA General Secretary Mehraj-ud-Din said the delegation apprised Omar Abdullah of the difficulties mutton dealers continue to face while transporting livestock through Punjab despite recent interventions.

"He listened to our concerns, and we handed over all the documents and communications issued by the Punjab Government. The Chief Minister immediately called the concerned minister and directed him to take note of the issue and ensure it is resolved at the earliest," Mehraj-ud-Din said.



He said the CM assured the delegation that a special committee would leave for Punjab within the next two days to take up the matter with the state's government.

"The delegation will comprise officials from the concerned department, representatives of the Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association and members of the Kashmir Economic Alliance

(KEA). We have been assured that the issue will be resolved through official-level talks with the Punjab Government," he said.

Mehraj-ud-Din said the association is hopeful that the proposed visit will remove the hurdles being faced by livestock transporters and ensure hassle-free movement of livestock in the future. According to an official

statement, the Chief Minister assured the delegation that the government is fully committed to resolving the issue and that all bottlenecks affecting the movement of livestock through Punjab would be addressed. "He informed the delegation that a high-level team from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir will visit Punjab in the coming days to engage with the concerned authorities and facilitate an early and amicable resolution," the statement said.

The development comes days after the Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association called off its 10-day strike following a communication issued by the Punjab Government regarding the movement of livestock vehicles. The strike had disrupted the transportation of sheep to Jammu & Kashmir and triggered concerns over mutton availability in Kashmir, particularly during the ongoing marriage season, prompting the J&K Government to intervene with the Punjab authorities—(KNO)

Delegations call on LG Sinha

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 06: Sehar Khan, young BJP leader and International Affairs & United Nations Delegate from J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday.

She presented a comprehensive report detailing key discussions and policy recommendations from her recent participation in United Nations engagements and international dialogues focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Subsequently, Junaïd Shafi, athlete and youth activist from Shopian also called on the Lieutenant Governor and raised several important matters pertaining to strengthening the action against drug abuse in the district.



Flash floods hit Chenab Valley

- Bury vehicles, block Doda-Kishtwar Highway



Sajid Raina

Jammu, Jul 06: Flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy overnight rainfall disrupted normal life in the Chenab Valley on Monday, blocking the Doda-Kishtwar National Highway, burying several vehicles under debris near the under-construction 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Power Project and affecting traffic, including the annual Machail Yatra.

Officials said that floodwaters carrying mud, rocks and boulders swept across National Highway-244 at Prem Nagar in Doda district, damaging a portion of the road and bringing

traffic to a complete halt.

Vehicles were stranded on both sides of the highway as restoration work was launched to clear the accumulated debris and reopen the road.

The highway closure also disrupted the ongoing Machail Yatra, prompting authorities to advise pilgrims and other commuters to avoid the route until it was declared safe for travel.

In neighbouring Kishtwar district, heavy rainfall triggered a major landslide near the tunnel area of the under-construction 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Power Project.

Several vehicles parked near the project site were buried

under mud and debris, while many sustained extensive damage.

Officials said debris clearance operations were initiated immediately to retrieve the trapped vehicles and restore normal movement in the affected area. No casualties or injuries were reported in either of the incidents.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre in Srinagar forecast generally cloudy conditions with intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir over the next few days.

It said a few places, particularly in the Jammu division, could receive heavy rainfall or brief spells of intense showers during the late afternoon, evening and early morning hours.

The weather office said many areas of Kashmir were also likely to receive light to moderate rainfall with isolated intense showers during the afternoon and morning hours.

Similar weather conditions, accompanied by hot and humid weather between rain

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Amid scorching heat, water crisis worsens across Srinagar

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 06: The drinking water crisis has deepened in several parts of Srinagar leaving the people in lurch.

Residents from multiple localities including Habba Kadal, Fateh Kadal, Chotta Bazar, Guru Bazar, Karfali Mohalla, Qamarwari and adjoining areas, besides several uptown localities such as Karan Nagar, Batmaloo and Natipora said that prolonged disruption in potable water supply has left them to fend on their own amid the scorching summer. They said that they have been receiving little to no drinking water for the past several days, forcing families to fetch water from private sources, rely on neighbours or purchase water for daily use.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

J&K Samagra Shiksha orders re-verification of textbook content

KNO

Srinagar, Jul 06: Following a recent controversy regarding the objectionable content in books, Jammu and Kashmir Samagra Shiksha on Monday re-constituted a committee to reverify the content of books under supply by various publishers. Project Director of Jammu and Kashmir Samagra Shiksha in an order said that the committee will reverify the content and ensure that not a single objectionable word lies in these books.

"In view of disbanding of earlier committees and recent controversy in media regarding some objectionable

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Dy CM conducts surprise inspection of several engineering offices

KT News Desk

Jammu, July 06: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday conducted surprise inspection of several engineering offices in Jammu to assess their functioning and review progress of developmental works.

The Deputy Chief Minister visited the office of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) at Bikram Chowk, Jammu, where he reviewed the overall functioning of the department and assessed the status of ongoing road projects.

He directed the officers to ensure timely execution of works while strictly adhering to prescribed quality standards.

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that improved road connectivity is vital for the socio-economic development of the region. He called upon the officials to work with dedication and accountability.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister also interacted with the officers and staff, emphasizing the importance of maintaining transparency, efficiency and responsiveness in departmental functioning.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister said that every project should be completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising on quality. Later,

the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the offices of the Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) and the Design Inspection and Quality Control (DIQC) and JKPCC office at Panama Chowk in Jammu. He reviewed the operational efficiency of both the departments and took stock of the progress of various ongoing works.



Expressing the need for strengthening institutional accountability, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to maintain discipline in offices, ensure regular monitoring of projects and uphold the highest standards of quality in execution. He said that effective supervision and timely completion of projects are essential to delivering better public services and meeting the expectations of the people.

He further stressed on ensuring greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in public service delivery.

EDITORIAL

Fake Registrations Undermine Amarnath Yatra. Time For Strict Action

The reports of certain travel agents facilitating fake registrations have cast a shadow over the sacred journey of Shri Amarnath Yatra. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's stern warning that those involved will face strict legal action is a welcome and necessary step to protect the integrity of the pilgrimage. Fake registrations are not a minor administrative lapse. They are a deliberate fraud that undermines the entire Yatra

management system. When unregistered pilgrims arrive at base camps without valid permits, they strain already stretched resources — from accommodation and food to healthcare and security. They disrupt the meticulously planned daily caps on pilgrim movement, cause unnecessary congestion, and create safety risks on treacherous mountain routes. Worse, they deprive genuinely registered devotees of the seamless experience they are

entitled to. The LG's directive to identify and take strict legal action against such travel agents sends a clear message: fraud will not be tolerated. This must be followed by swift and visible action to deter others from attempting similar practices. The administration must also strengthen the registration process itself, perhaps through biometric verification or real-time digital authentication, to make it harder for fraudsters to exploit the system. At

the same time, LG's appeal to unregistered pilgrims to wait for their turn is equally important. The daily pilgrim caps are not arbitrary; they are carefully set to ensure the safety and well-being of every devotee. Exceeding these limits on the high-altitude route could lead to disasters ranging from stampedes to medical emergencies. Pilgrims must understand that patience and cooperation are acts of devotion in themselves. The surge in pilgrim numbers

this year is a sign of growing faith and the administration's improved arrangements. But this trust must not be betrayed by unscrupulous elements. The government must ensure that every devotee who follows the rules is rewarded with a safe, smooth, and spiritually fulfilling experience. And those who try to game the system must face the full force of the law. Only then can the Yatra remain truly sacred, secure, and seamless.

A Life Devoted To India's Unity And Progress – Remembering Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

As India advances towards the goal of a Viksit Bharat, the finest tribute we can pay him is to strive every day to build the strong, united, self-confident, and compassionate India that he so deeply believed in.



