



Amarnath Yatra living symbol of aspirational Jammu & Kashmir: LG Sinha

Says pilgrimage woven into very soul of this land; visits Baltal base camp, reviews arrangements, interacts with devotees

Raja Syed Rather

Baltal, Jul 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that Amarnath Yatra is a living symbol of aspirational Jammu Kashmir and it is woven into the very soul of this land.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) LG Sinha today visited the Baltal base camp and reviewed the arrangements for the pilgrims of Baba Amarnath.

The Lieutenant Governor inspected Base Camp Hospital, on-spot registration counters, tents and other facilities, along with the senior officials and directed all line departments to ensure seamless inter-departmental synergy for a hassle-free and memorable pilgrimage experience.

LG Sinha while chairing



a meeting to review the arrangements said, "The comfort of devotees must remain the highest priority. From registration to accommodation, from smooth movement to darshan, every step of the journey

The Lieutenant Governor said that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is not only transforming the spiritual lives of devotees but also uplifting the lives of the people of Jammu Kashmir. He interacted with service providers, sanitation workers, doctors, and the volunteers who tirelessly run the langars.

"Their spirit of selfless service is truly inspiring. This year's larger crowds are also bringing new opportunities and positive economic change for local traders and service providers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also stated that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a living symbol of aspirational Jammu Kashmir. "It is woven into the very soul of this land, and preserving its sanctity and cleanliness is our collective duty," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the

'Yatra crosses 2 lakh mark in 8 days

29,507 pay obeisance on Friday

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Jul 10: The annual Amarnath Yatra crossed the two lakh pilgrim mark on Friday, with 29,507 devotees paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine, taking the total number of pilgrims to 2,01,008 since the pilgrimage commenced on July 3.

According to official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Friday's pilgrims included 18,837 men, 9,754 women, 351 children, 191 sadhus, 22 sadhvis, 12 transgender pilgrims and 340 security personnel.

Meanwhile, 8,796 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu in the ninth batch during the early hours of Friday under tight security arrangements. Of them, 3,450 pilgrims were headed via the Baltal route, while 5,346 proceeded through the Pahalgam route.

The batch comprised 6,426 male pilgrims, 2,042 female pilgrims, 228 sadhus, 56 sadhvis, 10 children, 33 foreign male | More on P6

Closed tourist destinations likely to reopen after Amarnath Yatra: CM Omar

Says Kashmir Marathon will promote sports tourism, project J&K as safe destination



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday exuded hope that the tourist destinations closed following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack would reopen after the Amarnath Yatra ends.

Talking to reporters after launching the official merchandise for the Kashmir Marathon 2026, Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured him during a security review meeting in Jammu that the remaining tourist destinations would be reopened during the summer season.

"You will recall that during the Assembly session in Jammu, the Home Minister chaired a meeting on security and development where he assured that the remaining tourist destinations, including Aharbal, Siantan Top, parts of Doodhpathri and some areas of Gulmarg,

would be reopened. I hope that once the Amarnath Yatra concludes and the forces deployed for the pilgrimage are redeployed, these places will be opened," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government is working to diversify tourism by promoting different segments instead of relying on a single model.

"A marathon is an event in itself. Organising a marathon does not automatically mean destination weddings or conferences will follow. Every form of tourism has its own identity and potential," he said.

He said the government wants to build unique tourism identities for different destinations, with Gulmarg known for skiing and the Gondola, Pahalgam for white-water rafting and angling, and Sonamarg and Doodhpathri for their distinct attractions.

KASHMIR MARATHON, JAMMU | More on P6

Ensure best care for injured pilgrims: LG

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has taken immediate cognizance of the road accident near Toldi Nallah in Udhampur in which six Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims sustained injuries. The LG spoke to the senior administrative and

medical officials, and directed them to ensure all necessary and best possible treatment for the swift recovery of those injured.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Received the report of a road accident near Toldi Nallah in Udhampur involving 6 Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims from Rewa, | More on P6

J&K Govt bans material promoting terrorism, radicalisation in institutions

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 10: In view of recent concerns regarding books available in institutional libraries and the procurement of educational material, the School Education Department and Higher Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir have issued comprehensive circulars. The action has been taken in pursuance of the directions of the government.

The circulars prescribe a structured institutional framework for the academic evaluation, content verification and periodic review of books and other academic resources across all schools, colleges and universities in the Union Territory.

The framework is aimed at strengthening the institutional mechanisms governing the evaluation, recommendation, circulation, retention and periodic review of educational material. It seeks to ensure that the academic resources available in educational institutions possess established academic merit, factual authenticity, pedagogical

relevance and educational value, while remaining consistent with the Constitution of India, the laws in force, the National Education Policy, the applicable regulatory framework and the curricular standards prescribed by the competent authorities.

Under the framework, all the government and recognised private schools and universities functioning under the administrative jurisdiction of the respective departments and public libraries have been directed to undertake a comprehensive Academic and Content Audit of books, reference material, journals, research publications, dissertations, theses, digital repositories and other educational resources available in their libraries and academic units, irrespective of the year of procurement, adoption or inclusion.

The circulars further provide that no publication or academic material containing factually inaccurate, misleading, distorted, inflammatory, unlawful or otherwise objectionable content, including material that directly or

Coordinated action critical for robust security grid: DGP Prabhat

Reviews overall security arrangements for safe, peaceful Amarnath Yatra Calls for intensifying anti-terror operations across Valley

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 10: Asserting that coordinated action and the timely dissemination of actionable intelligence remain critical for maintaining a robust security grid, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday reviewed the overall security environment and the effectiveness of the multi-tier security arrangements put in place for the safe and peaceful conduct of the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra.

Chairing a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir with senior officers from the Army, CAPFs, intelligence agencies, and the Jammu & Kashmir Police, DGP Prabhat, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reiterated the importance of synergy among security forces and called upon all participating agencies to work in close coordination, ensuring seamless



intelligence sharing, real-time information exchange, and joint operational planning to achieve better operational outcomes.

The meeting was attended by GOC 15 Corps, BB Cantt Srinagar; Spl. DG Coordination J&K; Spl. DG CRPF J&K; ADGP CID J&K; AX SIB J&K/L; IGsP of Kashmir Zone, Security J&K, Railways J&K, Traffic J&K & CID J&K, IGs of BSF Ftr Hqrs Kashmir, CRPF KOS, NHW ITBP, and

CRPF Srinagar; Commissioner SB; Addl. Commissioner SB Srinagar; GOC CIF (K) Shariefabad Srinagar; GOC CIF (V) Awantipora; GOC 19 Inf Div Baramulla; GOC 28 Inf Div Kupwara; all Range DIGs of Kashmir Zone; DIGs of SSB Srinagar, CRPF (South) Srinagar, CRPF (North) Srinagar, and ITBP Srinagar; Dy. GOC 31 Sub Area, BB Cantt Srinagar; SSP PCR Kashmir; all District SSPs of Kashmir Zone; Col GS (IS) | More on P6

NC yet to get nod for Jul 20 statehood protest in Delhi: CM

Alleges attempts to disrupt Jantar Mantar prog; says party awaiting official permission

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said the National Conference is still awaiting official permission to hold its proposed July 20 statehood protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

Talking to reporters after unveiling the Kashmir Marathon 2026 Merchandise, here, CM Omar as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the party

had applied for permission four to five days ago and was hopeful of receiving approval before the scheduled protest.

"On July 20, the programme will take place if we get permission. We are trying to secure the approval," he said.

The Chief Minister alleged that some groups have deliberately aligned their programmes with the NC's proposed protest in an attempt to disrupt it. "Some people are trying to | More on P6



'Eyewash': BJP won't join NC's protest, says LoP Sharma

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Friday described the ruling National Conference (NC)-led government's proposed | More on P6

NIA chargesheets Shabir Shah, others in 1996 case

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Jul 10: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday chargesheeted separatist leader Shabir Ahmed Shah and other separatist leaders in connection with a 1996 case of mob violence and indiscriminate firing on police personnel in Srinagar.

