

THURSDAY



Journalism With A Human Heart

CMYK

Amit Shah speaks to Omar, assures assistance

Heavy Rainfall



New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday held telephonic conversations with the Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat to review the prevailing situation caused by heavy rainfall and adverse weather conditions, assuring them of all possible assistance from the Central Government.

Officials said Shah

spoke separately with Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Kerala Chief Minister V. D. Sathiesan, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel to assess the impact of incessant rains and the preparedness of state administrations. During the conversations, the Union Home Minister

assured every possible support from the Centre for rescue, relief and restoration efforts wherever required. In Jammu and Kashmir, Shah reviewed the weather-related situation with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and reiterated that the Union Government stands firmly with the people of the Union

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Flash floods hit Jammu parts

Sajid Raina

Srinagar: Rain and thundershowers lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday evening, with brief intense spells triggering localized flash floods, mudslides and landslides in some areas.

The showers disrupted life in many areas of Jammu region and in North Kashmir's Kupwara District.

Reports said that Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Katra, Doda, Udhampur, Batoote and parts of Ramban received intense showers, which led to localized flash floods, mudslides and landslides, while people were advised to stay away from nallahs, streams and vulnerable slopes.

Meanwhile, the Met office said that Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2 degrees Celsius, 2.5 degrees above normal, while Jammu settled at 34.5 degrees Celsius, slightly below the seasonal average. Kupwara recorded 33.0 degrees Celsius, Qazigund 31.0 degrees

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Govt announces fee waiver for AAY students

CM Omar revives lecturer appointments with 117 recruits



Precious Kashmir News

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: In a landmark move in Jammu & Kashmir's education sector, the Government on Wednesday revived appointments to School Lecturer posts, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah handing over appointment letters to 117 newly selected lecturers. These are the first lecturer appointments in the School Education Department in many years.

The Chief Minister also fulfilled his Budget 2026 commitment by announcing a full fee waiver for school and college students belonging to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The move is expected to make education more affordable and accessible.

These decisions were announced by the Chief Minister during Education Conclave 2026 - "Buniyaad Se

Bulandi Tak", organised by Samagra Shiksha and the Departments of School Education and Higher Education.

Meanwhile, according to an order issued by the School Education Department, students of Classes IX to XII enrolled in government schools and belonging to AAY households will be exempt from payment of all fees levied by government schools. The benefit will be available to students possessing a valid AAY Ration Card or any other prescribed proof of eligibility.

Similarly, the Higher Education Department has approved a 100 per cent fee waiver for eligible undergraduate students studying from the first to the eighth semester in Government Degree Colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

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ATRS to be installed at airports nationwide

HM orders seamless passenger flow framework

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday directed the phased installation of the Automatic Tray Retrieval System (ATRS) at airports across the country and ordered the development of an integrated framework to ensure seamless passenger movement across all airport touch-points.

The directions were issued during a high-level review meeting on passenger facilities, security arrangements and the immigration

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LeT commander killed in Shopian

Shopian: A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, Zakir Ganie, has been killed in an ongoing anti-terror operation in Chanapora area of south Kashmir's Shopian district, while another terrorist is believed to be holed up, police said on Wednesday.

A senior police officer said that Zakir was trapped in the encounter for the last five days along with his accomplice. "He has been neutralised and his body was recovered from a cowshed

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3 CRPF personnel injured in road accident

IANs

Srinagar: Three CRPF troopers were injured when their vehicle was hit by another vehicle in the Nowgam area on the outskirts of Srinagar, J&K Police said on Wednesday, adding that the driver involved has been arrested.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were deployed for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra near the Taingan Bypass in the Nowgam

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Every ECI action based on Constitution, laws: CEC

IANs

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday organised the third one-day conference for media and communication officers. Around 200 officials from 10 states and Union Territories were brought together to strengthen election-related communication and address the growing challenge of misinformation in the digital age.

The conference was attended

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Army Chief reviews LoC combat readiness in J&K



IANs

Srinagar, July 8: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dhiraj Seth on Wednesday reviewed the operational preparedness and combat readiness along the Line of Control (LoC) and in the hinterland during his visit to the headquarters of the Army's Chinara Corps in Srinagar.

A post by the Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) said: "COAS General Dhiraj Seth visited HQ @Chinarcorp-

sIA and its formations to review the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness and combat readiness along the Line of Control and in the hinterland.

"The COAS was briefed on the operational deployments, counter-terrorism operations, inter-agency synergy, evolving operational dynamics and security arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Yatra.

"He also reviewed the initiatives towards tech

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Amarnath Yatra footfall up 28%; biggest-ever batch leaves Jammu

Over 1.42 lakh devotees perform darshan in six days

Umairas Gull Ganie

Jammu/Srinagar, Jul 08: The annual Amarnath Yatra is witnessing a huge surge in pilgrim turnout this year, with the number of devotees performing darshan in the first six days increasing by around 28 per cent compared to the previous year.

Official figures reveal that 1,42,861 pilgrims had performed darshan till 7:00 PM on Wednesday, against 1,11,975 during the first six days of the pilgrimage in 2025, which is an increase of 30,886 pilgrims, or around 28 per cent.

On Wednesday alone, 29,047 devotees paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, including 18,362 men, 9,737 women, 404 children, 181 sadhus, 13 sadhvis, 11 transgender devotees and 339 security personnel.

Meanwhile, the pilgrimage



also witnessed its largest-ever single-day departure from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu, with 9,837 pilgrims leaving in the seventh batch for the twin base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal.

Officials said that the batch departed in a convoy of 361 vehicles, including 188 vehicles carrying 5,337 pilgrims

via the traditional Pahalgam route and 173 vehicles carrying 4,500 pilgrims via the Baltal route. The batch comprised 6,684 men, 2,730 women, 21 children, 320 sadhus, 80 sadhvis and two transgender devotees.

A heavy rush of pilgrims was witnessed at the

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FRS helps police nab 3 OGWs

Srinagar: In a significant success demonstrating the effectiveness of advanced surveillance technology deployed for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, the Facial Recognition System (FRS) installed by Anantnag Police generated timely alerts regarding three suspicious individuals while they were passing through the Sarbal area.

Acting swiftly on the alerts, police personnel

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Peddler's property attached

Srinagar: In a significant action against the narcotics ecosystem under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, J&K Police in Sopore have attached an immovable property belonging to a notorious drug peddler under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985.

The attached property comprises a double-storey residential house valued

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India 'deeply concerned' over West Asia tensions

Urges dialogue, protection of civilians

IANs

New Delhi: India on Wednesday said that it remains "deeply concerned" over the recent attacks and escalation of tensions in West Asia, following fresh targeting of commercial shipping transiting international waterways in the region.

Global crude oil prices surged more than six per cent after US President Donald Trump said the ceasefire between Washington and Tehran was effectively



"over" following a fresh round of American military strikes on Iran, intensifying concerns over energy supplies from West Asia.

The US President's remarks came amid renewed tensions in the region following a series of attacks on vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil shipping route.

"India is deeply concerned over the recent attacks and escalation of tensions in West Asia, which have followed fresh targeting of commercial shipping transiting international waterways in the region. These

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his envoys to keep talking.

Speaking during separate appearances with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and later Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Ankara, Trump defended the latest US military action against Iranian targets, accused Tehran of violating a pause requested for funeral ceremonies and suggested the current diplomatic framework had effectively collapsed.

Trump said Iran had resumed hostile actions after the United States had temporarily held back military operations.

"They said to us, please don't kill us during the funeral. I said I won't.

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DRDO tests Pinaka guided rocket



IANs

New Delhi: The Defence Research and Development Organisation on Wednesday successfully flight-tested the Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket at a user-defined minimum range of 60 kilometres from the Integrated Test Range in Odisha, marking another milestone in the weapon system's operational validation.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the rocket executed all planned in-flight manoeuvres before strik-

ing the designated target with precision while following the predicted trajectory. Range instrumentation tracked the flight throughout the test.

The trial demonstrated the capability of launching different variants of the Pinaka guided rocket from the same in-service Pinaka launcher, highlighting the versatility of the indigenous artillery rocket system.

The long-range guided rocket has been developed by DRDO's

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CS seeks comprehensive SOP to curb financial crimes

Chairs 37th UTLCC meeting of RBI



Precious Kashmir News

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired the 37th Union Territory Level Coordination Committee (UTLCC) meeting convened by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu, and called for a comprehensive, co-ordinated and technology-driven strategy to curb the growing menace of cyber-enabled financial frauds and other unregulated financial activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasising the need for strengthening institutional capacities, the Chief Secretary urged regulatory bodies including the Securities and

Exchange Board of India (SEBI), National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to undertake large-scale capacity building programmes for prosecution and investigation officers to enhance their ability to effectively investigate and prosecute cyber-enabled financial crimes.

The UTLCC, constituted by the Ministry of Finance, GoI serves as a statutory coordination forum to promote close cooperation among financial regulators and enforcement agencies, curb unauthorised deposit-taking and other unregulated financial

activities, and facilitate timely sharing of market intelligence.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Regional Director, RBI, Jammu; Principal Secretary, Home Department; Inspector General of Police, Crime; Commissioner Secretary, Law Department; Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir; Joint Director (Headquarters), Information Department; General Manager, RBI; Registrar, Cooperative Societies; representatives of the Market Intelligence Unit of RBI, SEBI and ICAI, besides other

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Trump warns Iran of more US strikes



IANs

Ankara: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday warned Iran that the United States was prepared to launch further military strikes and even reimpose a naval blockade if Tehran continued its attacks, while declaring that he no longer believed negotiations over its nuclear programme were worth pursuing despite leaving the door open for

Regular field visits key to good governance: Dy CM

Reviews DAK Expressway, holds public outreach

Precious Kashmir News

Katra, July 08: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Udhampur and Katra to inspect the ongoing developmental works and review progress of key infrastructure projects.

During his visit to Udhampur, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the Northern Command Hospital to enquire about the health of Subedar Rakesh Kumar of 1st JAKLI, who is undergoing treatment.

The Deputy Chief Minister interacted with the attending doctors and reviewed the medical condition of the injured soldier. He directed the hospital authorities to make every possible effort to ensure the best medical care and facilitate his early recovery.