Narendra Modi

The 6th of July is a special day for countless people who cherish the ideals of nationalism and selfless service. We commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, whose life remains a timeless example of courage and unwavering commitment to Maa Bharti. Few leaders in modern India embodied the seamless confluence of intellect, public service and moral conviction as profoundly as Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

The young Syama Prasad was born into circumstances that could easily have assured him a protected and comfortable life. His father, Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, was among the foremost educationists and intellectuals of his age. Yet, while destiny placed before him a path of privilege, his conscience led him towards one of sacrifice and national service. He was convinced that he could not remain a mute spectator to the turbulence of his times, be it fighting colonialism, communalism, humanitarian challenges and more. Along this journey, he endured profound personal tragedies, including the loss of an infant child and, later, his wife. Yet, these tragedies only deepened his resolve and strengthened his unwavering commitment to serve.

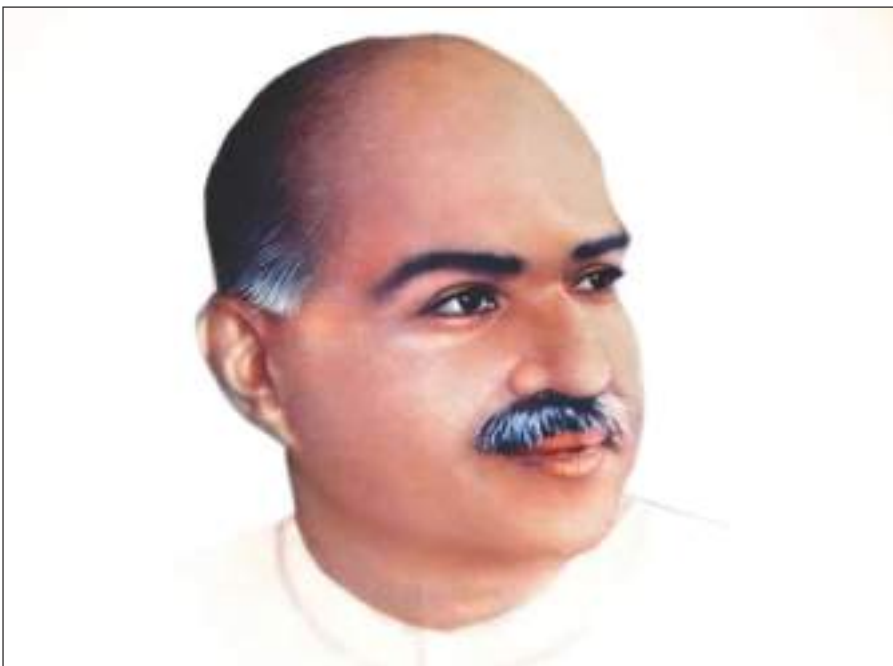
If there was one ideal that defined Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's public life above all else, it was the indivisibility of India. He stood firm during the upheaval of Partition to ensure that West Bengal remained an integral part of India. A few years later, that

very conviction drew him to Jammu and Kashmir. Imprisonment did not deter him and isolation did not diminish him. His life came to an abrupt end in detention, far from the countless people whose cause he had made his own. There are moments in history when an individual's final sacrifice transcends politics and enters the realm of national memory. Dr. Mookerjee's last journey remains one such moment. Acharya Vinoba Bhave said that Dr. Mookerjee sacrificed himself for a cause in which he had faith. Years later, the revocation of Articles 370 and 35(A) in 2019 was the most fitting tribute to his martyrdom.

Dr. Mookerjee put India First and Indian values first. And he did it by building institutions and nurturing systems that defied conventional mindsets of those times. He became the youngest Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta. In his unique style, he brought positive changes that were patriotic and futuristic. Addressing a conference of educators, Dr. Mookerjee put it wonderfully when he said, "It is incorrect to look upon educational institutions as factories to produce potential clerks and low-paid staff. We have to turn out students who are capable of providing leadership to our self-governing institutions, such as municipal corporations, provincial and central legislatures and also of directing the affairs in various fields of life such as financial, commercial and industrial ones."

Under his leadership, Calcutta University undertook unique efforts such as improving library infrastructure, boosting research in sciences, encouraging the study of artefacts and establishing courses in agriculture, to name a few. He drew attention to areas such as sports, teacher training and student welfare. To instil a sense of pride among students and alumni, he began a practice of marking 24th January as the foundation day of the University. He requested none other than Gurudev Tagore to compose a song for the University.

Yet another example of this spirit can be



seen in the later part of his life, when he decided to form the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. At a time when the Congress Party was omnipresent, he felt that there was all the more reason for an alternative voice to speak up for India's progress while staying attached to our cultural roots. It was perhaps fitting that the party's symbol was the Diya, the earthen lamp. A single lamp may appear modest, yet it possesses the power to dispel darkness far beyond itself. It is exactly what the Jana Sangh did both during the years it was active and beyond.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's tenure as India's first Minister for Industry and Supply reveals a statesman whose conception of development was remarkably comprehensive and humane. He viewed industry as a means of restoring dignity, opportunity and confidence to a newly independent nation. He respected wealth creation and value addition. While laying the foundations of

modern industrial India through pioneering initiatives such as the Damodar Valley Corporation, the Sindri Fertiliser Plant and a robust industrial policy, he simultaneously ensured that India's traditional strengths were not neglected. Handlooms, cottage industries, artisans and textile workers found in him an equally committed champion.

Here, I would like to share a personal experience. The Sindri plant, which Dr. Mookerjee worked to establish with a clear vision of self-reliance, was ignored by those who ran the nation for several decades. I feel honoured that our Government had the opportunity to contribute to its revival. It was indeed among the most special moments to have been there for that programme.

India's civilisational tradition has long celebrated dialogue and discussions. Dr. Mookerjee embodied this democratic spirit. He joined Pandit Nehru's Cabinet, believing

that the task of nation-building in the early years transcended political differences. He served with sincerity and a constructive spirit. But when he felt that questions of national importance demanded a different course, he relinquished office with dignity and devoted himself wholeheartedly to the political work he believed the nation required.

75 years ago, Pandit Nehru brought the First Amendment, which was a direct assault on free speech. Dr. Mookerjee was among its staunchest critics. He understood fully what the Congress was capable of doing. And he was proven right. Those who brought the First Amendment 75 years ago imposed the Emergency in 1975 and 50 years ago, brought in the 42nd Amendment Act, which again struck at the core of liberal democratic values.

Dr. Mookerjee also stood out for his humanitarian efforts. When the most tragic famine struck Bengal in 1943, Dr. Mookerjee immersed himself in serving those affected. He ensured that several canteens and relief centres were opened to feed people. On one hand, he was deeply shaken by the plight of his people while on the other, he was repulsed by the insensitivity of the colonial rulers. He even wrote a book, Panchasher Manwantar, in which he expressed his angst. When a super cyclone hit Medinipur in 1942, his efforts to restore normalcy were widely lauded.

Speaking at a college in Kolkata, Dr. Mookerjee urged the youth, "Whatever work you undertake, do it seriously, thoroughly and well; never leave it half-done or undone, never feel yourself satisfied unless and until you have given it your very best." As India advances towards the goal of a Viksit Bharat, the finest tribute we can pay him is to strive every day to build the strong, united, self-confident and compassionate India that he so deeply believed in. And knowing today's youth, I am certain they will rise to the occasion and do exactly that.

The author is the Prime Minister of India

The Enduring Legacy Of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Institutions, Ideas And Nation Building



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

History often remembers great leaders through the political battles they fought. Yet the most enduring contribution of statesmen is rarely confined to politics alone. Their real legacy lies in the institutions they create, the ideas they nurture and the values they leave behind for future generations. As the nation commemorates the 125th birth anniversary of Bharat Kesari Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, it is worth revisiting an aspect of his public life that deserves far wider attention: his lifelong commitment to institution building as the foundation of nation building.

Independent India did not emerge merely from a political struggle. It had to build universities capable of educating its citizens, research institutions that could advance scientific knowledge, industries that could generate economic self-reliance, cultural organisations that would preserve civilisational heritage, and public institutions that could uphold democratic values. Dr. Mookerjee understood early that a

nation's future depends not only on visionary leadership but also on strong institutions that outlast individual leaders and governments.

His remarkable academic career reflected this conviction. Appointed the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, he assumed office at a time when higher education was becoming central to India's intellectual awakening. For him, universities were not merely places that produced graduates; they were institutions that shaped informed citizens capable of contributing responsibly to public life. Education, in his view, was inseparable from the larger task of nation building.