According to a statement, issued to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the chargesheet has named separatist leaders Shabir Ahmad Shah, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Abdul Ganie Lone, Mohd Yaqoob Wakeel, Javid Ahmad Mir, and Shakeel Ahmad Bakshi.

The statement reads all six have been charged under relevant provisions of the Ranbir Penal Code, 1989, for criminal conspiracy, attempt to murder, rioting and assault on public servants, along with Section 13 of the Unlawful | More on P6

MeT forecasts widespread rain across J&K from today

Srinagar records 34.5°C, 4.8 degrees above normal; hot, humid conditions prevail

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 10: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday forecast fresh spells of rain and thunderstorms across Jammu and Kashmir from July 11, with the possibility of heavy rainfall at isolated places in the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal range.

According to the MeT Centre, many places across the Union Territory are likely to witness one or two spells of rain and thundershowers on July 11 and 12. Isolated places in the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal range of Jammu division may receive heavy rain or brief intense showers, particularly during afternoon and early morning

hours.

The weather office, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), warned that heavy rainfall could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides at a few vulnerable locations in these regions.

People have been advised to stay away from nallahs, streams and landslide-prone areas during the period of intense rainfall.

The forecast said the weather is expected to remain generally hot and humid from July 13 to 16, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers at scattered places and isolated intense showers, mainly over parts of the Jammu division. Fresh spells | More on P6

The silent 'digital overdose' in Kashmir classrooms

Classes 7-10 struggle to concentrate for even short periods

Screen time surge linked to student burnout

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jul 10: A study conducted in four districts of Kashmir region exposes the academic and cognitive toll of excessive social media use among adolescents of classes 7th to 10th.

The study has quantitatively linked excessive social media usage to reduced attention spans, sleep disturbances, and declining academic interest among adolescents.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the findings of the study serve as a critical warning for the educators and parents that demand immediate action.



"In recent years, the increasing availability of smartphones and internet access has led to a significant rise in social media engagement among adolescents, raising concerns about its impact on learning behaviours and overall development," reads the study. The study was conducted among four hundred students

of Classes 7th to 10th from selected schools in the districts of Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, and Srinagar.

"The findings reveal that a majority of students spend a considerable amount of time on social media platforms each day. Excessive screen time was found to be associated with reduced attention span,

increased distraction during study sessions, sleep disturbances, emotional stress, and lower participation in physical activities," reads the study.

The study also identified growing concerns regarding cyber risks, including cyberbullying, privacy threats, phishing attempts, and inadequate awareness of online safety practices among students.

It recommends the promotion of responsible digital behaviours, cyber-safety awareness programs, healthy screen-time management, and active guidance from parents and educational institutions to help students maintain a balanced relationship with technology.

"Whether it is WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, or any other medium has become an integral part of young people's daily lives. While these platforms offer communication, entertainment, and educational opportunities, | More on P6

CS reviews implementation of flagship Centrally Sponsored Schemes in J&K

Calls for saturation of beneficiary-oriented schemes, timely completion of infrastructure projects

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: In a marathon meeting of the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, took first hand appraisal of the implementation and progress of key Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and flagship infrastructure projects being executed across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the comprehensive review, Administrative Secretaries of the concerned departments made detailed presentations on the physical and financial progress achieved under their respective schemes, besides outlining the targets, implementation challenges and future action plans.

The Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, undertook a scheme-wise assessment covering sectors including education, health, power, digital connectivity, rural and urban development, housing, social welfare, finance, tourism, skill development, water supply, transport, fisheries and infrastructure development. He stressed that effective implementation of flagship schemes remains central to improving public service delivery and ensuring inclusive socio-economic development across the Union Territory.

Emphasizing outcome-oriented governance, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to maintain close monitoring of targets, remove implementation bottlenecks proactively and ensure optimum utilization of available funds.

He impressed upon the Administrative Secretaries to focus on timely completion of projects, saturation of eligible beneficiaries under welfare schemes and sustained field-level supervision so that the intended benefits reach every deserving citizen.

While expressing satisfaction



over the progress achieved in several flagship programmes, the Chief Secretary emphasized that every department should work with greater urgency to achieve the prescribed milestones within stipulated timelines. He called for robust monitoring mechanisms, enhanced coordination among implementing agencies and regular field inspections to ensure quality execution of projects and effective delivery of public services.

Atal Dulloo further directed all the Administrative Secretaries to closely monitor both physical and financial progress of their respective schemes, ensure prompt

resolution of implementation issues and maintain continuous engagement with the Government of India for timely approvals and release of funds wherever required.

Reviewing the education sector, the meeting was informed that significant progress has been achieved under Samagra Shiksha and PM SHRI Schools, with major emphasis on digital transformation, smart classrooms, ICT laboratories, Atal Tinkering Labs, vocational education, inclusive education, early childhood care, hostel infrastructure and technology-enabled governance.

The Skill Development

Department informed that over one lakh youth have already been imparted industry-oriented skill training under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), while implementation of the newly launched PM-SETU programme has been initiated for transforming Industrial Training Institutes into modern Centres of Excellence through industry partnerships and upgraded infrastructure.

Reviewing the power sector, the Chief Secretary was apprised that steady progress has been achieved under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, with thousands of rooftop solar installations already commissioned across the Union Territory, enabling beneficiaries to substantially reduce their electricity bills. Simultaneously, solarisation of Government buildings is progressing at a rapid pace under the Science & Technology Department to promote clean energy and energy self-reliance.

The meeting also reviewed implementation of Smart Metering and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), under which large-scale installation of smart consumer meters and strengthening of power distribution infrastructure are underway to improve operational efficiency, reduce transmission losses and ensure reliable electricity supply across Jammu and Kashmir.

On digital connectivity, the Information Technology Department informed that substantial progress has been achieved under the BharatNet Project, with survey and execution work progressing across Gram Panchayats to provide high-speed broadband connectivity in rural areas.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of the 4G saturation project and associated infrastructure works aimed at expanding

seamless digital connectivity to remote regions.

The Finance Department presented the progress under financial inclusion initiatives, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, highlighting sustained expansion in banking access, insurance coverage and enrolment of beneficiaries across districts. The Chief Secretary called for intensified outreach campaigns to achieve saturation under these schemes by covering all eligible beneficiaries.

The Social Welfare Department apprised the meeting about the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Saksham Anganwadi Centres, POSHAN 2.0 and other nutrition-related interventions aimed at improving maternal and child health, nutrition and early childhood care. The Chief Secretary stressed timely processing of eligible beneficiaries and effective convergence among departments to maximize impact at the grassroots level.

The meeting also reviewed the progress achieved under major flagship programmes relating to Jal Jeevan Mission, PMAY (Urban and Gramin), Swachh Bharat Mission, Ayushman Bharat, National Health Mission, AMRUT, tourism infrastructure, fisheries development, transport connectivity and several other centrally sponsored initiatives being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that it is imperative to ensure transparent, accountable and result-oriented implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes so that the developmental dividends of these flagship programmes reach every region and every section of society across Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaker Legislative Assembly inaugurates renovated facilities, new lifts at MLA Hostel Srinagar



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Friday inaugurated the newly installed lifts and other upgradation/renovation works executed at new hostel block of MLA Hostel, Srinagar.

The inauguration, as per an official statement, marks a significant step towards upgrading the infrastructure and improving the facilities available to Members of the Legislative Assembly. The renovation works have been undertaken with the objective of enhancing convenience, accessibility and overall comfort for the occupants.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker emphasized the importance of maintaining and modernizing public infrastructure to ensure efficient service delivery and better amenities. He stated that the MLA Hostel serves as an important facility for the legislators and, therefore, its upkeep and modernization must receive due attention.