He also met the family members of Subedar Rakesh Kumar and assured them of



the government's full support in providing quality medical treatment and all necessary assistance during the course of his treatment. He hoped for the soldier's speedy recovery and appreciated the dedicated services being rendered by the medical team.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, particularly the Domail-Katra stretch and reviewed the pace and qual-

ity of the work. He stressed the need for timely completion of the prestigious project while maintaining the highest standards of quality and safety. He said that the expressway will significantly improve the connectivity, boost tourism and promote economic development in the region.

During the tour, the Deputy Chief Minister also held public outreach programmes at various locations in Katra, where he patiently listened to the

grievances, issues and demands raised by the people. He assured the public that all genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner and directed the concerned officers to take prompt action for their resolution. Reiterating the government's commitment to transparent, accountable and people-centric governance, the Deputy Chief Minister said that regular field visits and direct interaction with the public are essential for ensuring effective implementation of developmental works and timely redressal of public grievances.

Among others accompanying the Deputy Chief Minister were the Engineer-in-Chief, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers of various engineering wings, senior officers of the district administration and former Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) representatives.

SANJY

Ganderbal admin probes irregularities in registration

Precious Kashmir News

Ganderbal, July 08: District Administration Ganderbal has taken cognizance of certain irregularities which occurred in connection with the on-spot registration process for Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) pilgrims at the Manigam Transit Camp.

The District Administration informed that the matter is presently under

investigation, and appropriate action shall be taken against anyone found involved.

It is hereby informed for the benefit of all Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims that facility for on-spot registration is available at the Balthal Base Camp On-Spot Registration Centre, subject to the production and verification of all prescribed documents and fulfilment of the requisite eligibility criteria.

The District Administration has advised all pilgrims to obtain registration only through the authorized registration centre and to strictly follow the official procedure. Pilgrims are further requested not to fall prey to touts, middlemen, or unauthorized persons claiming to facilitate registration or offering any unauthorized assistance in return for money or other consideration.

The District Administration appeals to all pilgrims to remain vigilant and immediately report any suspicious activity or instances of malpractice to the concerned authorities at the base camp or the District Control Room Ganderbal (0194-2416260/261/229).

The administration remains committed to ensuring a transparent, fair, and hassle-free registration process for all pilgrims.

De-addiction seminar held at GDC Khansahib

Precious Kashmir News

Budgam, July 08: District Red Cross society Budgam in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) Khansahibon Wednesday organised a seminar on Drug de-addiction awareness programme.

The event aimed to sensitize the younger generation about the catastrophic socio-economic and medical consequences of drug addiction. It witnessed enthusiastic participation

from hundreds of college students, faculty members, and dedicated volunteers of the Red Cross Society.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Khansahib, Jahangir Giri attended the event as the chief guest. He said that there is a need for early intervention, vigilant parenting, and aggressive community level participation.

"Youth are the backbone of our nation, and we cannot allow drug abuse to derail their future. The administration is adopt-

ing a zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking, but enforcement must be met with community awareness. Every student here must act as an ambassador for a drug-free society," the SDM stated.

The Principal of GDC Khansahib, who was also a key speaker, welcomed the initiative taken by the District Red Cross Society. Highlighting the role of educational institutions, the Principal emphasized that academic spaces must foster resilience and offer

psychological support to vulnerable students. The Principal urged the student body to channel their energy into sports, creative arts, and social work through platforms like the Red Cross.

Representatives and members of the District Red Cross Society also spoke on the occasion, highlighting the various counseling resources, rehabilitation pathways, and support systems available in the district for individuals seeking a way out of addiction.

35 Kanals of state land retrieved in Bani

Encroachments removed, illegal structures demolished

Precious Kashmir News

Kathua, July 08: The Sub-Divisional Administration Bani on Wednesday conducted a major anti-encroachment drive at Sarthal and retrieved around 35 Kanals of prime State land from illegal occupation.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Bani, Sundeeep Kumar, with the active participation of the Tehsildar Bani, SHO Bani, Range Forest Officer Bani and Social Forestry Officer.

During the operation, the joint team retrieved 35 kanals of State/Social Forestry land falling under Khasra No. 192 by removing crop cultivation reportedly raised by one Babu Din on the encroached land. State land signboards were also installed on the retrieved land to safeguard it against future encroachments.

The enforcement team also evicted one Mr Nazir from the encroached State land, demolished temporary structures raised illegally by him and sealed another structure constructed on the encroached land at Sar-

thal. Besides, the administration removed several other minor encroachments and obstructions from State land during the drive.

The Sub-Divisional Administration warned that any encroachment on State or forest land will not be tolerated. It cautioned that strict legal action shall be taken against violators in accordance with the law.

The administration appealed to the general public to refrain from encroaching upon government land and cooperate with the authorities in safeguarding public assets.

KU VC flags off RAMP for entrepreneurs



Precious Kashmir News

Baramulla, July 08: Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof. Neelofer Khanon Wednesday inaugurated a Management Development Programme (MDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative at the University of Kashmir, North Campus, Delina, Baramulla.

The programme is one of the two MDPs launched in Baramulla under the RAMP initiative, with a total participation of 44 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs.

Addressing the inaugural session, Prof. Neelofer Khan appreciated the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in organizing such developmental programmes and emphasized that promoting entrepreneurship is the need of the hour. She said entrepreneurship not only provides financial independence to youth but also fosters innovation and encourages them to explore ventures aligned with emerging opportunities and market needs.

Director, North Campus, Prof. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, also addressed the participants and encouraged them to think innovatively, embrace entrepreneurship and create their own legacy through enterprise and self-reliance.

Assistant Professor and Programme Coordinator, Dr. Ulfat, also spoke during the inaugural session, highlighting the importance of entrepreneurial skill development and capacity building among aspiring entrepreneurs.

District Nodal Officer (DNO), Baramulla, Intiyaz Ahad Malla, presented a detailed overview of the RAMP scheme and JKEDI's role in promoting entrepreneurship and strengthening the MSME ecosystem.

The inaugural session was followed by technical training sessions conducted by the designated resource persons. The initiative aims to equip aspiring and existing entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills and managerial competencies required to establish and successfully manage sustainable business enterprises.

'Nun Chai Talks' in Bandipora urges youth to dream big

Precious Kashmir News

Bandipora, July 08: Stories of perseverance, ambition and resilience took centre stage at the latest edition of Nun Chai Talks, organised by the District Administration Bandipora at the Waqar Knowledge Centre, Mini Secretariat, where young participants had the opportunity to interact with Local entrepreneur Jibran Khan, founder of the renowned restaurant chain Zero Miles.

Bringing together students from HKM Degree College Bandipora, HSS Mantrigram and youth from across the district, the session created a vibrant platform for open conversations on entrepreneurship, career choices and the importance of believing in one's potential.

In a candid interaction, Jibran Khan spoke about the humble beginnings of his professional journey, recalling how he worked in different jobs before taking the bold step of starting his own venture. He shared the setbacks, uncertainties and lessons that shaped his path, telling participants that success is rarely achieved overnight but is built through patience, hard work and the courage to keep moving forward despite challenges.

Encouraging the youth to think beyond conventional career paths, he urged them to see entrepreneurship not merely as a business opportunity but as a way to create employment and contrib-



ute to society. He advised aspiring entrepreneurs to remain innovative, embrace challenges with confidence and make effective use of the support available through various government schemes.

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bandipora, Dr. Suhaib wani also addressed the gathering and encouraged participants to strengthen their skills, remain focused on their goals and take advantage of government initiatives that promote innovation, self-employment and sustainable livelihoods.

Adding to the discussion, resource person from Waqar Knowledge Centre, Dr. Zulfi, familiarised the participants with the services and opportunities available at the Waqar Knowledge Centre. He explained how young entrepreneurs can benefit from mentorship, capacity-building programmes, skill development initiatives and financial assistance to transform their ideas into successful enterprises.

The interaction remained

lively throughout, with students and young participants raising questions on business planning, overcoming initial hurdles, accessing financial support and identifying opportunities in the changing economic landscape.

The speakers responded with practical suggestions and real-life experiences, making the discussion both informative and inspiring.

Speaking on the occasion, BDO Aloosa and Nodal Officer, Waqar Knowledge Centre, Ulfat Ali, thanked Jibran Khan for sharing his remarkable journey and motivating the youth to pursue their aspirations with confidence. She said that the 'Nun Chai Talks' initiative has emerged as an important platform where young people can learn directly from individuals who have transformed determination into success, while reaffirming the District Administration's commitment to organising more such interactive sessions for the youth of Bandipora.

Police seize 2 JCBs for illegal mining

Precious Kashmir News

Srinagar, July 08: In its sustained drive against illegal mining, Baramulla Police achieved another success by seizing 02 JCB excavators engaged in the unauthorized extraction of minerals.

During the enforcement action, one JCB excavator was found operating illegally and was being driven by Mehraj Din Wani, son of Abdul Hameed Wani, a resident of Tapper Payeen. Acting promptly under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and



Regulation) Act (MMDR Act), a penalty of 23,317 was realized on the spot from the violator. Moreover, another JCB was found operating illegally and was being driven by Parvaiz Ahmad Rather son of Abdul Reh-

an Rather, a resident of Fresthar. Acting promptly, the police seized the vehicle and initiated legal action under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act.

J&K Police has adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards illegal mining, which poses a serious threat to the environment and public resources. The district police remains committed to strict enforcement of the law and urges citizens to report any illegal mining activities to the nearest police establishment.

Gool reviews monsoon disaster preparedness

Precious Kashmir News

Ramban, July 08: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gool Intiaz on Wednesday chaired a Sub-Division Level Disaster Management and Coordination Meeting to review disaster preparedness, strengthen inter-departmental coordination and ensure effective relief measures for natural hazards such as floods, landslides and cloudbursts in the sub-division.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildar Harjeet Singh, SDPO Kuldeep Raj, Naib Tehsildar Intikhab Ahmed, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Sanjay Sharma, AEE Jal

Shakti Rakesh Soni, AEE PMGSY Naveed Aslam Khan, AEE PWD Tanveer Ahmed and representatives from 23 RR Gool, Beacon Mahore and Batote. Officers from Health, PDD, FCS&CA, SDRF, Police and other line departments were also present.

During the meeting, a detailed review was taken on the existing disaster management plan, availability of men and machinery, stock of essential commodities, functioning of control rooms and communication systems in the sub-division. The SDM directed all line departments to remain on high alert in view of the monsoon season and to en-



sure round-the-clock monitoring of vulnerable areas prone to landslides and flash floods.