His commitment to scientific and technological advancement extended well beyond the university campus. As a member of the Court and Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, he contributed to strengthening one of India's premier centres of scientific research. In 1947, he laid the foundation stone of the Department of Power Engineering, recognising that engineering education and technological capability would become indispensable to an independent India's economic progress. Long before innovation became a central policy objective, he had recognised that scientific excellence and industrial development would determine the country's long-term strength.

This vision found practical expression after Independence when Dr. Mookerjee became India's first Minister for Industry

and Supply. During those formative years, the newly independent nation faced the enormous challenge of creating an industrial base almost from scratch. Institutions such as the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and the Sindri Fertilizer Factory were established not merely as manufacturing units but as symbols of India's determination to achieve technological competence and economic self-reliance. For Dr. Mookerjee, industrialisation was never an end in itself; it was an investment in national capability and collective confidence.

Institution building, however, requires more than physical infrastructure or administrative efficiency. It demands compassion, public spirit and a deep sense of moral responsibility. These qualities were evident during the Bengal famine of 1943, when Dr. Mookerjee devoted himself to organising large-scale relief efforts for those affected by one of the greatest humanitarian tragedies of the twentieth century. Following Partition, he worked extensively for the rehabilitation of displaced persons, recognising that national reconstruction involved healing human suffering as much as rebuilding institutions.

His public life also reflected a profound appreciation of India's civilisational heritage. As President of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, he played an important role in strengthening India's cultural and spiritual ties with Buddhist nations. He participated in welcoming the sacred relics of the

Buddha's chief disciples, Arhant Sariputra and Arhant Maudgalyayana, to India, recognising the enduring significance of civilisational diplomacy. Even today, India's efforts to share these holy relics with countries such as Mongolia demonstrate how cultural heritage continues to strengthen international goodwill and deepen historical bonds.

Equally revealing was his concern for literature and scholarship. His correspondence shows the assistance he extended to the eminent poet Kazi Nazrul Islam during a period of personal difficulty. Such episodes remind us that public leadership is often measured not only by major policy decisions but also by quiet acts of generosity that seldom attract public attention.

Dr. Mookerjee carried the same institutional outlook into the Constituent Assembly. Describing the framing of the Constitution as "a great responsibility" and "a solemn and sacred trust", he underlined the moral obligations that accompany constitutional governance. Those words remain strikingly relevant today. The strength of the Constitution ultimately depends not only on its written provisions but also on the integrity of Parliament, the independence of public institutions, the rule of law and the civic responsibility of citizens. Constitutional democracy flourishes only when institutions command public trust and operate with integrity.

As India advances towards the goal of becoming a developed nation, Dr. Mookerjee's

vision offers an important reminder. Economic growth alone cannot define national progress. Lasting development requires sustained investment in education, scientific research, technological innovation, cultural preservation and institutions that inspire public confidence.

Roads, airports and factories are indispensable, but so are universities that encourage inquiry, laboratories that expand knowledge, museums that preserve heritage and public institutions that safeguard constitutional values.

Institutions possess a remarkable quality: they outlive governments, political movements and even generations. They preserve accumulated knowledge, provide continuity amid change and enable societies to pursue long-term national goals. Leaders may shape history, but institutions sustain civilisation.

That perhaps is the most enduring lesson of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's public life. His legacy rests not merely in the offices he held or the debates in which he participated, but in his unwavering belief that strong institutions are the true custodians of a nation's aspirations.

As India continues its journey of development, strengthening those institutions that promote knowledge, scientific temper, cultural confidence and constitutional values would be the most meaningful tribute to his memory.

The author is the Union Minister for Culture & Tourism, Government of India

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

Public grievances remains top priority of government, time-bound redress assured: Javid Dar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 06: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Monday interacted with a series of public delegations and individuals at the Civil Secretariat here, reaffirming the government's commitment to responsive and people-centric governance.

During the interaction, the Minister, as per an official statement, patiently heard a wide range of collective and individual grievances pertaining to civic amenities, healthcare,



employee welfare, compassionate appointments and

other developmental and public service-related issues.

Taking cognizance of the concerns raised by the delegations, the Minister issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for prompt examination and expeditious redress of genuine grievances. He stressed the need for a transparent, accountable and citizen-friendly administration, directing the officers to ensure timely disposal of public issues.

Javid Dar reiterated that addressing the public grievances remains a top priority of the government. He assured the visiting delegations that all genuine demands would be resolved in a time-bound manner.

DLSA Budgam conducts visit to Central Jail Srinagar

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, JULY 06: In a significant move, as part of Calendar of activities, District Legal Services Authority Budgam, under the Aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority Srinagar Conducted extensive visit to the Central Jail Srinagar.

The visit, as per an official statement, was made in connection with the forth Coming 3rd Under Trial Review Committee scheduled to be held in the Month of July 2026. During the visit the team lead by Chief LADC Budgam interacted with the Jail inmates and has identified eligible UTPS to be taken up in the scheduled 3rd UTRC Meeting. The List shall be shared amongst the all UTRC meeting members and



on the day of Meeting amongst them, eligible UTPS to be recommended for release with the due consent of members.

It is important to mention here that DLSA Budgam is

committed in safe guarding the Legal rights of the under-Trial Prisoners and their family members as per modus operandi NALSA-SPURHA scheme.

Health Department Doda observes World Zoonoses Day



KT News Desk

DODA, JULY 06: The Health Department Doda Monday observed World Zoonoses Day with a series of awareness programmes across all medical blocks of the district to educate the public on zoonotic diseases and the importance of preventing their transmission.

The main district level programme was organized at the Government ANMT School Doda and was attended by the students of the institution organized by IDSP Unit under the banner of District Health Society Doda.

The programme, as per an official statement, was graced by Dy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sat Lal Manhas, Block Medical Officer, Dr. Abdul Gafoor, Principal Government ANMT School Vidya Kotwal, Umar Anayat (Epidemiologist), Sanjeev Rana (Health Educator), Roma Sharma (Data Manager, IDSP) and Saima Kousar (Tutor, ANMT School).

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Umar Anayat, who highlighted the significance of World Zoonoses Day and gave

a brief overview of zoonotic diseases, their modes of transmission and the need for coordinated preventive measures.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sat Lal Manhas emphasized the importance of generating awareness on zoonotic diseases and adopting preventive practices to reduce the risk of infections transmitted from animals to humans. He urged the students to act as ambassadors of health awareness in their communities.

Dr. Abdul Gafoor also delivered an informative lecture on the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases, stressing the importance of personal hygiene, food safety, vaccination of animals and early reporting of suspected cases.

Speaking on the occasion, Vidya Kotwal appreciated the initiative of the Health Department and encouraged the students to actively participate in public health awareness activities.

An interactive question and answer session was also held, during which students enthusiastically participated and clarified their queries regarding zoonotic diseases and their prevention.

ADDC Kishtwar flags off batch of 96 farmers for 7-day exposure visit to Palampur

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, JULY 06: To enhance farmers' knowledge and exposing them to modern agricultural technologies and best farming practices, the Agriculture Department Kishtwar on Monday organized a seven-day exposure visit/training Programme for a batch of 96 farmers from different parts of the district to Palampur Himachal Pradesh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) ATMA 2026-27.

The exposure visit is being conducted from 06.07.2026 to 12.07.2026 at CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Palampur, Himachal Pradesh.

The batch of farmers, as per an official statement, was flagged off by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Vinod Kumar Behnal in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal; Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Kushal Chandel and other officers and officials of the Agriculture Department.

During the seven-day training programme, the participating farmers will be exposed to advanced and scientific agricultural practices through visits to the University Farms,



where they will observe the latest crop production technologies and research initiatives. The programme also includes interactive sessions with progressive farmers to facilitate the exchange of practical experiences and innovative farming techniques.

In addition, the farmers will visit tea farms and tea processing units to learn about tea cultivation and value addition, the Hing Research Station to understand the cultivation and research of high-value crops and the Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) to gain knowledge about bio-resource management, agri-innovations and technology-driven farming practices.

The ADDC highlighted that exposure visits under CSS-ATMA are an important extension activity aimed at bridging the gap between agricultural research and field-level adoption.

He expressed confidence that the knowledge and practical experience gained during the programme would enable the participating farmers to adopt improved technologies, diversify their farming systems and enhance productivity and income. He also urged the farmers to share their learnings with other farmers in their respective villages after returning from the tour.