The Speaker expressed satisfaction over the completion of the works and said that the installation of modern lifts and execution of renovation works would greatly benefit the legislators and other stakeholders by providing a safer, more comfortable and user-friendly environment.

He underscored the need for regular maintenance of government infrastructure and directed the concerned authorities to ensure that all facilities at the MLA Hostel are maintained in a proper and efficient manner. He also stressed the importance of timely execution of developmental and renovation works so that public assets continue to serve their intended purpose effectively.

The Speaker reiterated the commitment to improve the infrastructure and public facilities and said that such initiatives contribute significantly towards enhancing the working environment and convenience of public representatives.

Secretary JKL A Manoj Kumar Pandit, Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Central Kashmir, Chief Engineer M&HE Srinagar besides Executive Engineers and other officials were present on the occasion.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026

DC Bandipora conducts late-night inspection of arrangements at Shadipora Transit Camp

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JULY 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, conducted a late-night inspection of the Shadipora Transit Camp to review the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 (SANJY) and took firsthand feedback from the pilgrims regarding the facilities being provided.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, undertook a comprehensive inspection of the



facilities established at the transit camp, including accommodation, sanitation, drinking water supply, healthcare services, electricity, traffic management, security arrangements and other essential amenities to ensure the convenience, safety and well-being of the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all

concerned departments to maintain close coordination, ensure prompt response to any requirement and provide uninterrupted essential services throughout the Yatra period to facilitate a safe, smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage.

On the occasion, the pilgrims appreciated the facilities being provided

and expressed satisfaction over the services extended by the District Administration and all agencies associated with the conduct of the Yatra.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner also interacted with officers, field functionaries and other personnel deployed at the transit camp and appreciated their dedication in ensuring efficient management of the Yatra. She urged them to continue working with the same commitment and remain prepared to respond promptly to the needs of the pilgrims.

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 36 of RnB-Sopore of 2026-2027 e-tendering DATED: 09.07.2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of TS
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
1	Upgradation of Dak Bunglow Sopore	16.58	800	33160/-	60 days	18.07.2026	CEE/ BEE	District Capex Budget 2026-27	EE/R&B/ Sopore 27 of 2026-27 dated: 09.7.2026
2	Upgradation of inner links adjacent to Sofi Akbar road.	5.00	200/-	10000/-	60 days	18.07.2026	DEE	District Capex Budget 2026-27	EE/R&B/ Sopore 28 of 2026-27 dated: 09.7.2026
3	Construction of CC drain on See-lu Dangerppora road in Badshah Mohalla Dangerppora	3.937	200/-	7875/-	60 days	18.07.2026	DEE	District Capex Budget 2026-27	EE/R&B/ Sopore 30 of 2026-27 dated: 09.7.2026

Project Authority: DDC Baramulla.
Position of funds: Available
Position of AA: Accorded by District Development Commissioner Baramulla vide his order No:121/DDC of 2026 dated: 08.07.2026

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	09.07.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09.07.2026 to 17.07.2026
3	Bid Submission start date	09.07.2026
4	Bid submission End date	17.07.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	18.07.2026 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released after submission of a performance security of 5% of the quoted cost which will be released after completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. 3(b) Geotag Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per e-NIT No.03 of 2026-27.
21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.

22. If the Contractor breaches the contract, the Department reserves the right to award the remaining work to new bidders at the defaulting contractor's expense immediately after the notice of breach has been served on the defaulter. In the event of a breach of contract by the Contractor, the Performance Security will be forfeited along with the termination of contract termination. Furthermore, the defaulting contractor will be barred from participating in future from participating in R&B Department in Bidding Processes for a period of one year. Any Subsequent Breach shall result in process of irrevocable cancellation of Registration.

23. The bidder must be registered on JKPWDOMS portal, while participating in the tendering process it should be ensured that all bank account of contractors mapped on JKPWDOMS must be linked with PAN No, GST No and ADHAAR No as per the circular instructions issued by the Finance Department.

For and on behalf of the
Lt. Governor of J&K UT,
No 3485-94
Dated: 09.07.2026.

DIPK-3093/26
DATED: 10-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

Govt of Jammu & Kashmir Govt Amar Singh College Srinagar

E-mail: principal@amarsinghcollege.ac.in
Website: [WWW.AMARSINGHCOLLEGE.AC.IN](http://www.amarsinghcollege.ac.in)

Tel No: 0194-2310227

No: ASC/EDU/26/

Tender Notice

E-NIT NO:- ASC/Edu/E-tender/2026/02

DATED:- 10.07.2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from authorized/registered firms for running the canteen services at Government Amar Singh College, Srinagar, for a period of one year, as per the terms and conditions specified in the tender document. Complete details for submission and opening of Technical & Financial bids are detailed below: -

1	Date of issuance of e-NIT	10.07.2026
2	Date of Publication of e-NIT	10.07.2026
3	Date of downloading of documents and bid submission date	10.07.2026
4	Last date of submission of bid	24.07.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date of opening of Technical bid (Online)	27.07.2026 (11:00 AM)
6	Date of opening of Financial bid (Online)	28.07.2026 (3:00 PM)

The detailed e-NIT and other tender documents can be downloaded from the College website, <https://www.amarsinghcollege.ac.in>, and from the e-tendering portal, <https://www.jktenders.gov.in>.

Opening of technical/financial bids will be done on the specified date and time even if it falls on a holiday.

DIPK-3115/26
DATED: 10-07-2026

PRINCIPAL

Kashmir Marathon-2026

CM Omar unveils official merchandise

■ Launches promotional campaign for the event

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday launched the official merchandise for the Kashmir Marathon 2026, organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department, at the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC), Srinagar.

The official merchandise, comprising the marathon cap, finisher's medal and racing kit specially designed for participants, was unveiled at a brief function attended by representatives of the media and senior officers of the Tourism Department. The Chief Minister also launched the promotional video for the event. The initiative is aimed at promoting sports tourism, encouraging fitness and healthy lifestyles, and showcasing Jammu and Kashmir as a premier destination for national and international sporting events.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the marathon is much more than a sporting competition and forms an important part of the government's broader strategy to diversify tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Marathon is an event in itself. We are trying to increase tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. Tourism is not limited to destination weddings or conferences. We want to give recognition to the many unique experiences that Jammu and Kashmir offers, including skiing, the gondola, white-water rafting, fishing and other adventure activities," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government is striving to establish the Kashmir



Marathon as one of the country's flagship sporting events on the lines of renowned marathons held in Delhi, Mumbai, Ladakh and other parts of the country. "I have seen marathons in Delhi, Mumbai and several other states and Union Territories. Today, runners from across the country and the world participate in the Ladakh Marathon. We want the Kashmir Marathon and the Jammu Half Marathon to attain the same stature and recognition," he said.

Highlighting the wider significance of the event, Omar Abdullah said the marathon sends a powerful message about the Valley's peaceful environment and hospitality.

"The positive message of the marathon is that Kashmir is comfortable, safe and welcoming for everyone. We want people from across the country and around the world to come here, participate and experience Kashmir," he added. The Chief Minister was informed that the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon will be held in Srinagar on October 25, 2026.

Participants in the half marathon will run through some of Srinagar's most iconic landmarks, including the Jhelum riverfront, Lal Chowk, Dalgate and the scenic Boulevard along Dal Lake. Full marathon runners will continue towards Hazratbal and

Kashmir University. The course has been designed with a combination of flat and hilly stretches, featuring an overall elevation gain of approximately 960 metres, offering both a scenic and challenging experience for participants.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Ashish Chandra Verma, Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course, Haris Ahmad Handoo, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajad, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Delegations call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 10: A delegation of Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee district Srinagar led by its President S. Jaspal Singh called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday.