The SDM emphasized the need for proactive measures and seamless coordination

among all departments to deal with any emergency situation. He directed the Jal Shakti, PWD and PMGSY departments to identify vulnerable spots and keep restoration teams and ma-

chinery ready for immediate response. The Health department was instructed to ensure availability of medicines, ambulances and medical staff at CHC Gool and PHCs. The FCS&CA department was directed to maintain buffer stock of ration, while PDD was asked to ensure backup arrangements for power supply.

The SDM further directed Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars to conduct regular visits to vulnerable areas, maintain updated lists of disaster-prone pockets and generate public awareness regarding safety measures. He stressed on the importance of community involvement and urged the

locals to disseminate information regarding dos and don'ts during disasters.

The police and 23 RR were asked to extend support for rescue and evacuation operations, while Beacon representatives were directed to ensure early restoration of roads in case of blockades.

The SDM reiterated that the safety of lives and property is the top priority of the administration. He said that effective coordination, timely response and public cooperation are key to minimizing the impact of disasters. He assured that the administration is fully prepared to tackle any situation arising out of natural calamities.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla

e-mail, id, xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM

In partial modification of the Tender Fee and EMD details uploaded on the JK-Tenders portal, with reference to e-NIT Nos. 21, 22 & 23 Dated 06.07.2026 and e-NIT Nos. 24, 25, 26 & 27 Dated 07.07.2026, it is hereby notified that:

"Tender Fee Payable To" and "EMD Payable To" shall be read as:

"Accounts Officer, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir" instead of: "Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division, Baramulla."

This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the above-mentioned e-NITs and shall be applicable for all future references. All other terms and conditions of the respective e-NITs shall remain unchanged.

No: - M&HDB/TS/935-37

Dated: - 07-07-2026

DIPK-3015/26 Dated:- 08-07-2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Mechanical & Hospitals Division

Baramulla

PRECIOUS KASHMIR

SRINAGAR | THURSDAY | 09.07.2026

Bringing relief

With the proposal by Srinagar Airport Authority to issue a NOTAM suspending night time flight operations on Monday and Tuesday being withdrawn, air travelers, tourists and the business community can breathe easily as around the clock flight services will continue to operate, and provide convenient, day access to The Valley all year long. Moreover, abandoning the scheduled weekly shutdowns represents a seismic change (for the better) for the entire Jammu and Kashmir region. In addition, prior to the NOTAM being withdrawn, but instead planned to be issued a notice (NOTAM) that included shutting down the airport for two week periods only for civilian flight operations on the first and the last Mondays and Tuesdays in the month of October (because of snow accumulation on runways) would have created substantial issues for stakeholders in tourism and in the hospitality and craft industries. By cancelling this notice immediately, the airport officials and Srinagar Airport Authority have reinforced a vibrantly strong tourist season, and allowed the three industries mentioned above to operate without any disruption. Therefore, all travelers can be assured of full access to The Valley 365 days a year, and all proposals (including flight times) will be validated, so that tourism, and access for business, is based on definitive arrangements within daily flight schedules. Operations will provide for operating hours from 0800 hrs daily throughout the year with intelligent projections. Although the nightly maintenance will continue for each of the four months of closure (July to October), the airport operations and flight will provide substantial confidence to tourists planning holidays and to business leaders needing to plan essential business meetings. The move has been widely appreciated by the trading fraternity. This move will ensure that the traders and other business communities get more space and possible customers to earn their livelihood.



LALIT GARGG

India today is not only the world's largest democracy but is also emerging as a major global power with a distinct and influential identity. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's foreign policy has demonstrated unprecedented confidence, strategic clarity, and long-term vision, significantly reshaping its global standing. A nation that once depended heavily on foreign suppliers for its defence needs has transformed into a trusted exporter of advanced missiles, defence systems, and military equipment. This remarkable transition is not merely an economic achievement; it reflects India's growing strategic, scientific, military, and diplomatic capabilities. The Prime Minister's recent high-level engagements with Indonesia and other Indo-Pacific nations stand as compelling evidence of this new diplomatic approach. Agreements covering defence, maritime security, trade, technology, and strategic cooperation reaffirm that India is no longer just a regional player but an indispensable pillar of global peace, stability, and security.

One of India's most significant achievements has been the transformation of its defence sector through self-reliance. For decades, India was regarded as the world's largest importer of arms. Today, that narrative is changing rapidly. The Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives have propelled indigenous defence manufacturing to unprecedented heights. Advanced platforms such as the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, Astra air-to-air missile, Akash air defence system, Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher, Tejas light combat aircraft, and a wide range of sophisticated defence technologies are earning the confidence of countries across the world. India's indigenous missile systems are no longer symbols of national military strength alone; they are becoming reliable solutions for the security requirements of friendly nations. Their demonstrated effectiveness during counter-terrorism operations against Pakistan has attracted global attention. It is therefore unsurprising that Indonesia is keen to procure Astra missiles for its Sukhoi fighter aircraft and is actively exploring the acquisition of the BrahMos missile system. This growing interest reflects the



international community's increasing trust in India's defence industry.

Indonesia occupies a strategically vital position in the Indo-Pacific region. Situated along the Malacca Strait—one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes—it plays a pivotal role in global commerce and maritime security. The expanding defence partnership between India and Indonesia strengthens not only bilateral ties but also contributes to maintaining the strategic balance across the Indo-Pacific. Enhanced cooperation in maritime security, counter-terrorism, defence technology, cybersecurity, and joint military exercises is expected to reinforce regional stability and resilience. A defining feature of Prime Minister Modi's foreign policy is that India now builds relationships based on equality, mutual respect, and shared interests rather than dependence. India does not seek to impose its influence on others. Instead, its diplomatic philosophy is guided by the timeless ideals of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—"The World is One Family"—along with the principles of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas (Together with All, Development for All, Trust of All) and global fraternity. Consequently, while strengthening strategic partnerships with the United States, Japan, Australia, and Europe, India is simultaneously deepening trusted relationships with Southeast Asia, Africa, West Asia, and the countries of the Global South.

Today, the Indo-Pacific has emerged as the epicentre of global geopolitics. China's expansionist policies, militarisation of the South China Sea, coercive approach towards smaller nations, and attempts to establish strategic and economic dominance continue to raise concerns within the international community. In response, India has adopted a balanced, peaceful, yet resolute strategy. India seeks conflict with no nation,

but it remains uncompromising in safeguarding its sovereignty, national interests, and regional stability. This balanced approach has enhanced India's credibility as a dependable global partner. India's expanding defence capabilities also send a clear message to countries such as China and Pakistan that the new India possesses both the determination and the capability to protect its sovereignty and strategic interests. National security today extends well beyond territorial borders to encompass maritime security, space security, cybersecurity, and preparedness for next-generation warfare. Indigenous defence production has become one of India's greatest strategic strengths in this evolving security landscape.

One of the most notable successes of Prime Minister Modi's international diplomacy has been the remarkable enhancement of India's global image. Today, leading nations view India not merely as a vast consumer market but as a trusted strategic partner, technology collaborator, investment destination, and security ally. India's successful G20 Presidency, proactive role in the Quad, leadership in Indo-Pacific cooperation, advocacy for the Global South, and contributions in areas such as climate change, the digital economy, and disaster resilience all reinforce this evolving stature. India's foreign policy has evolved far beyond traditional diplomacy; it has become a powerful instrument of national development. Rising defence exports are generating valuable foreign exchange, creating employment opportunities for millions of young people, accelerating research and innovation, and strengthening the global competitiveness of Indian industry. These developments represent critical milestones in India's journey towards becoming a developed nation.

India's diplomatic philosophy has always been rooted in peace, peaceful

coexistence, and mutual respect. Ideally, strategic partnerships between nations should be founded not on hostility towards a third country but on shared objectives of development, security, and stability. However, international politics is shaped less by idealism than by national interests and the balance of power. In this context, China and Pakistan are actively seeking to expand their military and economic cooperation, including greater engagement with Saudi Arabia. Recent diplomatic activity between Riyadh and Beijing indicates the emergence of new geopolitical dynamics. Although Saudi Arabia's primary security concerns differ from those of China and Pakistan and remain largely focused on Iran's regional influence, these changing strategic equations underscore the importance of India's continued vigilance. Pakistan consistently seeks opportunities to gain strategic leverage against India, while China continues to pursue policies that seek to alter the regional balance of power. Against this backdrop, Prime Minister Modi's forward-looking, balanced, and proactive diplomacy has proved effective in safeguarding India's national interests. His foreign policy not only strengthens trust with friendly nations but also demonstrates the capacity to respond firmly and prudently to the strategic challenges and provocations posed by China and Pakistan. This farsighted approach is steadily establishing India as a responsible, reliable, and influential global power.

The world today is searching for leadership capable of harmonising power with peace, development with security, and technological progress with human values. India possesses both the vision and the capability to fulfil this role. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has demonstrated that true national strength lies not only in the ability to defend itself but also in its commitment to promoting global peace and the welfare of humanity. India stands today as a symbol not of expansionism but of development. Its growing defence capabilities are intended not to fuel conflict but to preserve peace, deter aggression, and maintain strategic balance. This reflects India's civilisational ethos, democratic values, and commitment to responsible global leadership. In the years ahead, India's balanced foreign policy, self-reliant defence capabilities, and credible diplomatic leadership will not only help realise the vision of a developed India but also contribute to shaping a safer, more stable, and more just international order.

The Author is a Journalist & Columnist

When earnings become more important than relationships



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

In Indian society, the family has been not merely a collection of blood relations, but a vibrant institution of trust, sacrifice, partnership, and mutual responsibility. The greatest strength of this institution was that it encompassed both rights and duties. As times changed, education expanded, and women's participation expanded beyond the confines of the home, reaching education, administration, medicine, justice, the military, science, and industry. Economic independence gave women new confidence, the ability to make decisions, and social respect. This change was not only necessary but also a significant step towards a just society.

But every social change brings with it new challenges. Today, as both husband and wife earn, the question of sharing responsibilities alongside financial sharing has become more important than ever. Unfortunately, this balance appears to be deteriorating in many families. In some cases, there is an overemphasis on rights, while in others, duties are neglected. As a result, relationships are losing the ease and closeness that once characterized joint families.

For a long time, in Indian society, the man was considered the economic pillar of the family. His wife, children, and parents were considered to have a moral right

to his earnings. He considered his income not personal property but the family's capital. On the other hand, women's contributions were more visible in domestic labor, child rearing, and family management. In modern times, circumstances have changed. Women are contributing as much financially as men by working hard. Therefore, the natural expectation was that economic responsibilities would be shared equally. However, in practice, the picture is often not so simple.