The participating farmers expressed immense enthusiasm and gratitude towards the Agriculture Department Kishtwar for providing them with the opportunity to visit one of the country's premier agricultural institutions. The Farmers were excited to learn modern farming techniques, interact with experts and progressive farmers and bring back valuable knowledge that would help improve agriculture in Kishtwar district.

DHSJ observes World Zoonoses Day 2026



KT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 06: The State Surveillance Unit, Directorate of Health Services Jammu Monday observed World Zoonoses Day under the guidance and support of Director Health Services, Jammu, Dr. Poonam Sethi to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases and promote the One Health approach. The programme, as per an official statement, was organized in line with this year's theme, "Working Together: Preventing Zoonoses Through Community Action," emphasizing the importance of community participation and multi-sectoral collaboration in preventing zoonotic diseases.

The event was attended by nodal officers and officials from various health programmes under the Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Epidemiologist/State

Surveillance Officer Jammu Division Dr. Rashmi Sharma, who highlighted the significance of World Zoonoses Day and emphasized the growing public health importance of emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, stressing the need for strengthened surveillance and inter-sectoral coordination.

Addressing the gathering, the Director reiterated the commitment of the Health Department towards strengthening disease surveillance, outbreak preparedness and implementation of the One Health approach to effectively tackle zoonotic diseases.

During the technical session, Medical Officer, Epidemiology Dr. Shehnaz Chowdhary, Medical Officer, Epidemiology Dr. Prem Lata and State Epidemiologist IDSP Dr. Simran Nag delivered presentations on zoonotic diseases, their surveillance, prevention and control and the importance of the One Health approach

J&K Sports Council clarifies Sports Quota Recruitment Rules Refutes misleading claims made through various media platforms

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 06: The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has taken serious note of certain reports, allegations and misleading narratives circulated through various media platforms and social media regarding the recruitment of Outstanding Sportspersons under the Sports Quota, particularly in relation to the implementation of S.O. 12 of 2022 and the recognition of Pencak Silat & Kyaking & Canoeing (Dragon Boat) as an eligible sports discipline.

Since these reports have created confusion among sportspersons and the general public, the Sports Council considered it necessary to place the correct factual and legal position on record in the interest of transparency and public awareness.

The Sports Council, as per an official statement, clarified that the appointment of Outstanding Sportspersons in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is governed entirely by statutory Rules and Government Orders framed from time to time by the Government after detailed examination, inter-departmental consultation, legal scrutiny and approval of the Competent Authority. The policy has evolved over the years through various statutory notifications beginning with SRO-349 of 1998, subsequently amended through SRO-376 of 2004, followed by S.O. 149 of 2021 and thereafter comprehensively revised and consolidated through S.O. 12 of 2022, which was further supplemented by S.O. 412

of 2023.

These Government Orders collectively provide a transparent legal framework governing the appointment of Outstanding Sportspersons in Government service. They prescribe the recognized sports disciplines, eligibility conditions, assessment criteria, evaluation of sports achievements and the institutional mechanism for selection. Every provision contained in these Rules has been notified by the Government after due administrative and legal process and is binding upon all authorities concerned.

It is therefore incorrect to suggest that appointments under the Sports Quota are made on the basis of individual discretion or by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council independently. The Sports Council functions strictly as an implementing agency of Government policy and is required to discharge its responsibilities strictly in accordance with the Rules notified by the Government. The process of recruitment is institutional in nature and is carried out through a duly constituted High-Powered Selection Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, with senior officers of various Government Departments Such as Administrative Home, Administrative secretary Law, as its members. Every application received under the Sports Quota is subjected to scrutiny of eligibility, verification of sports achievements and examination under the prescribed rules before being placed



before the competent Selection Committee. Decisions are taken collectively in accordance with the statutory provisions, leaving no scope for arbitrary or individual decision-making.

The Sports Council also clarified the position regarding Pencak Silat, as certain misleading statements have been circulated questioning its recognition as a sports discipline. These claims are factually incorrect and contrary to official Government records. The Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, vide Order No. F. No. 9-32/2015-SP-I dated 03 November 2017, granted recognition to the Indian Pencak Silat Federation following the inclusion of the discipline in the 18th Asian Games held at Jakarta, Indonesia. Since then, Pencak Silat continues to enjoy national and international recognition and is governed globally by PERSILAT, the International Federation

for the sport. It is played competitively across numerous countries and forms part of prestigious international sporting events, including the Asian Games, Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Southeast Asian Games, Asian Youth Games, and World Championships, under the auspices of the Olympic Council of Asia, the continental Olympic body recognized by the International Olympic Committee. The sport is also featured in international university sporting competitions, including the ASEAN University Games.

At the national level, Pencak Silat is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, through the recognition granted to the Indian Pencak Silat Federation as the National Sports Federation. It is included in major sporting competitions such as the National Games, Khelo India competitions, and the All India Inter-University Championships,

with athletes also benefiting from various Khelo India programmes in accordance with the applicable scheme guidelines. Pencak Silat is also featured in All India Police Games. Furthermore, the Government of India has notified Pencak Silat as one of the sports disciplines eligible for recruitment of Meritorious Sportspersons in Central Government Ministries and Departments under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) policy, thereby affirming its official recognition for public employment.

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, following the inclusion of the mentioned recognized sports disciplines in MYAS Central Govt DOPT, five new games which were already recognized by J&K Sports Council / Govt of India viz baseball, netball, pencak silat, triathlon and Ice hockey were incorporated in the Job SRO 349 of 1998 read with SRO 376 of 2004 for consideration of appointment of outstanding sports persons by virtue of SO-149 of 2021 which is to be read with SRO-376 of 2004 and 3rd proviso of SRO 376 of 2004 states that achievements five year prior to advertisement shall be considered. Subsequently these games were also incorporated in the SO-12 of 2022 read with SO-412 of 2023 at serial no. 40,41,42,43,44 of ANNEXURE-I of SO-12. Further, Indian Pencak Silat Federation was recognized at Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports Govt of India in 2017 and stands registered in J&K Sports council from 2018 onwards till date.

That rule 7(i) of SO-12 also states that achievements in five year consideration zone shall be calculated. Consequently, Pencak Silat and Netball enjoys the same legal status as every other recognized sports discipline under the applicable Rules.

With regard to the consideration of sports achievements in Pencak Silat, it is further clarified that the matter had already been examined by the competent authorities. The issue was referred by the Scrutiny Committee to the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs for legal opinion. Based upon the legal advice received and the decision of the competent Selection Committee, the applicable position under the Rules was clarified, thereby ensuring uniformity and consistency in the consideration of eligible candidates. The matter, therefore, already stands settled through the prescribed legal and administrative mechanism established by the Government.

Pencak Silat is also included in Chief Commissioner of CGST, Central Excise & Customs advertisement for recruitment of sports persons 2025. Pencak silat is at s.no. 38.

Pencak Silat is also included in principal Chief Commissioner of Incometax ODISA advertisement for recruitment of sports persons dated 05/06/2026. Pencak silat is at s.no. 38. Besides, it is also included in Assam Rifles Meritorious Sports persons Recruitment 2026. Advertisement dated 18/12/2025. Pencak silat Athletes are also recruited in Haryana Government services

With regard to Kyaking & Canoeing, it is submitted that several sports disciplines consist of multiple recognized events have been conducted at National and International levels. For instance, in Athletics, Gymnastics, Fencing, Shooting, Wushu, roller-skating and Kayaking & Canoeing etc, various events are organized under the respective National and International Federations duly recognized by the Indian Olympic Association, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (Government of India), International Olympic Committee, and Olympic Council of Asia. As per the communication from SAI vide letter dated 15th January 2019 and Communication from IOA Indian Olympic Association vide letter dated 31st march 2017, Govt of India communication dated 25th April 2012 & IKCA letter dated 20th march 2012. ICF letter dated 12 September 2023.

These letters clarify that Dragon boat event is a part of Canoeing and in Kayaking & Canoeing recognized events include Calm Water (Canoe Sprint, Canoe Polo, Dragon Boat, Marathon), White Water (Slalom, Wild Water, Freestyle), and Salt Water (Canoe Sailing, Ocean Racing/ Surfing), conducted under the aegis of the Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association and the International Canoe Federation.