The members of the delegation projected various important matters pertaining to beautification of Gurdwara Chattipatshahi Rainawari, occupation of Gurdwara premises at M.R. Gunj and other welfare issues of the community. In the meantime,

Adv. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Member of Legislative Assembly from Hiranagar called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and projected various development issues of his constituency.

The Member of Legislative Assembly also discussed the progress in connection with the proposed Shri Arun Jaitley International Cricket Stadium in Hiranagar. He expressed his gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for his support toward the development of the mega-sports infrastructure.

J&K June rain deficit hits 24%

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 10: Jammu and Kashmir recorded a 24 per cent rainfall deficit in June, marking the eighth consecutive month of below-normal precipitation, despite witnessing frequent spells of light to moderate rain that improved the distribution of rainfall across the Union Territory, according to data.

According to details obtained, the Union Territory received 57.9 mm of rainfall against the normal 75.9 mm during June, extending a prolonged precipitation deficit that has persisted since November 2025.

Unlike previous deficit months, June witnessed recurring spells of rainfall spread across much of the month rather than one or two intense weather systems, making the rainfall pattern relatively more favourable for groundwater recharge and soil moisture, Kashmir Weather said.

"Although June ended with a 24 per cent rainfall deficit, the rainfall distribution was considerably better than in many previous deficit months. Frequent light to moderate showers allowed better

infiltration of water into the soil, improved groundwater recharge and helped sustain springs, streams and rivers more effectively than isolated heavy rainfall events," Kashmir Weather said.

According to the rainfall data, Baramulla recorded a 34 per cent surplus, followed by Poonch (37 per cent), Ganderbal (24 per cent), Samba (22 per cent), Pulwama (9 per cent) and Udhampur (6 per cent).

Among the deficit districts, Shopian recorded a 69 per cent shortfall, Kishtwar 70 per cent, Kulgam 53 per cent, Rajouri 51 per cent, Reasi 44 per cent, Kathua 39 per cent, Budgam 31 per cent, Srinagar 29 per cent, Bandipora 28 per cent, Doda 16 per cent, Anantnag 14 per cent, Ramban 13 per cent, Kupwara 7 per cent and Jammu 5 per cent.

In Ladakh, June concluded with a 126 per cent rainfall surplus, receiving 6.5 mm against the normal 2.9 mm. Leh recorded an exceptional 198 per cent surplus with 8.2 mm of rainfall against the normal 2.6 mm, while Kargil registered a 69 per cent deficit with 1.3 mm of rainfall against

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Kashmir Marathon Goes Global: Director Tourism

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 10: Director Tourism Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajad, on Friday said the inclusion of the Kashmir Marathon in the calendar of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) marks a major milestone that will enhance the event's global profile and attract more elite athletes from across the world.

Speaking to reporters here, the Director, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the marathon has steadily grown into an internationally recognised sporting event and that joining the AIMS calendar will further strengthen its



credibility among the global running community. "This year, the Kashmir Marathon joins the AIMS calendar, giving it international recognition. We have also introduced separate national-category prizes to encourage greater participation

from athletes across India," he said.

Sajad said online registrations for the Kashmir Marathon 2026 will open from July 20, nearly two and a half months ahead of the event, allowing runners from India and abroad sufficient time to register

and prepare.

He said the introduction of a dedicated prize category for Indian participants addresses a long-standing demand of national-level athletes, while they will continue to compete alongside international runners in the overall race.

Expressing confidence over this year's edition, Director Sajad said the twin initiatives of AIMS recognition and separate national-category prizes are expected to significantly increase participation from both international and domestic athletes while further establishing Kashmir Marathon as a flagship sporting event promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

GMC Srinagar gets 50 new MBBS seats



KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 10: In a significant development aimed at strengthening the medical education and healthcare delivery system in the Union Territory, the Health and Medical Education Department on Friday announced that the National Medical Commission (NMC) has granted permission to increase the annual MBBS intake capacity at Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar.

The Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) of the NMC has issued the Letter of Permission (LoP) under Section 28(3) of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, approving an increase of 50 MBBS seats. With this approval, the total annual intake capacity of GMC Srinagar will rise from 200 to 250 seats, effective from the upcoming Academic Year

2026-27.

It is pertinent to mention that last year for the academic session 2025-26, the GMC Srinagar has got approval of additional 20 seats, increasing the total number of seats from 180 to 200.

The approval follows a rigorous evaluation by MARB under the provisions of the Undergraduate Medical Education Standards Regulations (UGMSR), 2023.

Expressing satisfaction over this landmark achievement, the Health and Medical Department has stated that this expansion reflects the government's unwavering commitment to augmenting medical infrastructure and providing more opportunities for aspiring doctors across the Union Territory.

The increase in the seats has further strengthened GMC Srinagar's position as one of the premier medical colleges in the country.

J&K Assembly panel seeks encroachments removal from water bodies

KNO

Srinagar, Jul 10: In a significant development, the environment committee of J&K Assembly on Friday sought removal of illegal encroachments from water bodies in Srinagar and also asked the Lakes Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA) to submit an action taken report over it within one month.

Sources said that the

Assembly secretariat, on directions of the committee, has written to the vice-chairman LCMA today to take immediate action in the matter in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions.

It has also asked the LCMA to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) against removal of encroachments to the Assembly secretariat within a period of one month. The ATR shall

indicate the extent of illegal encroachment, unauthorised filling, constructions and other violations affecting Anchar lake, Khushal Sar, Achan Lake and associated water bodies.

It shall also contain the action initiated or proposed against the violators and the measures undertaken for removal of encroachments and

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Fresh probe ordered into cardiology procedures at GMC Anantnag

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered a fresh high-level inquiry into the cardiology procedures performed under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)/SEHAT scheme at Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, constituting a four-member expert committee to re-examine the case and submit its findings within 15 days.

According to the order issued by secretary health and medical education, the inquiry committee will be headed by Prof. (Dr.) Khalid Mohi-ud-Din, Professor at GMC Srinagar while the other members include Prof. (Dr.) Dharminder Kumar and Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Bhat, both Professors at GMC Jammu, and Dr. Misbah Samad, State Nodal Officer,

State Health Agency (SHA), J&K.

The committee has been tasked with examining the findings and recommendations of the earlier expert committee that investigated the cardiology cases, scrutinising the written statement of defence and supplementary submissions submitted by Dr. Syed Maqbool Ahmad Shah, Associate Professor of Cardiology, GMC Jammu, and reviewing all relevant medical records.

It will also verify package selection details, assess the appropriateness of procedures performed, examine pacemaker implantation records, procurement and billing documents, and evaluate the financial implications arising from claims raised under the AB PM-JAY/SEHAT scheme.

The panel has further been asked to www.kashmirthunder.in

Over half of J&K births now through c-section: NFHS-6

Urban rate hits 68.9%

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 10: The number of babies being delivered through Caesarean section (C-section) in Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant rise over the past few years, with the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) revealing that more than half of all births in the Union Territory now take place through surgical delivery. The trend is particularly striking in private hospitals, where nearly 90 per cent of deliveries are performed through C-section.

According to the National Family Health Survey-6 (2023-24), the overall Caesarean section rate in



Jammu and Kashmir has increased to 51 per cent, compared to 41.7 per cent recorded in the NFHS-5 (2019-21), indicating a notable shift in childbirth practices across both public and private healthcare institutions. The survey shows

that 90 per cent of births in private hospitals were delivered through Caesarean section during 2023-24, a sharp increase from 82.1 per cent reported in the previous survey. Government health institutions have also recorded a rise,

with 48.6 per cent of deliveries being surgical compared to 42.7 per cent in NFHS-5.

The findings indicate that surgical childbirth has become increasingly common across the Union Territory, particularly in urban areas. The survey records that 68.9 per cent of births in urban Jammu and Kashmir were through C-section, while the figure stood at 47.1 per cent in rural areas.