Today, in many families, it's common knowledge that the husband's income is still considered the primary source of income, while the wife's income is considered a means of personal savings, personal investment, or personal independence. This isn't the case in every family, but where it exists, it causes dissatisfaction. If the husband bears every major household expense, but the wife's income is kept separate from family responsibilities, the principle of equality remains incomplete. Similarly, if the husband expects the wife to work, manage the household, and yet lack independence in financial decisions, this is also unjust. The problem isn't one party's, but one of double standards.

Equality doesn't just mean equal rights. It also means equal responsibility. If both earn, they should share responsibility for the family's needs, future plans, children's education, elderly care, and emergencies. Financial partnership means not only combining income, but also building trust.

The other aspect of the problem is psychological. Money not only provides comfort, it also gives confidence. But if this confidence turns into arrogance, it creates distance in relationships. Sometimes, it is seen that those with higher

incomes begin to feel more empowered to make decisions. This tendency has been seen in men and is now visible in some women as well. Therefore, it would not be correct to say that financial arrogance is a problem of only one gender. The arrogance of wealth changes the person, not their gender.

Today, in social media and public discourse, male-female relationships are often presented as a conflict. One side asserts its rights, while the other laments the injustices it has suffered. In this tug-of-war, family, communication, and partnership are left behind. Any ideology that aims to establish balance should be welcomed. However, if its interpretation limits rights to the exclusion of duties, it is natural for imbalance to arise in society.

It's also true that millions of women today spend their entire income on their families. Along with their jobs, they also shoulder the responsibilities of home, children, and the elderly. There are many families where husbands and wives share their earnings without any accounting and make decisions together. Therefore, blaming any one group is neither fair nor factual. The aim of social analysis should not be to make accusations, but to understand trends and find solutions.

The problem becomes serious when financial transparency between husband and wife disappears. When income, savings, investments, and expenses become separate worlds, suspicion begins to creep into the relationship. Financial secrecy sometimes turns into emotional distance. Marriage is a partnership, not a business contract. Trust is its greatest asset.

The greatest irony of modern life is that conveniences have increased, but

satisfaction has decreased. Incomes have risen, but communication has diminished. Independence has increased, but partnerships have weakened. In the past, families lived together even with limited resources because decisions were made collectively. Today, resources are plentiful, but a mindset of "mine" and "yours" often divides relationships.

Here's another important question. Is domestic labor less valuable than economic income? If the wife manages the home and the husband earns outside, is the breadwinner the sole breadwinner of the family? Absolutely not. Similarly, if the wife also works, is it appropriate to leave all the household responsibilities to her? The answer to this is also no. A family will remain balanced only when both economic and domestic labor are equally respected.

This changing environment is also affecting children. When they see their parents embroiled in economic competition, their own definitions of relationships begin to shift. They learn a language of rights rather than cooperation. This is a matter of concern for future generations. Family not only creates the present, it also shapes the future.

What is the solution? The solution lies not in blaming one party, but in strengthening family communication. After marriage, husband and wife should openly discuss financial expectations, savings, investments, family expenses, and personal needs. It should be agreed that both will contribute to the family according to their respective capacities. Whether someone's income is high or low should not be the criterion for respect.

The true meaning of economic independence is not freedom, but responsible freedom. A free person is one who accepts their

duties along with their rights. If earnings become a means of personal convenience, leaving the collective needs of the family behind, even economic prosperity cannot save relationships.

Today, we need to forge a new definition of equality. One in which men abandon their traditional superiority and embrace partnership, and women respect their economic independence and family responsibilities equally. Both see each other as collaborators, not competitors. Marriage is not a platform for victory or defeat, but a shared journey through life.

Ultimately, we must remember that money can make life comfortable, but it cannot make life happy. A bank balance can provide security, but not closeness. Expensive houses can be built, but families cannot be bought. The ultimate currency of relationships, even today, is trust, sensitivity, sacrifice, and mutual respect.

When income becomes more important than relationships, the family gradually transforms into a financial unit. Calculation replaces love, ownership replaces partnership, and dialogue replaces argument. Therefore, it's crucial to understand early on that earning money is a means to life, not its purpose. If money strengthens relationships, it's a blessing, but if it becomes a barrier between them, there's no greater irony. A healthy society will be one where both men and women are financially capable, independent, respected, and fulfill their duties with equal devotion to their rights. This is true equality, true partnership, and the greatest strength of the Indian family system.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Printer, Publisher, Owner: Afaq Bhat | Chief Editor: Afaq Bhat | Editor: Owais Ahmad | Sub Editor: Riyaz Ahmad | Legal Advisor: Advocate Sami Yaqoob | Published From: Rajbagh Opposite Radio | Colony Srinagar, J&K | Printed At: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industries Estate, Rangreth | RNI No: JKENG/2013/55310 | Cell No: 9419081703 | Email: preciouskashmir@gmail.com | Website: www.preciouskashmir.com

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J&K to launch household survey for targeted welfare

CS assesses preparations for first-ever household enumeration

Precious Kashmir News

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: In a major policy initiative aimed at further strengthening inclusive governance and ensuring that government welfare schemes reach the most deserving families, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday chaired a meeting of Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD) to have first-hand appraisal of the proposed household-level enumeration of multidimensionally poor families across J&K.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Administrative Heads including ACS Finance; Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Secretary, RDD; HoDs of the Planning Department and other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Speaking on the proposed initiative, the Chief Secretary maintained that the proposed household enumeration represents the next logical step in our development journey. He remarked that this initiative seeks to identify the actual households that continue to experience multiple deprivations with an objective to create a scientifically validated and technology-enabled database that will help Government departments deliver welfare benefits with greater precision, improve inter-departmental convergence and ensure that no deserving family is left behind.

He further stated that the proposed exercise is the first step towards data-driven governance, transparency and inclusive development, and would provide an institutional framework for identifying and addressing pockets of deprivation across Jammu & Kashmir.

He impressed upon the Deputy Commissioners to work out the human resource requirements in coordination with the Planning Department. He also directed the Department to frame capacity building programmes for these resources so that the exercise is taken up after the culmination of the



2 phases of the Census operations across the UT including the pastoral populations of J&K.

The proposal, presented by the Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, R Alice Vaz lays down a scientifically designed framework for identifying households experiencing multiple deprivations across health, education and living standards as per the GoI norms.

She added that the proposal is founded on the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) framework developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), while adapting it for household-level identification of poor families within Jammu & Kashmir. Unlike sample-based national surveys that provide only macro-level poverty estimates, the proposed exercise seeks to identify the actual households behind the statistics, thereby facilitating direct and targeted government intervention.

As proposed, the enumeration shall initially cover the most vulnerable categories already available in government databases, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, covering approximately 2.19 lakh beneficiary households across all twenty districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

The proposed methodology follows the nationally accepted Multidimensional Poverty Index framework by assessing every household across three dimensions including Health, Education and Standard of Living, through twelve carefully defined indicators.

These include nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, household assets and financial inclusion. A scientifically weighted deprivation score would be generated automatically through a digital application, and households crossing the prescribed deprivation threshold would be identified as multidimensionally poor.

To ensure comprehensive assessment, two structured digital schedules have been proposed. The first schedule would collect household information required for automated computation of the MPI score, while the second schedule, applicable only to households identified as multidimensionally poor, would capture the reasons for deprivation, gaps in access to government schemes, awareness levels and barriers preventing families from availing benefits. The information generated would enable departments to design targeted interventions based on district-specific and household-specific needs.

The household database generated through the exercise was said to become a robust decision-support system for Government, enabling convergence of welfare schemes relating to health, education, housing, drinking water, sanitation, clean energy, financial inclusion, livelihoods and social protection. It would also facilitate more efficient utilisation of public resources, strengthen monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals and support evidence-based district planning.

Ensure effective implementation of road safety measures: Athar

Precious Kashmir News

BUDGAM, JULY 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) at the Conference Hall, Budgam to review the implementation of road safety measures and assess the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) submitted by various stakeholder departments on the decisions taken during the previous meeting.

The meeting reviewed the progress achieved by various departments in strengthening road safety infrastructure, enforcement, emergency response, public awareness and institutional coordination across the district. The District Road Safety Action Plan 2026-27 was also reviewed, with emphasis on the timely execution of identified interventions by the concerned departments.

The DC stressed the need for sustained coordination among all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of road safety measures and directed the departments to expedite the execution of all pending decisions in a time-bound manner.

He instructed the concerned departments to prioritise the rectification of accident-prone locations through appropriate engineering interventions, including installation of road safety signage, crash barriers, street lighting and other essential safety infrastructure.

He also directed that identified black spots be addressed through improved road geometry, proper road markings, pedestrian crossings and other traffic-calming measures.

The DC further directed the



Roads & Buildings Department and other executing agencies to undertake regular road safety audits and remove obstructions along roads that contribute to accidents or create hindrances, particularly during the winter season, to ensure safe and uninterrupted movement of traffic.

Emphasising the safety of school children, the DC instructed Chief Education Officer Budgam to conduct a comprehensive audit of all school buses to ensure strict adherence to prescribed safety guidelines, including the installation and proper functioning of CCTV cameras and other mandatory safety features.

The DC also directed the Traffic Police and ARTO to intensify enforcement drives on the Humhama-Budgam-Doodhpathri Road, ensuring zero tolerance for traffic violations on the stretch.

He further instructed the concerned departments to verify that vehicles whose registrations or permits have been suspended are not operating on the roads and to initiate strict

Chib asks people to support NMBA

Precious Kashmir News

BANDIPORA, JULY 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Wednesday chaired Block Diwas at Bonakoot Block, hearing public grievances and reviewing developmental issues of the area.

The programme was attended by Program Officer ICDS, ACD, ACP, CEO, CMO, and Tehsildar Bandipora, along with Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD, PHE and PMGSY/REW, other district and sectoral officers, and a large gathering of the public.

Public issues spanned healthcare, roads, drinking water, irrigation, power supply, sanitation, banking facilities, education infrastructure, playgrounds, public transport, tourism promotion and livelihood generation. The DC directed concerned departments to examine grievances on priority, conduct field inspections where required, and ensure timely, coordinated redressal.