Likewise, in Gymnastics, sub-disciplines such as Artistic, Rhythmic, Trampoline, Tumbling, DMT, Acrobatic, Aerobics, and Parkour are conducted under the Gymnastics Federation of India and the International Gymnastics Federation.

Former minister project Doda, Kishtwar dev issues with LG Sinha

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 06: Former ministers GM Saroori and Abdul Majeed Wani called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday.

The former ministers projected various developmental issues of Doda and Kishtwar districts pertaining to strengthening the Healthcare infrastructure; establishment of Government Women's Degree College, Doda and Government Medical College at Kishtwar; early construction of Singhpora- Vailoo Tunnel and Sudhmahadev Tunnel; rehabilitation of cloudburst and flash-floods affected



families, sanctioning of Naigarh tunnel project and promotion of tourist places in the region. They requested for the constitution of Chenab Hill Development Council and a special recruitment drive in J&K Police for the local youth.

Committee on Subordinate Legislation reviews Health Dept service rules

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 06: The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday held a meeting to examine and scrutinize the subordinate legislation pertaining to the Health and Medical Education Department, with focus on the service rules governing its employees.

The meeting was chaired by Muzaffar Iqbal Khan while the legislators Hilal Akbar Lone, Peerzada Feroze Ahamed, Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh and Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi attended the meeting as its



members. The Committee, while reviewing the status of various service rules, observed with concern that several of these rules have remained pending for a prolonged period either with the Administrative

Reforms, Inspections and Trainings (ARI & Trainings) Department or the concerned department. It noted that such inordinate delays have adversely affected the service rights and legitimate interests of the employees.

The Committee decided to call the concerned administrative heads to its next meeting to explain the reasons for the delay and facilitate early resolution of the pending issues.

Chairman of the Committee emphasized that the Committee has a vital role in scrutinizing the subordinate legislation and ensuring that statutory rules are framed, finalized and implemented in a timely manner.

He stressed that unnecessary delays in finalization of service rules should be avoided, as they directly impact the rights, career progression and service conditions of employees.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Art 370 abrogation

government's tenure was personally significant as it reflected Mookerjee's vision of a self-reliant India.

He also described Mookerjee as a firm believer in democratic values, noting that although he served in the first Union Cabinet headed by Jawaharlal Nehru, he resigned after differences over issues he believed were against the national interest.

The Prime Minister further highlighted Mookerjee's humanitarian work during the Bengal famine of 1943 and relief efforts following the Medinipur cyclone, saying public service and compassion remained central to his life.

He urged people, especially the youth, to draw inspiration from Mookerjee's ideals of dedication, honesty and national service, saying his life remained a guiding force for building a stronger and more developed India. (KNO)

Art 370 abrogation brought

marking the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Nabin, who is on his maiden visit to J&K after taking over as BJP National President in January this year, said, "The constitutional changes carried out by the Narendra Modi-led government fulfilled the vision of the BJP ideology for the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country."

Stating that significant changes have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir after 2014, Nabin said the national tricolour now flies proudly across the Union Territory, including Srinagar's Lal Chowk, which, according to him, reflected a transformed political and security environment.

He said that previous governments opposed attempts to hoist the national flag at Lal Chowk, citing concerns over law and order.

Recalling his participation in the Rashtriya Ekta Yatra in 2011 as then Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha national general secretary, Nabin said a three-member delegation, including himself, had sought permission to unfurl the tricolour at Lal Chowk but was denied approval. He alleged that curfew was imposed to prevent the programme and claimed that a Pakistani flag was seen flying at Lal Chowk during that period.

"Only the persons with blinkered vision are unable to see what has changed in J&K. Tricolour proudly flying high at Lal Chowk and everywhere else in J&K after Narendra Modi took over the reins of the country as the Prime Minister delineates the change in J&K. Prior to 2014, when Congress was at the helm of affairs at the Centre and was in coalition in J&K government, hoisting tricolour was not allowed on the pretext that it would disturb peace in Kashmir and would create law and order problem," he stated.

Contrasting the situation with the present, Nabin said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are now being recognised for achievements in sports rather than for unrest, adding that the Union Territory was moving towards peace, development and prosperity.

"Many people ask 'what changed' and I tell them that a lot has changed in Jammu and Kashmir" he said adding, "Today, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are known as Ranji Trophy champions and not stone pelters," he said, reiterating that J&K is moving towards "a new era of peace, progress and prosperity".

The BJP president described July 6 as a "very significant day for J&K as it marked the birth anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee who laid down his life here for integrating it fully with the rest of the country with one flag and one constitution."

He also recalled the struggle of Dr Mookerjee, former BJP president Dr Murlidhar Joshi and Narendra Modi, before he became the Prime Minister, to "see tricolour unfurling at Lal Chowk and every nook and corner of J&K."

"My heart swells with pride that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi realised this vision. It is further heartening to note that as we are observing 125th birth anniversary of Dr Mookerjee, the BJP flag is also flying high in West Bengal – the birth-place of BJP ideologue (Dr Mookerjee)," Nabin said.

Calling upon party workers to strengthen the organisation, the BJP president said the party should continue expanding its outreach across Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed confidence that "the day is not far when Jammu and Kashmir will also have a BJP government," adding that while the lotus had already bloomed in Jammu, it would soon bloom in Kashmir as well.

Referring to the contributions of Dogra leaders and warriors, including General Zorawar Singh and Brigadier Rajinder Singh, Nabin

urged party workers to connect with people at the grassroots and spread awareness about the Centre's development initiatives and welfare programmes.

The rally marked Nabin's maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir after assuming charge as BJP national president earlier this year. The event concluded the fortnight-long Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Pakhwada, observed across the country from June 23 to July 6.

Earlier in the day, Nabin received a warm welcome on his arrival at Jammu Airport, where he was received by senior BJP leaders, including J&K BJP president Sat Sharma, Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Dr Jitendra Singh, Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma, BJP national general secretary and J&K in-charge Tarun Chugh, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and other party functionaries. Party workers greeted him at several locations en route to the rally venue with flowers, flags and traditional drum beats.

Before addressing the gathering, Nabin and senior BJP leaders paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

During his two-day visit, Nabin is scheduled to hold meetings with BJP office-bearers and the party's core group in Jammu, offer prayers at the historic Raghunath Temple and interact with party legislators and former elected representatives.

On Tuesday, he is scheduled to visit the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra, pay tributes to Pt Prem Nath Dogra, and participate in a "Yuva Samvad" programme with young party workers before concluding his visit. (KNO)

LG Sinha thanks

every young girl grows up believing that her dreams are valuable, her voice is powerful, and her future holds limitless possibilities."

He exuded hope that after 2029, women would have much greater political representation.

"The country has created an enabling atmosphere for increased participation of women in electoral politics. Over the past few years several initiatives have been launched to ensure financial independence of women in Jammu and Kashmir, including programmes such as Hausla, Mumkin, Rise Together, Umeed, DGP Sakhi, Krishi Sakhi and other entrepreneurship schemes" he said.

Referring to academic achievements, LG Sinha said girls are consistently outperforming boys, with nearly 70 to 75 per cent of university gold medals being secured by female students.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth and men to actively support women's leadership, saying the responsibility of empowering women cannot rest on women alone.

LG Sinha also felicitated 32 talented recipients of the Kashmir Women's Organization (KWO) Fellowship. He described the fellows as symbols of Jammu Kashmir's ongoing transformation towards a future built on self-confidence, equal opportunities and dignity for all.

He lauded the efforts of Dr. Fida Firdous and all the members of Kashmir Women's Organization for creating a robust platform where the Nari Shakti from the region could move forward confidently, embracing their talent, ideas, and identities and play a meaningful role in building a bright future for Jammu Kashmir.

"In a short span, Kashmir Women's Organization has earned the distinction of becoming a powerful hub of hope, trust, and positive change. This fellowship program is a tangible realization of collaborative and shared responsibility.

By challenging deeply entrenched stereotypes, these fellows have redefined what is possible. They have paved a new path for future generations and their contributions would serve as a foundation of inspiration, confidence, and guidance for years to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to historical icons such as Rani Didda, Kota Rani, Lal Ded, Habba Khatoon, Mata Rupa Bhawani, who had shaped the consciousness of Jammu Kashmir and contributed to its development. He highlighted that the women of J&K have always scaled the highest peaks of Nari Shakti.