Despite the growing reliance on Caesarean deliveries, institutional childbirth remains consistently high. The report states that 93.6 per cent of births in Jammu and Kashmir now take place in health institutions, reflecting improved access to maternal healthcare services and greater awareness among expectant mothers about

institutional deliveries.

Medical experts say several factors have contributed to the growing number of Caesarean deliveries. Besides complications during pregnancy and high-risk pregnancies, many women now prefer planned C-sections due to fear of labour pain and the convenience of scheduling delivery.

Dr. Rukhsana, a gynaecologist working in south Kashmir, said that normal deliveries were far more common a decade ago, but attitudes have gradually changed.

"Earlier, most women preferred normal childbirth and Caesarean sections were reserved mainly for medical emergencies. Today, many expectant mothers themselves opt for C-sections because

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

EDITORIAL

CM's Vision For Sustainable Tourism

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's assertion that "tourism without sustainability is an unqualified disaster" is a timely and necessary wake-up call for Jammu and Kashmir. For decades, the region has leaned heavily on volume-driven tourism, prioritising numbers over quality, often at the expense of its fragile ecology and long-term economic resilience. The shift from a volume-based to a value-based tourism model is both visionary and pragmatic,

and deserves full-throated support from all stakeholders. For nearly 30-35 years, Kashmir was known more for turmoil than its beauty, compelling a focus on high footfall to project normalcy, which is historically accurate. However, the vulnerability of this approach was laid bare last year when "one incident and everything vanished". The sudden drop from traffic jams to deserted streets was a stark reminder that volume tourism, while politically and economically

expedient in the short term, offers little insulation against shocks. Equally important is CM's call for treating Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, and Dal Lake "the same way we treat our own homes". This mindset shift, where environmental conservation becomes a personal responsibility, is as critical as government intervention. Carrying-capacity-based tourism planning is particularly significant. Not all destinations have the same ecological sensitivity; a

uniform approach to visitor management is neither scientific nor sustainable. Kashmir's greatest tourism asset is its natural beauty. This asset must be preserved, not exploited. The government's responsibility is to create infrastructure and conditions that allow people to earn better from tourism while protecting the environment. This is where value tourism comes in. By charging one tourist a hundred rupees rather than a hundred tourists one rupee each, Kashmir can

generate higher revenue with lower environmental stress, ensuring long-term prosperity for local communities. The vision is about protecting the environment as well as livelihoods. Sustainable tourism, built on community participation, scientific planning, and environmental conservation, is the only path forward. The CM has drawn a clear line in the sand. Now it is up to policymakers, industry stakeholders, and citizens to walk that path together.

Reaching The Unreached

How SMAM Extends Mechanization Benefits To Small Farmers, Women, And Disadvantaged Groups

SMAM aims to 'reach the unreached' by extending the benefits of mechanization to underserved sections – including small and marginal farmers, women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Farmer-Producer Organizations, Self-Help Groups, and rural entrepreneurs.

Press Information Bureau

The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) expands access for small farmers, women, and disadvantaged groups through targeted mechanization support nationwide. Special emphasis has been placed on underserved and North-Eastern States to address regional disparities in access to farm machinery and technology. Since its inception, Rs. 9,404.47 crore has supported the distribution of 21.61 lakh agricultural machines to individual farmers across India. Over 40,928 drone demonstrations covering 40,918 hectares were conducted with Rs.52.5 crore financial support, promoting precision agriculture adoption nationwide.

Strengthening Agriculture through Farm Mechanization

Farm mechanization plays a critical role in enhancing agricultural productivity in India. It involves using machines, equipment, and modern technologies for agricultural operations across the crop production cycle. These operations include land preparation, sowing, irrigation, plant protection, harvesting, and post-harvest management. By reducing dependence on manual labour and animal power, mechanization enables timely and efficient farm operations. It lowers production costs and improves the quality of agricultural practices.

To promote farm mechanization in India, the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) was launched in 2014-15. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). SMAM aims to "reach the unreached" by extending the benefits of mechanization to underserved sections. It includes small and marginal farmers, including women,

Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and rural entrepreneurs.

The scheme promotes the establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs). These are units comprising a set of farm machinery, implements, and equipment meant for hiring by farmers. It also supports the development of hubs for hi-tech and high-value agricultural equipment, and the distribution of farm machinery. Awareness generation through demonstrations and capacity-building initiatives is also undertaken. Special focus is placed on regions with low farm power availability and on addressing structural constraints such as small landholdings and high capital costs through affordable rental services via CHCs. Additionally, SMAM supports the performance testing and certification of agricultural machinery. Targeted Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities are undertaken to enhance adoption among stakeholders.

The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), launched in 2007, is a flagship scheme that incentivizes states to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors. It provides states with flexibility and autonomy to design and implement projects tailored to local needs. The schemes encompass a broad range of interventions, including crop production, infrastructure development, mechanization, and value addition. In 2017-18, the Scheme was restructured as the RKVY-RAFTAR (Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation), with an increased focus on strengthening both pre-and post-harvest infrastructure.

Strategic Pillars of SMAM for Enhancing Farm Productivity

The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is designed to

promote inclusive and efficient farm mechanization by improving access to modern agricultural equipment, reducing drudgery, and enhancing farm productivity.

Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization through training, testing, demonstration, and post-harvest mechanization: Enhances farm productivity and efficiency by improving access to modern agricultural technologies. It further strengthens post-harvest infrastructure for processing, storage, value addition, and crop residue management by promoting agricultural mechanization.

Financial Assistance for the Procurement of Agricultural Machinery and Equipment: Provides subsidy support for individual ownership of agricultural machinery through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. It covers 40% of the machine cost for general beneficiaries and 50% for SC/ST farmers, small and marginal farmers, and beneficiaries in North-Eastern states. Small and marginal farmers receive Rs 2,000 per hectare for mechanized services, including drones, through CHCs, SHGs, and FPOs.

Establishment of Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs) for Custom Hiring: Enhances farm mechanization through 80-90% financial support for SHGs, FPOs, and local institutions to acquire agricultural machinery. Financial assistance for CHCs is available at 40 percent of the project cost for projects up to 250 lakh, while FMBs receive 80 percent support for projects up to 30 lakh.

Establishment of Hi-Tech and High-Productivity Equipment Hubs: Equipped with advanced, high-capacity machinery for crop-specific operations to improve operational efficiency and access to high-value equipment.

Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization in the North Eastern Region (NER): Provides enhanced support in North-Eastern states

through region-specific interventions, including up to 100% subsidy for small machinery and 95% support for Farm Machinery Banks.

Powering Farm Mechanization: The Financial Backbone of SMAM

Under SMAM, from 2014-15 to 2025-26, central assistance of 9,404.47 crore has supported the distribution of 21.61 lakh machines to individual farmers. Additionally, it supported the establishment of 27,554 Custom Hiring Centres, 646 Hi-tech Hubs, and 25,608 Farm Machinery Banks. Under SMAM, the number of beneficiaries for individual farm machinery ownership increased from 2.07 lakh in 2020-21 to 2.32 lakh in 2024-25, reflecting an overall expansion in scheme coverage.

The scheme follows a cost-sharing arrangement between the Central and State Governments. For most states, the funding pattern is 60:40, while for North-Eastern and Himalayan states, it is 90:10. In the case of Union Territories, assistance is provided as 100 percent Central funding. This differentiated funding structure facilitates broader mechanization adoption across diverse regional contexts.

Innovation in Action: How SMAM is Scaling Drone-Based Farming

The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) encourages the use of drones to improve agricultural operations. With financial support of 52.50 crore under the scheme, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has promoted drone adoption through large-scale field demonstrations across the country.

During 2023-24 to 2025-26, ICAR, in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs), conducted 40,928 Kisan Drone demonstrations across

covering 40,918 hectares. These demonstrations focused on the application of nutrients, fertilizers, and agro-chemicals in accordance with prescribed standard operating procedures.