On healthcare, she directed the CMO to strengthen services, ensure regular RBKS outreach, and address concerns around the Health and Wellness Centre and Anganwadi facilities in tribal areas. On infrastructure, engineering departments were told to prepare estimates and feasibility reports, expedite pending proposals, pursue clearances and ensure timely completion of works. On power, she



Make optimum use of Govt schemes: DC Kulgam

Precious Kashmir News

KULGAM, JULY 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kulgam, Shazad Alam, visited Yaripora Wednesday and presided over the Block Diwas public outreach programme.

During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an interactive public grievance hearing, providing the local populace with an opportunity to present their issues, demands, and developmental concerns.

The grievances raised by the public mainly pertained to road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare facilities, education, sanitation, irrigation, revenue matters, and other civic amenities.

The Deputy Commissioner heard each grievance patiently and directed the concerned departmental officers to address the issues promptly in accordance with the applicable rules and within the stipulated time frame.

Matters requiring immediate intervention were resolved on the spot, while the remaining issues were referred to the respective departments for necessary action and follow-up.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized responsive governance, transparency, accountability, and timely redressal of public grievances. He instructed all officers to maintain close coordination with the local administration and ensure effective implementation of government welfare schemes and ongoing developmental projects. He also urged the public to actively participate in developmental initiatives and make optimum use of government schemes.

The Block Diwas programme was conducted smoothly and served as an effective platform for direct interaction between the district administration and the public. The visit strengthened public confidence in the administration and facilitated the identification and resolution of local issues through coordinated departmental action.

Achieve prescribed targets: DC Kupwara

Precious Kashmir News

KUPWARA, JULY 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKG) in the district and the progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP).

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the operational status of Kisan Khidmat Ghar Centres, with particular emphasis on Common Service Centre (CSC) onboarding, capacity building of Krishi Udyamis (KUs), delivery of services and revenue generation.

A detailed review was also conducted of the district's performance against the prescribed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under HADP and JKCIP including course completion by enrolled farmers, establishment



of approved units, tracking of established units through the OTA application, utilisation of released funds, farmer and farm registration under KKG Level-2, completion of e-KYC under KKG Level-3, daily reporting compliance by Krishi Udyamis, credit disbursement against sanctioned cases, sanction of credit applications, JKCIP coverage in selected blocks and approvals under JKCIP.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to achieve the prescribed targets under each performance parameter through a coordinated and result-oriented approach. He instructed the of-

ficers to expedite farmer and farm registration, ensure timely completion of e-KYC of all eligible beneficiaries, improve daily reporting compliance by Krishi Udyamis, strengthen credit linkage and maintain accuracy and real-time update of data on the designated portal for effective monitoring and evaluation. He further directed the departments to review the performance of Krishi Udyamis on a daily basis and take prompt corrective measures wherever required.

The Committee reviewed the implementation status of various interventions being undertaken under the two flagship programmes. Stressing convergence among implementing departments, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure timely execution of approved interventions, undertake regular field-level monitoring and maximise outreach so that the intended benefits reach the farming community in a transparent and time-bound manner.

CS administers oath to Manoj Gupta as Member, JKWRA

Precious Kashmir News

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday administered oath of office to Manoj Gupta as Member, Jammu & Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority (JKWRA) at a ceremony held here.

The oath of office was administered in the presence of the Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department and other dignitaries.

The appointment of Gupta as Member of the J&K Water Resources Regulatory Authority marks another significant step towards further strengthening the institutional framework for water resources governance in the Union Territory.

The Authority is entrusted with promoting transparent, equitable and sustainable management of water resources through effective regulation, policy guidance and scientific planning.

Resolve pending land issues on priority: Dir Panchayati Raj

Precious Kashmir News

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Director Panchayati Raj, Jammu and Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of various components under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and set firm deadlines for the completion of pending works and targets.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs), Under Secretary, Mohammad Arshad, Executive Engineers and SPRC/DPRC team.

The Director reviewed the status of Panchayat Ghars, Panchayat Learning Centres, Gram Panchayat Development Plans, Mera Gaon Meri Dhara initiative and fund utilisation.

Reviewing the progress of Panchayat Ghars, the Director was informed that against a target of 640, land has been identified for 577 sites, 269 Panchayat Ghars have either been completed or reached advanced stages of completion.

He directed the districts to resolve pending land issues on priority, expedite tendering and execution, and ensure timely completion of all ongoing works.

The Director further instructed that districts should identify and report all Panchayat Ghar sites where construction is stalled due to land disputes or non-availability of land.

Riyaz Wani sought a detailed report clearly indicating each affected location, along with the Deputy Commissioner's comments and certification confirming that land is unavailable or that the site is under dispute. These cases will then be taken up with the Government for resolution.

Districts were asked to continue pursuing the matter with the Deputy Commissioner to resolve disputes and secure alternate land wherever possible. Where land is being donated, all legal formalities and written declarations should be completed to ensure there are no future claims or disputes.

Officers were also directed to provide realistic timelines for completion of Panchayat Ghars where work has already been taken up and separately indicate cases that remain pending due to unresolved land issues.

Regarding Panchayat Learning Centres, 20 PLCs sanctioned earlier are functional across the Union Territory, and 41 additional PLCs have been sanctioned in the current phase.

Amit Shah

Territory. He assured that all necessary central assistance would be extended to effectively tackle any challenges arising from heavy rainfall and related incidents.

During his interaction with the Kerala Chief Minister, Shah also expressed concern over the recent rain-related tragedy in Wayanad and appreciated the ongoing rescue and relief operations. He further called for a high-level inquiry into the incident, while assuring full support from the Centre for rehabilitation and disaster management efforts.

The Centre's outreach comes as several parts of the country continue to experience intense monsoon activity, with the India Meteorological Department forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall in multiple states, prompting authorities to remain on high alert.

Flash floods

Celsius, Kokernag 30.6 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 25.4 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg 23.4 degrees Celsius, Banihal 29.2 degrees Celsius, Batote 28.7 degrees Celsius, Katra 31.0 degrees Celsius, and Bhaderwah 27.0 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature stood at 19.6 degrees Celsius in Srinagar and 23.4 degrees Celsius in Jammu, while Pahalgam recorded 14.6 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 11.0 degrees Celsius, according to the Meteorological Centre's evening observations. (KNO)

Govt announces

The order specifies that the concession will be extended only to students belonging to AAY families who produce a valid AAY Ration Card or other prescribed supporting documents. However, students already receiving financial assistance or scholarships under any other government scheme will not be eligible for this benefit.

The government has clarified that the exemption will not apply to charges payable to any external statutory authority or examining body, where the concerned departments do not have the authority to waive such fees. Such payments will continue to be governed by the existing rules unless specifically exempted by the competent authority.

To ensure transparency in implementation, Heads of Institutions and Principals of Government Degree Colleges have been directed to thoroughly verify the eligibility of beneficiaries before granting the fee waiver. They have also been instructed to maintain proper records for audit, inspection and future verification.

The government further stated that the financial implications arising from the scheme will be assessed by the respective Directorates and submitted to the Administrative Departments for reimbursement through the Finance Department.

The Directors of School Education and Colleges have been asked to ensure strict implementation of the orders, including verification of beneficiaries, maintenance of records, effective monitoring, and submission of periodic progress reports.

The initiative is expected to provide major financial relief to thousands of students from economically weaker AAY families and encourage greater access to quality education across the Union Territory.

The conclave also saw the launch of several educational infrastructure and digital initiatives. The Chief Minister inaugurated 2,109 works in the education sector worth more than 115 crore. He also inaugurated a virtual classroom studio and a high-tech auditorium at Government College of Engineering and Technology, Jammu.

Recognising the stellar academic performance of students, the Chief Minister felicitated 67 meritorious school and college students and honoured National Award-winning teachers.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inspected exhibition stalls showcasing student innovations, institutional reforms and technological initiatives.

Praising the young innovators, the Chief Minister said their work, ranging from patents to start-ups, demonstrated how technology and quality education can solve everyday problems and improve people's lives.

Appreciating Education Minister Sakina Itoo for initiating several reforms and budgetary interventions, the Chief Minister assured that the government would continue investing in educational infrastructure, institutional development, and improving the service conditions of teachers and academicians to ensure equitable access to quality education across Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling teachers the backbone of society, he said every profession—whether doctors, engineers, soldiers or police officers—begins with a teacher. He assured that the government would continue working to strengthen schools, support teachers and improve learning outcomes for all.

Education Minister Sakina Itoo, Agriculture Minister Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, several Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, the Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department, Vice-Chancellors of universities, Director Colleges, Directors of School Education, Kashmir and Jammu, and other senior officers of the Education Department attended the occasion. They were joined by academicians and students at the day-long conclave.

Expressing satisfaction with the progress of the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the achievements of students, the Chief Minister said, "I leave this conclave with renewed confidence in the future of Jammu and Kashmir."

ATRS to be

system at major airports, attended by Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, the Union Home Secretary, Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force, Chairman of the Airports Authority of India and other senior officials.

Shah directed that the Automatic Tray Retrieval System be installed in a phased manner at airports across the country to improve operational efficiency and reduce human resource requirements. He also said appropriate standards should be prescribed to ensure the system is incorporated at all new airports.

To improve passenger experience, the Home Minister asked officials to develop a comprehensive framework integrating airport entry lanes, check-in counters, security screening lanes and immigration counters so that passenger movement remains uninterrupted at every touch-point. He said a coordinated plan should be implemented across all airport processes to minimise congestion and delays.

Shah also directed that the 21 airports currently under development and another 41 airports be prioritised based on passenger traffic while complying with security standards prescribed by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. He set a target of completing work at all 62 airports within the next two years.

The Home Minister further instructed the Ministry of Civil Aviation to lay down norms for the number of aero-

bridges at airports based on passenger and aircraft traffic. He also directed that the baggage drop facility, currently available at 16 major airports, be extended to other international airports handling high passenger volumes.

Emphasising security standards, Shah said there should be no dilution in the educational qualifications prescribed for CISF personnel deployed for X-ray baggage screening and directed that only suitably qualified personnel be assigned to such duties.

He also directed that Foreigners Regional Registration Office offices be made operational at the headquarters of all states by 2027 and asked authorities to operationalise authorised immigration checkpoints at Agartala and Jewar airports at the earliest.

To promote the Fast Track Immigration–Trusted Travelers' Programme (FTI-TTP), Shah directed the Ministry of Civil Aviation to coordinate with airlines to send WhatsApp messages to passengers at the time of booking international tickets, encouraging them to register for the programme.