"We have many such remarkable examples before us, and I wish for the women of Jammu Kashmir to lead the region's development," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to PM Modi for empowering the women of Jammu Kashmir by granting them their due rights and eliminating discrimination.

He outlined a progressive vision for the Union Territory, powered by women leaders.

The Lieutenant Governor exuded confidence that the fellowship program of Kashmir

Women's Organization will propagate the core principle that women deserve equal, dignified participation across all social, cultural, economic and political spheres.

"We must remain steadfast in our resolve to accord due respect to our Nari Shakti, while creating an environment that fosters their capabilities and progress. When women progress, society progresses; when women lead, the nation scales new heights; and when women realize their dreams, the entire world becomes more just, more compassionate, and more prosperous," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized the need to address the rising challenge of substance abuse among women. He advised the fellows to conduct a comprehensive, region-specific analysis to identify its underlying root causes. He said that this study will significantly strengthen rehabilitation frameworks and provide vital support to our daughters and sisters who have fallen victim to drug addiction.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the guides who mentored the fellows throughout the program.

He hoped that the dedication of all the members of Kashmir Women's Organization would serve as a catalyst for positive change in the lives of countless women in the years to come.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released a book titled "Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipal Council in India", written by Dr. Nazrul Islam.

Dr. Fida Firdous, President, Kashmir Writers Association, Dr. Darakshan Hassan Bhat, President, Kashmir Women's Organization, members of Kashmir Writers Association and Kashmir Women's Organization and senior officials attended the felicitation ceremony. (KNO)

J&K Govt modifies

Under the revised guidelines, financial assistance can be sanctioned up to a maximum limit of 5.00 lakh for organ transplantation, 2.75 lakh for cancer treatment, and 1.00 lakh for chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis, alongside other diseases notified by the government.

To ensure optimum utilization of resources, the assistance will be admissible for the uncovered portion of the treatment cost only after the patient has exhausted all eligible benefits under existing schemes, including PM-JAY SEHAAT, Medical Aid Trust (MAT), and the Cancer Treatment and Management Fund for Poor (CTMFFP).

This timely welfare decision taken by the Omar Abdullah government is expected to benefit the poor patients suffering from critical ailments belonging to Below poverty line families and economically weaker categories to be notified by government.

Rs 5,700 cr power

meeting that several districts have recorded substantial progress under these components, with many packages nearing completion.

Reviewing the financial health of the power sector, the Chief Minister noted the encouraging improvement in revenue realization. It was informed that annual revenue realization has increased significantly over the past several years, while the gap between power purchase cost and revenue realization has narrowed owing to sustained reforms, better billing and improved collections.

The meeting was informed that billing efficiency has improved from 56 per cent in FY 2021-22 to 77 per cent in FY 2025-26, while overall AT&C losses have declined drastically during the same period. The ACS-ARR gap has also reduced significantly, reflecting improving financial sustainability of the power utilities.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the impact of reduced hydro power generation during the current summer due to low water availability, which has increased dependence on power procurement from the energy exchange during peak demand hours. Officers briefed him on measures being taken to ensure uninterrupted supply despite seasonal challenges.

Reviewing the roadmap ahead, the Chief Minister stressed the need to maintain the momentum of reforms beyond the ongoing RDSS programme. He directed the department to ensure timely completion of all sanctioned works, to closely monitor project execution, remove implementation bottlenecks and improve accountability at every level.

He also emphasized the importance of expanding AB cable coverage, strengthening the transmission network and leveraging emerging technologies to improve reliability and reduce system losses. He called for focused efforts to improve consumer services while

ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the power sector.

The Chief Minister was informed about proposals for additional infrastructure investments, including expansion of AB cable networks, critical transmission projects, battery energy storage systems and rooftop solar initiatives aimed at improving grid stability, enhancing renewable energy integration and providing reliable electricity in remote and border areas.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of electrification works in uncovered habitations, ongoing transmission projects, feeder-wise power curtailment, tariff proceedings for FY 2026-27 and proposed interventions to further modernize the power sector.

Reiterating that reliable and affordable electricity remains central to the government's development agenda, the Chief Minister directed the department to adopt a results-oriented approach to ensure quality power supply, improve consumer satisfaction and build a modern, efficient and financially sustainable power sector for Jammu and Kashmir.

CM calls for

institutional matters, including recruitment of faculty members, finalisation of new recruitment rules, review and strengthening of training programmes, and support needed for organisation's long-term growth and sustainability.

The Council also examined various employee-related issues, including welfare measures, deputation of faculty members to fill up key positions at IMPA in the short term, implementation of career advancement, service matters, compassionate appointments, engagement of consultants and examination of other proposals through the designated sub-committee. The EC observed that these measures shall strengthen the institutional framework and ensure greater operational efficiency.

Emphasising the pivotal role of IMPARD in nurturing a professional and accountable civil service, the Chief Minister stressed the need for continuous institutional reforms, high-quality training and innovation in public administration. He underscored that a modern governance framework requires well-trained, motivated and future-ready public servants capable of responding effectively to emerging challenges and citizens' expectations.

The Chief Minister called for regular upgradation of training modules in line with evolving governance practices, greater adoption of technology-enabled learning and stronger knowledge partnerships to ensure that government officials remain equipped with the skills required for efficient public service delivery.

Not every frozen

include milk, cream, sugar, milk solids, stabilisers, emulsifiers, and natural or nature-identical flavours, providing nutrients such as calcium and protein derived from milk.

However, frozen desserts primarily use vegetable oils or fats, such as palm oil or coconut oil, instead of milk fat. They usually contain water, sugar, vegetable fat, milk solids, emulsifiers, stabilisers, colours, and artificial or nature-identical flavours, with milk fat content often less than 10 per cent or even absent.

Experts said milk-based ice cream generally provides around 180-230 kilocalories per 100 grams, containing 8-14 grams of total fat, 5-9 grams of saturated fat, 18-24 grams of carbohydrates, 14-20 grams of sugar, 3-5 grams of protein, and 100-150 milligrams of calcium. Frozen desserts typically contain 120-180 kilocalories, 3-8 grams of fat, 1-4 grams of saturated fat, with some products potentially containing trans fats, and provide lower amounts of protein and calcium.

Experts said that ice cream supplies calcium, protein, and other nutrients from milk, but excessive consumption can contribute to weight gain, dental cavities, and metabolic disorders. Frozen desserts are more affordable and available in a wider range of flavours but may contain more additives, colours, and artificial flavours, with regular overconsumption linked to obesity, fatty liver disease, and insulin resistance.

Health experts have advised consumers to read the product name carefully to distinguish between "Ice Cream" and "Frozen Dessert", examine the ingredient list, compare nutrition labels for calories, sugar, total fat, and saturated fat, check manufacturing and best-before dates, and prefer quality over attractive packaging or low prices. They recommended consuming frozen treats occasionally rather than making them a daily habit and incorporating healthier dessert options, including fresh fruits, yoghurt or curd, homemade fruit popsicles, dry fruits, nuts, and chia or basil

seed puddings.

"Good health is the result of informed food choices, balanced nutrition, and an active lifestyle," health experts said, encouraging consumers to become label-conscious and make healthier decisions while shopping. (KNO)

Much-awaited

considering the completion of Phase-II of the Census in these three State/UTs and due consideration of the weather in the upper reaches/snow-bound areas, the SIR schedule for these three State/UTs will be announced later," the EC had said in a press note.

The five-year terms of elected Urban Local Bodies in Jammu & Kashmir ended between October and December 2023. The UT has 78 Urban Local Bodies, including two Municipal Corporations. (KNO)

Intensify surveillance

a high level of operational preparedness and ensure seamless coordination among the police, security forces and civil administration.

He directed officers to intensify area domination and night domination exercises, particularly along the National Highway, key road corridors and the pilgrimage route, to prevent any security breach.

The DGP also instructed field units to strengthen surveillance and maintain a close watch on suspicious activities across Kathua district to prevent any attempt to disturb peace, officials said.

He asked officers to ensure strict verification of the identity credentials of pilgrims and make effective use of the RFID-based tracking system for real-time monitoring of registered yatris.