To facilitate widespread adoption, SMAM provides financial assistance for drone procurement and demonstrations. Eligible institutions such as ICAR institutes, KVKs, and State Agricultural Universities receive 100 percent financial support of up to 10 lakh per drone for these activities. Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs) are eligible for grant support of up to 75 percent. In addition, agencies utilizing drones through service models are supported with a contingency expenditure of 6,000 per hectare.

Further, SMAM places a strong focus on inclusivity, earmarking 30 percent of total funds for women farmers. This provision aims to enhance their access to agricultural machinery and promote greater participation in mechanized farming systems.

Bridging Gaps, Boosting Growth: The SMAM Effect

SMAM has emerged as a key intervention in strengthening agricultural productivity, efficiency, and inclusiveness. By focusing on small and marginal farmers, women, SC/ST communities, and underserved regions, the scheme has helped bridge critical gaps in mechanization through subsidies, Custom Hiring Centre, Farm Machinery Banks, and targeted regional support. Its emphasis on training, demonstrations, post-harvest management, and emerging technologies such as drones reflects a forward-looking approach to modernizing agriculture. By creating institutional infrastructure, SMAM has contributed to reducing labor drudgery, improving the timeliness of operations, and supporting higher farm productivity.

How To Protect Yourself From Evolving Cyber Threats

Traditional threats such as malware and phishing persist, but their efficacy has been increased by AI

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

As digital interconnectedness now permeates every facet of our lives, the privacy and security of ordinary individuals are facing unprecedented challenges. Hackers, increasingly sophisticated in their methods, are now harnessing advanced technologies – including artificial intelligence – to automate and amplify attacks. Financial data, personal identifiers, email accounts, computers, smartphones and online identities have become prime targets.

This is why it is important to examine the dynamics of the cybersecurity landscape, assess the factors driving the escalation of cyber threats and chart some actionable and concrete strategies for individual protection. In other words, proactive digital measures are not merely advisable but imperative.

The cybersecurity ecosystem has undergone a profound transformation. Traditional threats such as malware and phishing persist, but their efficacy has been dramatically increased by AI. According to CrowdStrike's 2026 Global Threat Report, attacks by AI-enabled adversaries surged by 89 percent last year, with the average breakout time – the period between initial access and lateral movement onto another system – plummeting to 29 minutes, a 65 percent acceleration from 2024. Moreover, 82 percent of detections involved malware-free techniques, which underscores the shift toward stealthier, AI-orchestrated methods and operations.

Cybercrime is imposing staggering economic burdens on nations. Projections indicate that costs will escalate from about \$9.2 trillion in 2024 to \$13.8 trillion by 2028. Ransomware alone is forecast to inflict \$74



billion of damage worldwide in 2026. Data breaches remain rampant: IBM's Cost of a Data Breach Report 2025 recorded a global average cost of \$4.44 million per incident, with the US experiencing an all-time high average of \$10.22 million.

AI is acting as a force multiplier for cybercriminals. Generative AI can automate exploitation and facilitate phishing campaigns and deepfake-enabled social engineering.

For example, Microsoft documented a 46 percent rise in AI-generated phishing content last year, while up to 80 percent of phishing attacks now incorporate AI tools. Deepfakes have transitioned from a novelty to a tool for hacking. In one high-profile case, a Hong Kong finance professional was deceived via a deepfake video call in which hackers impersonated company executives, resulting in a fraudulent \$25 million payment.

There are independent and state-sponsored actors. Regionally, Asia (34 percent) and North America (24 percent) were the most-targeted areas in IBM X-Force observations for 2025.

Vulnerable populations include everyday users whose devices and accounts serve as entry points into broader networks. Human factors remain central. Verizon's Data Breach Investigations Report consistently attributes a significant portion (about 68 percent) of breaches to human error. This has been amplified by AI's capacity to craft convincing lures that are devoid of grammatical errors or inconsistencies.

This escalation is down to several related forces and drivers. First, AI tools lower the barriers for low-skilled actors, enabling scalable automation. Second, the asymmetry between defenders and attackers favors the

latter. Third, rapid digital adoption coupled with insufficient global cybersecurity workforce capacity is leaving systemic gaps.

To address this issue, comprehensive solutions that require governmental and corporate intervention are needed. Nevertheless, individuals can still mitigate the risks through disciplined digital measures.

Firstly, employ strong, unique passwords and use password managers. Avoid reusing passwords across accounts. Utilize complex, system-generated passwords managed by reputable tools such as those with end-to-end encryption. This single practice can thwart many attacks.

Secondly, enable multifactor authentication universally. Preferably use phishing-resistant methods such as authenticator apps or security codes sent via text message. Multifactor authentication blocks more than 99 percent of automated credential-based attacks.

Third, recognize and counter phishing and social engineering attempts. Scrutinize unsolicited communications for urgency, unexpected attachments or anomalous sender details. AI-generated content may appear flawless but you can verify it via independent channels such as direct phone calls using known numbers. Hover over links without clicking and employ email filters. Knowing how to detect deepfakes – such as observing unnatural eye movements, lighting inconsistencies or audio artifacts – is also vital.

Fourth, maintain device and software hygiene. This means regularly updating operating systems, applications and firmware to address any vulnerabilities. Enable automatic updates. You can also install reputable antivirus/antimalware software with

real-time scanning and behavioral detection. For smartphones, app permissions can be restricted and the sideloading of unofficial apps should be avoided.

Fifth, secure sensitive information and backups. Encrypt data while it is at rest and in transit. Use virtual private networks on public Wi-Fi. Some recommend implementing the so-called 3-2-1 backup rule: keep three copies using two different media types, with one offsite. Regularly monitor financial statements and credit reports for anomalies. You can also consider identity theft protection services.

Sixth, cultivate situational awareness. Limit the amount of personal information shared on social media. Use privacy settings judiciously. For high-risk activities, such as financial transactions, employ dedicated devices. Remote wipe capabilities for lost devices are essential.

Finally, stay informed and adaptive. Follow the latest and most credible sources for emerging cyber threats. Periodically review account activity logs and revoke unused authorizations. Some people simulate phishing tests personally or via organizational programs.

Through these simple actions, one can yield compounding benefits that significantly lower the likelihood and lessen the impact of any breach.

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh is a Harvard-educated Iranian-American political scientist. X: @Dr_Rafizadeh

Courtesy: Arab News. Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect Arab News' point of view.

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Nearly 91% enrolled students take up NMMSS Examination: J&K BOSE

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 10: A total of 6000 candidates appeared in National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship (NMMSS) 2025-26 examination out of enrolled 6644 candidates, registering an overall attendance of 90.30%.

The examination, as per an official statement, was successfully conducted by the J&K BOSE under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Government of India aimed at identifying and supporting meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections studying in Government and Government-aided schools.

The examination was conducted smoothly under the overall supervision, guidance and support of Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Chairman-cum-Secretary, JKBOSE, with Dr. Parveen Singh, Director Academics/Liaison Officer, NMMSS, effectively coordinating the conduct of the examination in association with



the officers and officials of the Academics Division.

JKBOSE appreciated the wholehearted cooperation extended by the Chief Education Officers, who functioned as District Nodal Officer, Centre Superintendents, Deputy Centre Superintendents, Invigilators and inspection teams, in conducting transparent and orderly examination throughout the union territory.

JKBOSE also expressed gratitude to all stakeholders who

contributed to the successful conduct of the examination and whose facilitation has been handy in providing an enabling environment to the examinee students.

The Board reiterates its commitment to ensuring transparency, fairness and excellence in the implementation of the National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme and extends its best wishes to all the candidates who appeared in the examination.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar inaugurates newly created Advocates' Clerks Room at High Court Complex Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 10: In a significant step towards strengthening the infrastructural facilities at the Jammu Wing of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and acknowledging the dedication and crucial support extended by the Advocates' Clerks to the legal fraternity in the day to day functioning of the Courts, Chief Justice (Acting), Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Friday inaugurated a newly created Advocates' Clerks Room at the High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu.