He further instructed the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the CISF to independently commission third-party studies during peak travel seasons to assess passenger delays at major airports and recommend measures to improve processing efficiency across all touch-points.

LeT commander

today along with arms and ammunition," he said.

He described the killing as a major success for the security forces. "Fresh firing was heard near the encounter site, indicating the presence of another terrorist," he said .

In a post on X, Jammu and Kashmir police said, "You can run, but you cannot hide. One Lashkar terrorist neutralised by SOG Shopian, in a Jt Op, along with RR and CRPF." (KNO)

FRS helps

intercepted and verified the identities of the individuals. During the verification process, all three were identified as Over Ground Workers (OGWs). Based on the intelligence generated through the Facial Recognition System and subsequent verification, all three individuals were promptly apprehended by Anantnag Police for further legal proceedings.

The successful detection highlights the crucial role of technology-driven policing in strengthening the security grid and ensuring a safe, secure, and incident-free Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Anantnag Police remains committed to leveraging modern surveillance systems and maintaining a robust security framework to safeguard pilgrims and uphold peace in the district.

Peddler's

at approximately 30 lakh, located at Behrampora, Raifiabad, and belongs to Gulzar Ahmad Zargar @ Sheeda son of Ghulam Hassan Zargar resident of Behrampora, Raifiabad. The action was taken following a detailed enquiry and financial investigation, which revealed that the property had been acquired from proceeds generated through illicit narcotics trafficking. Accordingly, the property was identified as illegally acquired and attached under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act.

With this action, Sopore Police has so far attached eight properties of notorious drug peddlers worth over 1.50 crore during the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, reflecting its sustained focus on dismantling the financial infrastructure supporting the narcotics trade. Police reiterates its zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking and substance abuse. Stringent legal as well as financial action shall continue against all those involved in the narcotics trade. The action forms part of Sopore Police's sustained efforts under the 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan to eradicate the drug menace and build a safer, healthier and drug-free society.

Amarnath

Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas from the early hours of the day as devotees from different parts of the country assembled for the annual pilgrimage.

Amarnath ice Shivling shrinks significantly; devotees rush for early darshan

The naturally formed ice Shivling inside the holy Amarnath cave shrine has reduced noticeably compared to its size at the beginning of the Yatra. The development has led to a surge in the number of devotees keen to reach the cave shrine as early as possible.

The 57-day Yatra, which commenced on July 3, is being conducted under a multi-layered security arrangement with extensive logistical support from the administration, police, CAPFs, health services and other departments. The pilgrimage will conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan. (KNO)

Army Chief

absorption, capability enhancement and integrated combat readiness across the full spectrum of operations.

"During the visit, the COAS commended all ranks for their exceptional professionalism and steadfast commitment under challenging conditions and appreciated their relentless efforts in maintaining peace and stability."

General Dhiraj Seth arrived here on Tuesday on his maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir after becoming the Chief of the Army Staff. He called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to review the overall security situation in the Union Territory.

General Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, is a serving four-star General of the Indian Army. He is the current and 31st Chief of the Army Staff. He previously served as the 49th Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

He earlier served as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command; General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Command; General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area; and General Officer Commanding, XXI Corps.

He is also the Colonel of the Regiment of the Armoured Corps. He assumed charge as the Chief of the Army Staff on June 30, 2026, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi.

3 CRPF

area. The injured paramilitary personnel belonged to the D Company of the force's 148th Battalion.

A police official said the driver involved in the incident was arrested shortly after the accident. The injured personnel were immediately shifted to Ujala Cygnus Hospital, Nowgam, where they are undergoing treatment, he said. Police have registered a case, and further investigation is underway.

Only last week, seven CRPF personnel were injured near the tunnel in Sonmarg area of Ganderbal district after the driver lost control on the wheel of their vehicle and it skidded off the road. The CRPF jawans were administered first aid on the spot.

The CRPF manages security on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) for secure, smooth passage of the Amarnath Yatra.

Ahead of the Amarnath Yatra, it has implemented a robust security plan to safeguard pilgrims travelling on the NH-44.

The CRPF also manages security from Jammu right up

to the two base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam, in addition to the transit camps at Mirbazar in south Kashmir, and Saidpora and Manigam in north Kashmir, jointly with the J&K Police.

Every ECI

by Media Nodal Officers (MNOs), Social Media Nodal Officers (SMNOs), District Media Nodal Officers, District Public Relations Officers (PROs), and senior officials from the State Departments of Public Relations (DPRs).

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioner Dr Vivek Joshi, addressed the participants. He stressed the importance of transparent, accurate, and timely communication throughout the electoral process.

Addressing the gathering, CEC Gyanesh Kumar said that every action of the Election Commission is guided by the Constitution of India, electoral laws, and written instructions issued from time to time, all in a transparent manner.

He cautioned the participants against the spread of false narratives on social media. The CEC also urged them to engage proactively to curb misinformation.

Highlighting public confidence in the electoral system, he said the record voter turnout witnessed in the recent Assembly elections reflects the trust that Indian electors place in the country's democratic institutions.

Likewise, Dr Vivek Joshi spoke about the growing threat posed by artificial intelligence, deepfakes, synthetic media, and other misleading digital content "aimed at undermining public trust in democratic institutions".

He urged the participating officers to counter such misinformation effectively by adhering to the Commission's rules, instructions, and established communication guidelines.

According to the ECI press release, the conference featured comprehensive sessions on communication strategies covering the entire election cycle, from electoral roll management to polling. Participants were also briefed on ECINET, key constitutional provisions, and legal aspects related to media during elections.

In addition, practical training sessions were conducted. According to the release, officials were briefed on drafting effective press notes and amplifying official communication through traditional and social media platforms. They were also given a session on tackling misinformation and misleading narratives. They were also trained to engage young voters through Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) and to effectively communicate ECI initiatives to the public.

Demonstrations of electoral roll preparation, polling procedures, and the counting process were also conducted. The officials participated in a guided walkthrough of the exhibition and media corner.

India 'deeply

developments risk undermining regional peace, security and stability," read a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal late Wednesday.

"India calls upon all parties to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and ensure protection of civilians as well as the uninterrupted flow of energy supplies and commerce. We urge the parties to return to dialogue and diplomacy to achieve a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict," it added.

International oil benchmark Brent crude climbed as much as 6.52 per cent or \$4.69 to trade near \$80 a barrel. Similarly, US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) advanced more than six per cent or \$4.85 to around \$75 a barrel.

Trump on Wednesday warned Iran that the United States was prepared to launch further military strikes and even reimpose a naval blockade if Tehran continued its attacks, while declaring that he no longer believed negotiations over its nuclear programme were worth pursuing despite leaving the door open for his envoys to keep talking.

Speaking during separate appearances with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and later Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Ankara, Trump defended the latest US military action against Iranian targets, accused Tehran of violating a pause requested for funeral ceremonies and suggested the current diplomatic framework had effectively collapsed.

Trump said Iran had resumed hostile actions after the United States had temporarily held back military operations.

"They said to us, please don't kill us during the funeral. I said I won't. We didn't. In fact, we made it safe for them, actually," Trump said.

He added that Iran had instead resumed attacks.

"They started shooting rockets at ships yesterday," he said.

"So we hit them very hard last night, very hard. I would say 20 to one, 20 times tougher. And I told them, 'Every time you hit, we hit.'"

Asked whether his earlier remarks meant a return to full-scale hostilities, Trump repeatedly avoided giving a direct answer, but warned that more strikes could follow.

"We'll probably hit 'em hard tonight, I'll give 'em a little warning," he said.

Later, he said he had instructed the US military to broaden its targeting during the latest operation.

"I told the military to don't hit the pipes but hit everything else" on Kharg Island, Iran's principal oil export terminal. He also disclosed that Tehran had sought what he described as a "time out" during funeral proceedings before resuming attacks.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said US forces had targeted Iranian military assets involved in threatening commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump

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Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said US forces had targeted Iranian military assets involved in threatening commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

"Last night... a lot of small craft that they were trying to harass shipping with, so that was a big part of what we targeted," Hegseth said.

"Underground facilities where they were storing drones or missiles, coastal defence sites, radar sites, surveillance sites, anything used to harass shipping in the Strait of

Hormuz."

He added: "Tonight, if we need to on your order, Mr President, we will hit even more."

Trump also suggested Washington could again impose a maritime blockade targeting Iran.

"We put down the blockade, we may put it back, the blockade, and it'll only be a blockade for Iran," he said.

The President struck a pessimistic tone on diplomacy, saying he had little confidence in future negotiations with Tehran.

"It's a very interesting question. To me, I think it's over. I don't want to deal with them anymore," Trump said when asked whether the ceasefire and memorandum of understanding with Iran remained in effect.

"They're scum. They're sick people. They're led by sick people. And they're vicious, violent people. And if they had a nuclear weapon, they'd use it. As far as I'm concerned, it's over."

Trump accused Iranian leaders of negotiating in bad faith.

"They're liars. We make a deal... Everyone's agreed. No nuclear weapon. We make a deal. They go outside, talk to the press, they say, 'We never even talked about it.'"

"As far as I'm concerned, it's just a waste of time dealing with them."

At the same time, he stopped short of formally ending diplomacy, saying his Middle East envoys could continue discussions.

"Steve is great, and Jared is great... they're the right guys. And we'll see what happens," Trump said, referring to Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

"I'll let our wonderful negotiators keep talking if they want, but I don't see it."

Earlier, standing alongside Rutte, Trump described Iran as "the number one state sponsor of terror" and defended the latest military action as part of his administration's objective of preventing Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

"We're gonna de-nuke it. We're not gonna let them, because they're crazy and they can't have a nuclear weapon," he said.

Rutte publicly backed the US response, saying the strikes were justified after attacks on international shipping.

"I think what you did last night was absolutely necessary. It was a very strong response," the NATO Secretary General said, adding that degrading Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities was "crucial for Israel, the region, for Europe... for the whole world."

DRDO tests

Armament Research and Development Establishment in collaboration with the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, with support from the Defence Research and Development Laboratory and Research Centre Imarat. The flight trial was coordinated by the Integrated Test Range and the Proof & Experimental Establishment.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, the Indian Army and industry partners, describing the successful test as a major milestone in India's indigenous long-range guided rocket development programme.

Defence Secretary and DRDO Chairman Rajesh Kumar Singh, who monitored the trial, also commended the teams involved.

The latest trial follows the maiden successful test of the Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket at its maximum range of 120 kilometres conducted from the same test range in December last year. The Pinaka system forms part of the Indian Army's indigenous multiple-launch rocket capability designed for long-range precision strikes.