DGP Prabhat further directed that cases involving unregistered pilgrims be handled proactively and in coordination with the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board while adhering to the prescribed protocols.

He said coordinated efforts, constant vigilance and effective synergy among all stakeholders are a key to ensuring the peaceful and successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage. (KNO)

Cumulative pilgrim count

the official data accessed by the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the devotees who performed darshan on Sunday included 20,420 men, 7,554 women, 243 children, 249 sadhus, 32 sadhvis, nine transgender pilgrims and 311 security personnel.

With the steady flow of pilgrims, the cumulative number of devotees is expected to cross the one lakh mark on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, amid elaborate security arrangements, the fifth batch of 5,794 pilgrims, which left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatiri Niwas in Jammu in the early hours of Monday, reached the twin base camps in Kashmir safely.

Official figures revealed that 2,304 pilgrims opted for the shorter Baltal route, while 3,490 chose the traditional Pahalgam route.

The Baltal-bound convoy departed at 3:10 am, while the Pahalgam-bound convoy left at 3:50 am under the escort of the Police, CRPF and other security agencies.

The convoy comprised 267 vehicles, including 126 buses, 32 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 104 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and five two-wheelers.

The administration has put in place extensive security, medical and logistical arrangements along both routes, including round-the-clock monitoring, traffic regulation, emergency medical services and deployment of security personnel to ensure the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Under the CRPF's "May I Help You" initiative, women personnel are assisting pilgrims along the Baltal route by providing guidance, information, security, accommodation support, language assistance, connectivity help and emergency medical aid.

CRPF DIG Sudhir Kumar said pilgrims from different parts of the country participate in the Yatra, and many face language barriers. "CRPF is like a mini India, and we have deployed women personnel from different states so that pilgrims can communicate in their own language and receive the assistance they need," he said.

Officials said the Yatra has been progressing peacefully so far, with thousands of devotees visiting the holy cave shrine daily amid favourable weather conditions and tight security arrangements. "All necessary measures remain in place to ensure the safety and convenience of pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage. Several foreign nationals have also undertaken the pilgrimage so far," an official said.

The 57-day Yatra commenced on July 3, from both Baltal based camp in Ganderbal and Nunwan base camps in Pahalgam. (KNO)

Amit Shah announces new cooperative life insurance firm, 'Bharat Taxi' expansion to 500 cities

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 6: Union Minister Amit Shah on Monday announced that a cooperative life insurance company will be established to expand the business areas of cooperatives and also said the services of 'Bharat Taxi' would be increased to 500 cities in the next two years.

At an event in the national capital to mark the fifth Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation, he stressed eradicating corruption in the appointments of professionals to enhance credibility in India's cooperative ecosystem.

Shah, the Cooperation Minister, said the establishment of the ministry has given a new "lifeline" to India's cooperative movement, which was a "neglected movement" during the Congress regime.

India has around 8.5 lakh cooperatives with more than 30 crore members.

Shah highlighted that the ministry has taken many policy initiatives to make the cooperative system modern, transparent, technology-enabled, and competitive.

The minister said that ride-hailing platform 'Bharat Taxi', which was launched under the cooperative model, has been doing well and would be expanded into 500 cities in the next two years.

On similar lines to Bharat Taxi, Shah said: "We will be setting up a life insurance company in the cooperative sector. This will help in the growth of cooperatives in the insurance sector".

He mentioned that IFFCO-TOKIO, a joint venture of fertiliser cooperative IFFCO, is already in the insurance business. In India, there are 26 life insurance companies.

Bharat Taxi is an initiative of Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd, a driver-centric mobility platform based on the cooperative model. At present, Bharat Taxi has 6.37 lakh registered drivers and 35.77 lakh registered customers.

The service is operational in Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Jaipur, and Kanpur and will soon be launched in Ranchi, Patna, Guwahati, Bhopal, Kolkata, Indore, and Nagpur in the next few months, according to an official statement.

Addressing the event, Shah said a national cooperative was formed especially for seed production and expressed confidence that it will emerge as the country's largest



non-governmental seed production organisation in three years.

The minister noted that the cooperative organisations have entered into many new sectors, expanding beyond dairy, sugar, fertiliser and banking businesses.

Nearly 20 per cent of agricultural credit, 35 per cent of fertiliser distribution, and 31 per cent of sugar production are being carried out through cooperatives, he said.

Shah mentioned that model bye-laws, which enable PACS (primary agricultural credit societies) to undertake 25-plus business activities, have now been adopted by all states, including West Bengal.

According to the statement, these PACS now function beyond credit, covering retail, storage, healthcare, fuel, and digital services. As many as 394 PACS have applied for retail fuel outlets, and 3 outlets have been commissioned. More than 54,000 PACS are functioning as Common Service Centres while 4,248 PACS are approved for Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

Listing out the initiatives, Shah said the ministry has identified the problems as well as opportunities in this sector. A database of the cooperative sector has been created which will help in identifying the gaps and enable expansion of cooperatives.

Shah mentioned that 'Tribhuvan' Sahkari University is being established at Anand in Gujarat, which will address the human resource problem.

He said trained professionals in banking, dairy, marketing, agriculture, fertilizers, and other areas of cooperation will be prepared from this university.

"These professionals will be appointed based on merit. Our goal is to implement professional management in a phased manner from primary cooperative societies to top institutions. This will increase

transparency in appointments, improve work efficiency, and also put an effective check on corruption related to appointments," Shah said.

"By eliminating corruption in appointments, the cooperative sector can win people's trust," he said.

The minister expressed confidence that the cooperative sector would play a key role in making 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Shah emphasised the promotion of organic farming and reducing these of chemical fertilisers.

"We are bringing 100 per cent circular economy in the sugar and dairy sectors. Through this, manure that can serve as an alternative to DAP will be produced. This indigenous manure will be cheaper than DAP and better in quality, and will provide greater benefit to fields," he said.

Shah appealed to the farmers to give up DAP (DI-ammonium phosphate) and accept and adopt this new manure in the coming days.

Elaborating more, the minister said 50 important amendments have been made to the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, making the entire cooperative system more transparent and democratic.

A total of nine national-level cooperative societies have been formed, including three new ones.

Shah said the flow of credit in the cooperative sector has increased. The Urban Cooperative Banks and District Cooperative Banks are gradually moving forward, he said, adding that the total business of District Cooperative Banks has crossed Rs 25 lakh crore from the earlier Rs 19.6 lakh crore.

The net profit of Urban Cooperative Banks has almost doubled while the gross NPA has come down from 12.8 per cent to 6.2 per cent.

During the event, Shah laid the foundation stone and inaugurated several major projects and initiatives.

No fencing in 4.35 km of India-Bangladesh border in Assam

PTI

Guwahati, Jul 6: The Assam government on Monday said that no fencing could be erected along 4.35 kilometres of the state's boundary with Bangladesh due to objections by the border guards of the neighbouring nation.

There is also no fencing in 34.609 km as that part falls in rivers, Border Protection and Development Minister Atul Bora said. In a written reply to a query by AGP MLA Dip-timayee Choudhury, Bora said that barbed wire fencing in 228.541 km has been completed out of a total 267.5 km of the India-Bangladesh border spread across Dhubri, South Salmara-Mankachar, Cachar and Sribhumi districts.

"Fencing work for 4.35 km of border could not be carried out due to objections by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). Indian citizens live there on the bank of the Kushiara river in Sribhumi district," he added. Besides, there is no fencing in 34.609 km



as this portion falls in rivers, of which 30.37 km is in Dhubri and 4.239 km is in South Salmara-Mankachar, Bora said.

"In the open areas of rivers, Border Security Force (BSF) monitors the border through the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) by established boat observation outposts," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION OMPORA BUDGAM.

(Email ID: mehrajudrat.8531@jk.gov.in)

e-NIT.No. 02 of 7 /2026

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on percentage basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors Registered with Union Territory of J&K Govt.