The inaugural ceremony, as per an official statement, was attended by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajesh Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri and Justice Sanjay Parihar.

Besides M.K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who is also holding the additional charge of Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice and other Officers of the Registry, the event was attended by Nirmal Kotwal, President, J&K High



Court Bar Association, Jammu and senior members of the Bar Association. The representatives of the Advocates' Clerk Association, J&K High Court, including its President, Mohinder Singh Nag, along with his office bearers, were also present.

On the occasion, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, expressed his satisfaction over the new

facility exclusively meant for the Advocates' Clerks. He also emphasized the need for their digital literacy, more particularly, owing to their active involvement in e-filing of petitions. He also issued directions for formulation of comprehensive module for imparting training to the Advocates' Clerks in all aspects of court proceedings. On behalf of the Advocates'

Clerk Association, J&K High Court, Mohinder Singh Nag, President of the Association, conveyed sincere appreciation to the Chief Justice, the companion Judges and the President of the Bar Association for fulfilling the long-pending demand of the Advocates' Clerks through the establishment of the dedicated Advocates' Clerks Room.

GOBAR-DHAN SCHEME

DDC Kulgam chairs review meeting on implementation

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JULY 10: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Aalam, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the implementation of the GOBAR-DHAN Scheme and Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the need for a co-ordinated and time-bound approach for the effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, which are being rolled out from this year. He directed all concerned departments to immediately initiate the groundwork, strengthen institutional mechanisms, ensure inter-departmental convergence and prepare comprehensive action plans for successful implementation across the district.

The DDC stressed that scientific solid waste management, source segregation, safe disposal,

and effective utilization of organic waste through the GOBAR-DHAN initiative are essential for achieving sustainable sanitation and environmental protection. He instructed all stakeholders to launch implementation measures at the grassroots level and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed framework and timelines.

Block Development Officers were directed to take the lead in implementing the mission in their respective jurisdictions, while ensuring active community participation and close coordination with all line departments to achieve the objectives of a clean and sustainable Kulgam.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, District Programme Officer ICDS, Deputy CEO JAKEDA, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, all Block Development Officers and District Pollution Officer.

Secretary (T) reviews progress of Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Secretary (Technical), Agriculture Production Department, G. A. Sofi, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir to assess the progress of various developmental schemes and strengthen administrative efficiency across the department.

The meeting was attended by Director Animal Husbandry Department, Kashmir, Additional Secretary, Deputy Director Central, Deputy Director Poultry, LFRCO, Chief Animal Husbandry Officers, Extension Officer (E&PW), Technical Officers, Nodal Officer (SASCI), Assistant Director Planning and Section Officers (B.E.S.).

During the meeting, Deputy Director Central, Dr. Reyaz Nazir Reshi, presented a detailed overview of the physical and financial progress achieved under various schemes and programmes. The review covered key initiatives, including the Holistic



Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme, establishment of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries, Mobile Veterinary Units (LHDCP/ESVHD/MVUs), Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), CAPEX works, and NABARD-funded projects.

The Secretary held detailed deliberations on each agenda item and directed the concerned officers to expedite expenditure and ensure timely completion of all approved works and projects.

Emphasising improved governance and accountability, the Secretary instructed officers to maintain proper and updated official records at all levels, ensure punctuality, and undertake regular field visits by Block Veterinary Officers (BVOs), Livestock Development Officers (LDOs), and Chief Animal Husbandry Officers (CAHOs) to monitor departmental functioning and staff attendance in field offices.

He further directed that no officer or official shall leave the office during working hours or travel outside the country without obtaining prior permission from the higher authorities.

AMARNATH JI YATRA

DC, DIG visit GMC Udhampur, review medical care of injured Yatra pilgrims

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, JULY 10: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa and Deputy Inspector General of Police Udhampur-Reasi Range Shiv Kumar Friday visited Government Medical College Udhampur to review the medical care being provided to the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims injured in a road accident near Toldi Nallah on the National Highway in Udhampur district. Deputy Commissioner and DIG, as per an official statement, took stock of the treatment and healthcare facilities being extended to the injured pilgrims.

A Maruti car carrying Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims had skidded off the road near Toldi Nallah resulting in injuries to its occupants.

During the visit, the officers interacted with the injured

pilgrims, enquired about their well-being and reviewed the medical treatment being provided by the hospital administration. The DC directed the hospital authorities to ensure the best possible treatment, round-the-clock medical attention and all necessary facilities for the speedy recovery of the injured pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the prompt response of the security forces and medical staff in providing timely assistance to the injured. He instructed the hospital administration to closely monitor the condition of each patient and extend every possible support to ensure their early recovery and well-being.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, doctors and other concerned officers were present during the visit.

Maa Se Guftagu: District Admin Bandipora organises awareness programmes NMJKA

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JULY 10: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), awareness programmes under the theme "Maa Se Guftagu" were organised on Friday at Government Higher Secondary School Shadipora and Government Higher Secondary School Madwan to strengthen community participation in the fight against substance abuse and highlight the crucial role of mothers in safeguarding youth from drug addiction.

At Government Higher Secondary School Shadipora, the programme was presided over by Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Bandipora, Rabia Iqbal who attended as the nominated officer.



Addressing the gathering, the ALC underscored the importance of collective responsibility in preventing substance abuse and emphasized the need for active involvement of parents, educational institutions and the community in guiding youth towards a healthy and drug-free future. At Government Higher

Secondary School Madwan, the programme was attended by Centre Administrator, One Stop Centre (OSC), Bandipora, Ishrat Ayoub, as the nominated officer. She highlighted the institutional support available for women and families dealing with substance abuse-related challenges and stressed the vital role of mothers in

identifying early signs of addiction and ensuring timely intervention.

Principal of the institution, Manzoor Ahmad, emphasized the need for a collective community approach to eradicate the menace of drugs from society. Resource persons Farose Ahmad, Lecturer, and Senior Master Fayaz Ahmad Rather delivered informative sessions on the psychological and social impacts of substance abuse on individuals and families.

The programmes witnessed active participation from ICDS Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers, ASHA workers, parents, teachers and students, who engaged in interactive discussions on the harmful effects of drug abuse, the importance of early awareness and the shared responsibility of families and society in preventing addiction.

JKLFC extends relief to borrowers under Settlement Scheme-2026

6 NPA accounts settled, Rs 3.36 cr interest waived

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: The Settlement Committee of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC) met under the chairmanship of its Managing Director to consider settlement of seven Non-Performing Asset (NPA) loan accounts under the Settlement Scheme-2026 (SS-2026).

The Committee, as per an official statement, approved settlement proposals in respect of six NPA loan accounts involving a total settlement amount of approximately 84.43 lakh, subject to the borrowers depositing the approved settlement amounts within the stipulated period and fulfilling all the

provisions of the Scheme. The Board of Directors, in its 247th meeting held on 31st December 2025, had approved introduction of the Settlement Scheme-2026 (SS-2026), which was subsequently notified by the Corporation vide Order No. 155 dated 12th February 2026. The scheme came into force with immediate effect and shall remain in operation up to 30th September 2026.

The Scheme has been introduced as a One-Time Settlement (OTS) mechanism to facilitate recovery of long-pending Non-Performing Assets by providing eligible borrowers an opportunity to liquidate their outstanding loan liabilities on concessional terms, thereby improving

recoveries and reducing the Corporation's NPA portfolio.

The Managing Director emphasized that the scheme is an important initiative to recover long-pending dues, facilitate closure of stressed loan accounts and safeguard the financial interests of the Corporation. He directed all the Branch Heads and District Officers to expedite identification of eligible cases and ensure prompt processing and submission of settlement proposals.

The Corporation reiterated its commitment to strengthen its recovery mechanism and improve the quality of its loan portfolio through effective implementation of the Settlement Scheme-2026.