CS seeks

senior officers.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of creating widespread financial awareness and enhancing institutional preparedness against emerging financial crimes. He urged SEBI and NSE to jointly undertake awareness and training programmes targeting nearly 50,000 participants, while asking ICAI to strengthen the capacities of around 20,000 stakeholders, including teachers, students, Self Help Group (SHG) members, community influencers, law enforcement personnel and officers involved in prosecution.

Highlighting the need for stronger enforcement mechanisms, Dulloo called for the formulation of a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in consultation with the Principal Secretary, Home Department. He observed that a well-defined SOP would create greater deterrence against financial offenders by clearly delineating the responsibilities of various departments and agencies, ensuring seamless coordination and facilitating swift action against fraudsters.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Finance Department to expedite the finalisation of the Chit Fund Rules to strengthen the regulatory framework and effectively curb unauthorised deposit-taking and fraudulent investment schemes in the Union Territory.

Expressing concern over the rapid evolution of technology-driven financial crimes, he stressed the need to intensify efforts against emerging frauds, particularly crypto currency related scams and other sophisticated cyber-enabled offences.

He called for identifying the masterminds behind phishing messages, fraudulent emails and similar cyber frauds, besides advocating stringent non-kinetic measures such as cancellation of driving licences, passports and vehicle registration certificates, along with attachment of properties under relevant legal provisions against those involved in cheating people of their hard-earned money.

Earlier, Regional Director, RBI, Jammu, Chandra Shekhar Azad, made a detailed presentation on the initiatives undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India to strengthen the country's financial fraud prevention ecosystem.

He highlighted the deployment of the Financial Fraud Risk Adapter tool by RBI to banks for strengthening fraud detection and prevention. He also elaborated on several other technological and regulatory interventions, including the Artificial Intelligence-based Mule Hunter tool for identifying mule accounts, mandatory adoption of the "bank.in" domain by banks operating in India, standardisation of 1400 and 1600 series telephone numbers for promotional and customer awareness calls respectively, tokenisation of card details to secure online transactions, and customer-enabled options for disabling selected features of debit/credit cards and internet banking services to enhance account security.

The Regional Director further informed the meeting that RBI has significantly intensified financial literacy and awareness campaigns across Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that more than 113 awareness programmes have been organised across various districts and institutions, benefitting government employees, students, traders, business establishments and members of the general public.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, and Principal Secretary, Home Department, also shared valuable suggestions for strengthening the Union Territory's response to cyber-enabled financial frauds. They emphasised the need for introducing distinct call signatures for whitelisted and other entities, while advocating sustained public awareness campaigns on the modus operandi adopted by cyber fraudsters, reporting mechanisms and preventive tools available to safeguard citizens against online financial crimes.

Madhya Pradesh to pay Rs 217 cr under settlement in decades-old Narmada water dispute

According to the original 1979 Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) Award, Gujarat was required to bear a substantial portion of the expenditure towards resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) and land acquisition in the upstream states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Modi posted on X after landing in Melbourne. PM Modi will co-chair the 3rd Annual Summit with PM Anthony Albanese and also engage with various stakeholders to further deepen the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership across all sectors of mutual interest. Besides holding bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Albanese, he will also call on Australia's Governor-General Sam Mostyn. During the visit, PM Modi will participate in the India-Australia CEOs Forum and address leading business leaders from both countries. He is also scheduled to address a large gathering of the Indian diaspora in Melbourne. Ahead of the visit, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described India as a key economic



“The Australia-India relationship has never been more consequential, and our partnership fosters peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. I look forward to strengthening Australia and India's deep partnership,” the statement added. Albanese said the relationship is underpinned by the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and strengthened by deep economic and cultural connections. “Our cooperation on trade, defence, security and technology is delivering benefits for both countries,” the Australian Prime Minister said. India's High Commissioner to Australia, Nagesh Singh, said that Prime Minister Modi's upcoming visit to Australia for the third time in 10 years is a significant reflection of the remarkable growth in bilat-

ties over the past decade. Speaking with IANS, the envoy said the changing global landscape is bringing India and Australia closer together, with both countries sharing common strategic interests and a broad-based partnership. “This is a very important indicator. Prime Minister Modi coming to Australia for the third time in 10 years is a very important indicator of how the relationship between India and Australia has been growing very rapidly over the past decade. It is a very comprehensive relationship, which we have enhanced to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2020, and when we call it comprehensive, then literally, whether it is defence and security, trade and investment, or people-to-people connect, new and emerging technologies, clean energy, education and skilling, mobility, is what we talk about,” he said.

In their meeting, PM Modi and Fico explored new avenues of cooperation in several sectors. The two leaders also exchanged perspectives on regional and global issues.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mohit Yadav, Joint Secretary in India's Department of Commerce, and Nuriddinzoda Ahliddin Nuriddin, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan. Senior officials from various ministries and agencies of both countries have also participated. India highlighted its robust economic performance, noting a GDP growth of 7.7 per cent in FY 2025-26 and 7.8 per cent in the final quarter of the same fiscal year.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla

e-mail, id, xenmhdb.la@jk.gov.in

Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No:	M&HDB/TS/2026-27/21/876-B1
Date:	06-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system (Technical and financial) on Percentage basis from OEM or Registered firms/agencies/contractors having experience for execution of below mentioned work:

Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Completion time
Comprehensive Maintenance of PSA Technology based Oxygen Generation Plant (500 LPM Oxywise make) including all the Electrical Equipment and Operation of PSA Technology based Oxygen Generation Plant by way of engagement of 03 (three) semi-skilled Operators (01 in each shift) for round the clock operation of the OGP at Sub-District Hospital Tangmarg for a period of One year.	15.944	1000/-	31888/-	12 months

Note:-

- Project Authority:- Director Health Services Kashmir Srinagar.
- AAA- Administrative Approval accorded by Director Health Services Kashmir Srinagar vide No. 18/DHSC of 2026 Dated:- 30-06-2026.
- Technical Sanction:- Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division No. 09 of 07/2026 Dated:- 06-07-2026
- Executing Agency:- Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.
- Contract shall be valid for a period of one year

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	06-07-2026
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 07-07-2026 to 15-07-2026
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 07-07-2026 (10:00 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	15-07-2026 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1*	16-07-2026 (13:00 HRS)

01. Instructions to Bidders:- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format with digital Signature on the official website www.jkntenders.gov.in in two covers viz., (Technical Bid) & (Financial Bid).

A. Cover-I shall contain:

01.	Tender Fee	Tender Fee equivalent to Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One thousand Only) has to be deposited in the Departmental Common Pool Account maintained in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Residency Road Srinagar, under Account No: 000501020000355 (IFSC Code: JAKAACHINAR). Proof of the said Electronic / Digital Transfer has to be uploaded in Cover-I documents.
02.	EMD	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost has to be deposited in the Departmental Common Pool Account maintained in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Residency Road Srinagar, under Account No: 000501020000355 (IFSC Code: JAKAACHINAR). Proof of the said Electronic / Digital Transfer has to be uploaded in Cover-I documents.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure - "A", "B" & "C" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Latest Tax Clearance Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.

06.	Non-Blacklisting Declaration	Undertaking as per Annexure "D" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any department
07.	Financial Turnover	Average Annual financial turnover of the bidder during the last three (03) years, ending March, 2026 shall not be less than 200% of the estimated / advertized cost of the instant work duly certified by a registered Chartered Accountant with proper UDIN number for the issued certificate.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience certificate	OEM or experienced firms having following documentary proof: a. Profile the client lists in case OEM (Oxywise make) is participating in the tendering process. or b. Firms having Technical / Spare Part Support Certificate from OEM of Oxywise make plants and having at least 01-year experience during last five years in CMC and Operation of Oxygen Plants of more than 300 LPM capacity installed in Government / Semi-Government Institutions / Organizations. The bidder shall upload the necessary Technical / Spare Part Support Certificate from OEM of Oxywise. or c. Firms having experience in CMC and Operation of Oxywise make Oxygen Plants of more than 300 LPM capacity installed in Govt. / Semi govt. Institutions / Organizations at least for a period of one (01) year during last five (05) years. The bidder shall upload experience certificate / Satisfactory Performance Certificate of above-mentioned work issued by competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer / DGM of Unit / equivalent.
09.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.

➤ No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.

B. Cover-II shall contain:

- Price bid, as per BQ uploaded by this department. Innocase, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HDB Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
- Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BQ (Bill of Materials) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BQ manually. The BQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender document-refundable and the tender shall be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar/blacklist such firm(s).
- Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
- The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HDB Baramulla.

Only the documents uploaded online by the bidder at the time of bid submission shall be considered for evaluation. In case of any shortfall or deficiency, clarification shall be sought/accepted only with respect to the documents submitted online.

NOTE: All bidders are required to submit a fresh tender fee for this e-NIT. Receipts of previously submitted tender will not be accepted for this e-NIT.

No:- M&HDB/TS/e-tender-21/876-B1

Dated:- 06-07-2026

DIPK-3007/26 Dated:- 08-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

Giving KKR trials at 14 in front of Ganguly sir and Buchanan felt surreal, says Samson

IAN S

New Delhi, July 8: India wicketkeeper-batsman Sanju Samson has opened up about how it felt 'surreal' for him to give IPL selection trials for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the tender age of 14 in front of legends like former India skipper Sourav Ganguly and John Buchanan.

Samson has been out of India's playing eleven since the Manchester T20I against England, after having endured two low scores in Ireland. But on a trip down the memory lane, Samson, who played for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in IPL 2026, credited his childhood coach Biju George for shaping his early career and opening doors for him to attend KKR trials.

"After I went on to perform well for Kerala in the Under-13 tournament, Biju sir took me all the way to the Kolkata Knight Riders selection trials when I was just 14 years old. That felt unbelievably surreal for a 14-year-old. Sourav Ganguly sir was the captain of KKR at the time, and John Buchanan was the head coach.

"I gave my trials in front of them, and based on that performance, they selected me to be a part of the KKR 'B' team during that period. We even got to travel to Sri Lanka for matches with the 'B' team. Biju



sir continuously opened doors and created opportunities for us, so the credit for shaping the early stages of my career will always, unconditionally, go to him," he said in an episode of JioStar's 'Superstars'.