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work amount in lacs	Earnest Money deposit @ 3% (to be deposited in designated Polling Account, details of same mentioned in terms/conditions of NIT)	Time of completion	Class of contract	Cost of tender document (to be deposited in designated Polling Account, details of same mentioned in terms/conditions of NIT)	Head of account
1	Construction of cement concrete lined channel near land of Ab Rahim Mir and others on Chair Khun Dara minor of Lar Canal at village Larbal at Rd-3000 mtr.	2.14	6420/-	15 Days	DEE	200	M&R 2701
2	Construction of cement concrete lining wall on left side of minor of lar canal at village SK.Pora at RD-10500 mtrs.	2.24	6720/-	15 Days	DEE	200	M&R 2701
3	Construction of lining wall on right side of Ranger Canal near migrant land at Ranger Chadoora.	1.28	3840	15 Days	DEE	200	M&R 2701
4	Construction of cement concrete channel on Razlar Dara M/o Zani Canal near the house of Farooq Ahmad Rather at Fajipora	1.90	5700/-	15 Days	DEE	200	M&R 2702
5	Construction of RCC Channel on Pickte dara Kachber m/o Nov khul	1.60	4800/-	15 Days	DEE	200	M&R 2702
6	Construction of lining wall on left side of Chattergam canal in Dadwan Mohalla u/s of Culvert.	2.25	6750/-	15 Days	DEE	200	M&R 2702
7	Construction of lining walls along B/S Of Tulnard khul m/o Ranger canal at Repora.	2.50	7500/-	15 Days	DEE	200	M&R 2702
8	Construction of RCC channel on Nairi khul b/o Khanchi canal in village Hayatpora d/s flume at Rd 2300 fts	2.50	7500/-	15 Days	DEE	200	M&R 2702
9	Construction of lining wall cum RCC channel on Peer Nari dara M/o Sonmai canal near the land of Abdul Rashid Mir at Nuchgam	2.40	7200/-	15 Days	DEE	200	M&R 2711
10	Construction of protection Wall and concrete lining wall on Balimdara Sub minor of Ranger canal near the land of Gh Hassan Dar at Ranger Chadoora	1.60	4800/-	15 Days	DEE	200	M&R 2711

No of works Advertised: 10 (Ten)

Position of Funds (Budgetary provision).

Position of Technical Sanction Accorded.

Position of Administrative Approval Accorded.

Formal allotments of the works shall be issued only after when the authorization is issued by the District Development Commissioner Budgam and work shall be taken up accordingly

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, Bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

1.	Publishing date	04-07 -2026 (06 pm)
2.	Download date start	04-07 -2026 (06 pm)
3.	Bid submission date starts	04-07 -2026 (6 pm)
4.	Bid submission date ends	24-07-2026 upto (4 PM)
5.	Bid Opening date	25-07-2026 at (11 AM)

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website.

26. The departmental Material shall be loaded in the tender as per stock rate loaded in the rate list for E/C Bags,RCC spun pipes and crate mesh.

27. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours. 36) All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD Form 25-double.

Sd/= **Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division
Ompora Budgam.**

No:-1545-59.
Date:- 04-07-2026

DIPK-2907/26
DATED: 06-07-2026

Cash transfer schemes for women should be reviewed in light of inflation: PM advisory panel

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 6: Unconditional cash transfer (UCT) schemes for women, implemented by various state governments, should be reviewed periodically for adequacy in light of inflation and evolving household expenditure patterns, the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) said in a working paper on Monday. The advisory panel further said UCT schemes implemented by Maharashtra and Odisha governments have generated large and broadly consistent improvements in beneficiaries' savings and consumption.

"Transfer amounts of UCT should be reviewed periodically for adequacy in light of inflation and evolving household expenditure patterns, with efficiency gains from improved targeting deployed to fund enhanced benefits and complementary services for beneficiaries," it said.

The paper titled 'Unconditional Women Cash Transfer Programmes in India: Evidence from Maharashtra and Odisha' provides a rigorous empirical evaluation of two large-scale state-level UCT programmes in India: the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana in Maharashtra (monthly transfer of Rs 1,500 to eligible women) and the Subhadra Yojana in Odisha (biannual instalments totalling Rs 10,000 per year), using account-level monthly panel data. "Both programmes generate large, statistically significant, and broadly consistent improvements in beneficiaries' savings and consumption.

Ram temple trust accepts Rai's resignation, appoints interim gen secy; to have CEO



PTI

Ayodhya, Jul 6: The Ram temple trust on Monday accepted the resignations of Champat Rai as its general secretary and member Anil Mishra in the wake of embezzlement of donations. Trustee Krishna Mohan has been named as interim general secretary.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust also announced the formation of a three-member committee to identify a chief executive officer (CEO) for the temple trust. The panel comprises retired judge Pramod Kohli, retired Lieutenant General Vishnukant Chaturvedi and trustee Suresh Haware.

Trust treasurer Govind Giri stated this after a three-hour meeting of the temple body to discuss the fallout of the scandal that has sparked widespread outrage and a political firestorm, with the BJP and the Sangh Parivar, which led the Ram temple movement, grappling to control the damage.

Giri described the theft from the temple's donation boxes as a matter of "deep pain and embarrassment" for the Trust, saying the controversy had cast a shadow over a temple built after a centuries-long struggle and countless sacrifices. The treasurer,

however, said the Trust unanimously appreciated Rai's contribution to the Ram temple movement and construction despite accepting his resignation.

Defending Rai, Giri said he "is untainted in my eyes" and hailed his "life of sacrifice" for the Ram temple movement. Giri said Rai had stepped down voluntarily, saying he felt it was not appropriate to continue as general secretary until the investigation was completed and those responsible were brought to justice. He said the Trust had no discretion in the matter as senior trustee K Parasaran had pointed out that a resignation takes effect once submitted under the Trust's constitution, leaving the Trust with no option but to accept it.

Police have so far arrested eight people, mostly involved in handling and counting donations, in the case. None of the trustees are named in the FIR.

Reiterating that allegations of missing donated articles were unfounded, the Trust in a statement said that 2,926 non-cash offerings received from devotees had been recorded in registers with complete date-wise details and were subjected to annual physical verification by an independent chartered accountant firm serving as internal auditor.

PTI

While talking about the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Trump repeated his claim that he ended eight wars, including the one between India and Pakistan, which could have witnessed the use of nuclear weapons. "I ended eight wars, and this (Ukraine) was, in my opinion, going to be an easier one because I know both heads -- I didn't know most of the heads. I did India, I did



“And I did that, but this (Ukraine) is one that I think we’re getting much closer than people realise,” Trump said. India has

consistently denied all claims about any third-party intervention during the conflict with Pakistan in May 2025. According to New Delhi, the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians.

AP

The 2008 final was played on July 6, which was also the date Federer won his first Wimbledon title in 2003 by beating Mark Philippoussis. Federer, who won the last of his Wimbledon titles in 2017, retired in 2022.

AP

Asked what would happen to allies that don't have a clear plan, Rutte said: "If one or two of still have to be convinced, we have ways to do that." He did not elaborate. US Ambassador to NATO Matthew Whitaker suggested last week that the United States



Trump has called for “loyalty” from NATO allies, after some of them declined to allow the use of their bases in the US-Israeli war on Iran.

PT

In women's wrestling, India finished second on the podium with 184 points, falling just short

Parveen outclassed Uzbekistan's Shokhista Shonazarova 13-2, Muskan held her nerve to edge past

In the men's freestyle,

Neeraj Patel (55kg), Anuj (67kg), and Dheeraj Kumar Malik (67kg) won their respective playoffs on points to take home bronze medals. Prior to the U-20 event, the Indian contingent also produced a dominant show in the U-15 Asian Wrestling Championships at the same venue, finishing their campaign with 21 medals across the three categories.

AP

"All employees working in service provision are state employees' and are fully prepared to work under the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza," al-Thawabta said during a news conference in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir



Nine months after the ceasefire was signed, negotiations between Israel and Hamas remain largely deadlocked over the implementation of its

Israeli strikes have lessened considerably since the ceasefire took effect on October 10, but they continue almost daily. Israel's military says it targets Hamas and other militants, often asserting they were planning attacks. On Monday, Israeli strikes killed at least five people in Gaza, including three in Khan Younis in the south and two in an apartment in Gaza City, health officials said.

PTI

"This tournament reminded us why women's



cricket is unmissable - power, passion, and pure class on display from start to finish. Thank you to both teams and everyone who made this World Cup so special. Women's cricket is in a golden era," he added.

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