Samson also threw light on the initial hardships his family faced when they relocated from Delhi to Thiruvananthapuram, including struggle for taking mid-term admission in school. "When we left

everything behind and moved back to Kerala, we initially couldn't get admission into any school in Trivandrum. We had moved there during the mid-term, so we weren't getting admission anywhere.

"We tried so many schools, thinking we would go here or there, do this or that, but nobody was ready to admit us. In the end, there was a school called St. Joseph's in Trivandrum. One of my father's friends

held a high position there.

"He asked my father what the matter was, and my dad explained that we weren't getting school admissions. He simply said, 'No problem, get uniforms for the kids the next day and send them straight to school.' That's how it all began in Trivandrum."

On how his father connected with George, currently the head of talent scouting at KKR, Samson said his father Viswanathan making endless phone calls from Delhi to find out about the cricket infrastructure in Kerala helped them very well.

"While we were still in Delhi, my father used to make endless phone calls to friends in Kerala to find out about the cricket scene there. He didn't know Biju sir at first, but he had a close friend named Ali bhai. He would constantly ask them where he should send me and my brother for cricket training after we moved to Kerala.

"Ali bhai strongly recommended Biju George sir, saying he was the best coach in Kerala and that he would guide us well. My father agreed. On that very first day, we had a short trial where we faced about 10 balls each, so he could see our natural ability. Within just 10 minutes of watching us bat, Biju sir made up his mind.

"He immediately sent my brother to play for the Wayanad district team, he

said it would be a great opportunity for him. For me, since I was younger, he said I had to wait because my Under-13 matches were coming up," he added.

The explosive batter stated that the immense sacrifices made by his parents provided him with the ultimate motivation to succeed in playing cricket from a young age. "We loved our routine, morning practice, go to school, rush back, and train again. At that age, it made us feel like we were doing something meaningful. Our peers at school and the academy respected us for it.

"They saw how hard we worked, and that respect pushed us even more. Even as a kid, there was always a quiet pressure in the back of my mind. When you see your father shift his entire world for you, and your mother sacrifice her sleep every day, you realise you can't take a single day off.

"That is why getting out for 30 or 40 and then going home and telling my dad that I got out for 30 felt a bit heavy. But looking back, that environment brought the best out of me. While my friends played for fun, I walked onto the field with one goal, to make my parents proud and make their sacrifices count. That is what kept me focused at such a young age," he concluded.

Stock market witnesses sharpest fall in over 3 months over Trump's Iran ceasefire comment

IAN S

Mumbai, July 8: Indian benchmark equity indices witnessed their sharpest single-day decline in more than three months on Wednesday as escalating tensions in West Asia dampened investor sentiment and sparked a broad-based selloff across sectors.

The Sensex plunged 1,677.12 points, or 2.15 per cent, to close at 76,503.60, while the Nifty dropped 516.65 points, or 2.12 per cent, to settle at 23,882.05.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,000 region is now expected to act as the immediate resistance zone, followed by the 24,200 level.

"A sustained move above these levels will be required to improve the near-term technical structure," a market ex-



pert stated.

"On the downside, the 23,800 zone remains a crucial support level. A decisive break below this region could intensify selling pressure and drag the index towards the 23,600-23,500 zone," as per the market analyst.

The sharp fall came as risk appetite weakened after renewed geopolitical

uncertainty in West Asia rattled global financial markets.

Investor concerns intensified after US President Donald Trump said the ceasefire with Iran was over, although negotiations could continue following an exchange of strikes by both sides in the Strait of Hormuz.

The heightened tensions

prompted investors to reduce exposure to equities, resulting in widespread losses across the market.

Among the Nifty constituents, Jio Financial Services, InterGlobe Aviation and Shriram Finance emerged as the biggest laggards. Only four stocks in the benchmark index managed to end the session in positive territory, while the remaining constituents closed lower.

The decline was broad-based across sectors, with banking stocks bearing the brunt of the selling pressure. The Nifty PSU Bank and the Nifty Bank indices were the worst-performing sectoral gauges during the session.

Meanwhile, the Nifty Metal and Nifty Pharma indices outperformed other sectors despite ending lower, limiting their losses compared to the broader market.

Maruti Suzuki commissions 1 MWh battery energy storage system at Kharkhoda plant

IAN S

New Delhi, July 8: Leading automobile firm Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday said it has commissioned a 1 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at its Kharkhoda manufacturing facility in Haryana as part of its efforts to strengthen renewable energy usage and reduce carbon emissions.

The company said the battery storage system has been integrated into the facility's internal electricity distribution network on a pilot basis to optimise the utilisation of solar power generated at the plant.

It had commissioned a 20 MWp solar power project at the Kharkhoda facility in 2025.

However, during plant holidays and other low-demand periods, the electricity generated by the solar installation could not be fully utilised due to the absence of demand.

The newly commissioned BESS will store surplus electricity generated during such periods and make it available for use when required.

The system is also expected to improve grid stability, the compa-



ny said.

Announcing the initiative, Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director and CEO, Maruti Suzuki India, said the company remains committed to supporting India's efforts to build a self-reliant green energy ecosystem.

"The introduction of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at our Kharkhoda facility is part of these continued efforts. With a lifecycle of about 15 years, BESS will help to reduce nearly 54 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually," he

said. Takeuchi added that while the company's production volumes are expected to increase in the coming years, it remains committed to reducing Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, both in terms of carbon intensity as well as absolute emissions from manufacturing operations.

He said the company's approach is aligned with parent Suzuki Motor Corporation's environmental vision, which targets a 42 per cent reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions by FY31 compared with FY23 levels.

Crude oil surges over 6 pc to near \$80 as Trump says Iran ceasefire is 'over'



IAN S

New Delhi, July 8: Global crude oil prices surged more than 6 per cent on Wednesday after US President Donald Trump said the ceasefire between Washington and Tehran was effectively over following a fresh round of American military strikes on Iran, intensifying concerns over energy supplies from West Asia.

International oil benchmark Brent crude climbed as much as 6.52 per cent or \$4.69 to trade near \$80 a barrel. Similarly, US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) advanced more than 6 per cent or \$4.85 to around \$75 a barrel.

Speaking in Ankara on the sidelines of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit, Trump told reporters that the US had carried out fresh strikes against

Iran overnight in response to what he described as Iranian attacks on commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

He said, "To me, I think it's over. I don't want to deal with them anymore. They're scum...They are sick people. They're led by sick people. They are vicious, violent people and if they had a nuclear weapon, they would use it. As far as I am concerned, it's over. I'll speak to our negotiators. They want to negotiate. As far as I'm concerned, it's just a waste of time dealing with them. They're liars. We make a deal...Everyone's agreed. No nuclear weapon. We make a deal. They go outside and talk to the press. They say we never even talked about it. There's something wrong with them. They're cuckoo. As far as I'm concerned, it's over."

NIT Srinagar Defend Crown, Clinch Record Fourth Inter-NIT F&S Cricket Title

Hosts thrash NIT Puducherry by 88 runs in a dominant grand finale

Precious Kashmir News

Srinagar, July 8: Hosts NIT Srinagar successfully defended their title and were crowned champions of the All-India Inter-NIT Faculty & Staff Cricket Tournament (Men) 2026 after defeating NIT Puducherry by 88 runs in a one-sided grand finale.

The victory marked NIT Srinagar's fourth title in the history of the tournament, underlining the institute's dominance in Inter-NIT faculty and staff cricket.

Congratulating the winning team, Director, NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, said the Institute is proud for successfully defending the title and host another successful edition of the tournament.

He lauded the players for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit, appreciated the efforts of the organising committee, officials, volunteers and support staff, and congratulated all participating NITs for contrib-



uting to the success of the event.

Prof. Kanaujia said such tournaments promote teamwork, camaraderie and stronger inter-institutional ties among the National Institutes of Technology.

After winning the toss, NIT Srinagar elected to bat first and posted a formidable 187/4 in 20 overs. Wicketkeeper-batsman Suhail Baba starred with a blistering unbeaten 64 off 32 balls, smashing seven fours and three sixes.

Aaqib Sheikh scored a fluent 50 off 38 deliveries, including six

fours and a six, while skipper Faisal Irshad anchored the innings with a composed 29 off 32 balls. Shahid Hamid remained unbeaten on 12 off eight deliveries as the hosts finished on a commanding total.

For NIT Puducherry, Ismail M was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 2/30 in four overs. Gowrishankar claimed 1/29 in four overs, while Murugapandi S picked up 1/27 in three overs. Sudhakar V conceded 26 runs in his four-over spell, CK Prakash gave away 60 runs in four overs, and Alaguraja K

bowled one over for 10 runs.

Chasing 188 for victory, NIT Puducherry were bowled out for 99 in 18.1 overs, handing NIT Srinagar a comprehensive 88-run victory. Muthu top-scored for Puducherry with 41 off 34 balls, including seven boundaries. Murugapandi S remained unbeaten on 16 off 21 balls, while Ismail M made 10. Alaguraja K (6), Edwin John Divy (4), Sudhakar V (3), Karthik N (3), CK Prakash (2), Gopinath A (2) and Kavin Nivak (1) failed to make significant contributions.

Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing: India assured of 9 medals in U-23 women's category



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Jakarta, July 8: India's U-23 women boxers delivered a commanding performance at the Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing Championships, with nine boxers advancing to the semifinals to assure medals after a strong showing in the last-eight stage bouts held across afternoon and evening sessions in Jakarta on Wednesday.

In the afternoon session, Tanu (51kg) registered a dominant 5:0 unanimous decision win over Thailand's Kewalin Norasing, while Nisha (54kg) secured an equally convincing 5:0 victory against Kazakhstan's Aliaksar Sympat. In the 48kg bout, Nidhi fought hard but went down narrowly to Kazakhstan's Gulnaz Buribayeva via a *3:2 split decision.

The evening session saw India continue its momentum, with Prachi (57kg) sealing a commanding win over Korea's Yejin Oh via RSC in the first round. Nikita Chand (60kg) followed it up with a clinical victory against Chinese Taipei's Chen-Xuan Ye via RSC in the third round, while Kajal (65kg) edged past Japan's Arinda Akimoto in a closely contested 4:1 split decision.

With these results, India has now assured a total of nine medals in the U-23 women's competition, with all semifinalists guaranteed podium finishes. The boxers progressing to the semifinals include Tanu (51kg), Nisha (54kg), Prachi (57kg), Nikita Chand (60kg), Kajal (65kg), Shivani (70kg), Muskan (75kg), Naina (80kg), and Priyanka (+80kg).