Promoting Girl Child Protection, Women Empowerment Awareness programme organised at PHC Sedow

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, JULY 10: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Shopian Friday organized an awareness programme under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative at Primary Health Centre (PHC), Sedow to raise awareness about the protection, education and empowerment of the girl child. The programme focused on promoting gender equality and encouraging the community to ensure equal opportunities for girls through education, healthcare and social support. The Medical Officer, PHC

Sedow, highlighted the importance of the pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques (PCPNDT) act, emphasizing the need to prevent sex-selective practices and safeguard the rights and healthy development of girls.

During the programme, the gender specialist, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, sensitized participants about various women-centric welfare schemes being implemented in the district. Information was shared on women's safety and protection mechanisms, available support services, emergency helpline numbers, legal

rights and government initiatives aimed at empowering women and girls. Participants were encouraged to make effective use of these services whenever required.

The programme concluded with an interactive session in which participants actively engaged with the resource persons and pledged to support the cause of protecting, educating, and empowering every girl child. Awareness pamphlets carrying information on women safety initiatives, helpline numbers and government welfare schemes were also distributed among the participants.

5th District Coordination Committee meeting for justice delivery system held in Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JULY 10: 5th District Coordination Committee meeting of various stakeholders for strengthening of judicial infrastructure and justice delivery system was held at district Kulgam.

The meeting was chaired by Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kulgam (Chairman Coordination Committee), Aijaz Ahmed Khan. The meeting was coordinated by Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kulgam who is Secretary to Coordination Committee. The other stakeholders who attended the meeting include



Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Chief Planning officer Kulgam, Chief Prosecuting Officer, Kulgam, Executive Engineer R&B Kulgam, Tehsildar Kulgam, Executive Engineer KPDCI Division Kulgam and Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Kulgam.

During the meeting, the point wise agendas were discussed

threadbare and discussion held on various issues pertaining to infrastructure deficiencies in existing court complex at Kulgam, which includes repair of chamber of Principal District & Sessions Judge Kulgam, electrification of court room, E-Court and chamber of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Kulgam, residential

quarters of judicial officers of District Kulgam, black topping of area meant for parking adjacent to NIA court Kulgam, security arrangement at newly allotted residential quarters at Lirrow, Kulgam, furniture/matting etc. at newly allotted residential quarters, parking of vehicles inside/outside the existing court complex, hassle free supply of drinking water, essential power & water supply line to new court complex, installation of ATM machine in court premises, provision of digital facilities sanitation, and barrier-free access in the court complexes.

'Mahendragiri' to join Navy fleet; warship combat ready to safeguard our maritime interests: Rajnath

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 10: Indigenous stealth frigate 'Mahendragiri', endowed with state-of-the-art weapons, is set to be commissioned into the Navy on July 11, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asserting that the warship is "combat ready" to safeguard India's maritime interests.

The sixth ship of the Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) will be commissioned at a ceremony in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The ship is fully prepared to join the fleet as a "mission primed combat platform", a Navy spokesperson said.

"The frigate is equipped with an advanced suite of indigenous and state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, including surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missile systems, sophisticated electronic warfare capabilities, comprehensive anti-submarine warfare systems and an integrated combat management system," the Navy earlier said.

It is capable of undertaking anti-air,

anti-surface and anti-submarine operations, and is equally suited for maritime security, power projection, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), search and rescue, and sustained presence missions.

Defence Minister Singh in a post on X, said, "Heading to Visakhapatnam to witness a 'proud moment' for the nation and the Navy.

"This indigenously designed and constructed state-of-the-art warship is a testament to our #AatmanirbharBharat vision and the incredible capabilities of our domestic defence industries and MSMEs. Mahendragiri, is combat ready to safeguard India's maritime interests and strengthen our resolve for a secure Indo-Pacific," he said.

The frigate was delivered on April 30 at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), Mumbai.

Named after the Mahendragiri mountain range in the Eastern Ghats, the frigate embodies resilience, strength and unwavering resolve, the Navy said.



Singh addressing naval personnel in Visakhapatnam during a Barakhana hosted on the eve of the commissioning, said, "India stands as the primary guarantor of peace and stability in the Indian Ocean Region," as he commended the Indian Navy for safeguarding the nation's maritime interests and upholding the tricolour amid an increasingly complex global security environment.

While he credited the valour, commitment and patriotism of the defence forces for protecting the nation from threats and challenges, he urged the

soldiers to continue upgrading their skills, master cutting-edge technologies, and remain prepared to address the changing character of modern warfare.

"There are conflicts that are fought without a formal declaration of war. The adversary of tomorrow may not look like the adversary of the past. The government will leave no stone unturned to provide the soldiers with the world's best weaponry, technology and resources. But weapons alone do not win wars; it is the people who wield them that do," he said.

He emphasised that increasing geopolitical competition and the growing presence of "extra-regional powers" have underscored the need for heightened maritime vigilance.

"In such a situation, the Indian Navy is protecting India's maritime borders, securing vital sea lanes and upholding the country's interests across the region," the Union minister said.

Singh described India as the largest and most responsible stakeholder in the Indian Ocean Region, and reaffirmed its commitment to peace, stability, and a secure maritime environment. "The region is our courtyard, and securing the courtyard is our responsibility," he added.

He underlined the progress being made towards achieving self-reliance, and termed the commissioning of 'Mahendragiri' as another "shining example" of India's growing indigenous defence capabilities.

Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Sanjay

Bhalla and other senior officers of the Indian Navy were also present on the occasion.

P17A ships are fitted with an advanced weapon and sensor suite as compared to the P17 (Shivalik-class).

Incorporating advanced stealth features, enhanced survivability, reduced radar signature and a high degree of automation, the frigate is powered by a modern Combined Diesel or Gas (CODAG) propulsion system, enabling high-speed operations with "exceptional endurance across the full spectrum of maritime missions," it said.

Designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and built by MDL Mumbai, 'Mahendragiri' is the sixth ship of the Nilgiri-class (Project 17A).

"With over 75 per cent indigenous content, 'Mahendragiri' exemplifies the government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and highlights the growing capability of the Indian shipbuilding ecosystem," the Navy said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Amarnath Yatra living

authorities to take strict legal action against anyone involved in overcharging pilgrims or executing fraudulent registrations. Whether it is a service provider, a government employee, or an individual associated with any institution, make no exceptions. Register a case immediately, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized a comprehensive audit of all sanitation arrangements. He ordered officials to ensure an uninterrupted, 24/7 water supply.

The concerned officers also briefed the Lieutenant Governor about the arrangements related to security, sanitation, healthcare, accommodation, water and power supply and other essential services. It was informed that an effective feedback mechanism has been put in place and immediate steps are being taken to address issues highlighted by pilgrims.

During the review meeting, it was also informed that the number of RO water installations along the yatra track has been increased to ensure adequate availability of clean drinking water for pilgrims.

INTERACTS WITH PILGRIMS

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the yatis and enquired about the facilities extended to them. The pilgrims appreciated the arrangements made by the line departments, administration, Shrine Board, police, army, security forces and other stakeholders for their smooth pilgrimage.

"I invite all devotees of Baba Barfani to come, experience the darshan of Lord Shiva, and let this pilgrimage be a journey of self-discovery and spiritual joy," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Speaking to media persons, Lieutenant Governor said: "Today marks the eighth day of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, and so far, around 1,70,000 pilgrims have paid their obeisance at the holy cave. J&K administration, Police, Army, Security Forces, Shrine Board, and all other stakeholders have worked in complete synergy to ensure that the pilgrimage is hassle-free.

Compared to previous years, a significant number of pilgrims arrived without prior registration. We have successfully facilitated their journey through the necessary protocols, ensuring a smooth process. Every effort is being made to ensure that all pilgrims return home with a positive experience. I am confident that in the coming days, devotees arriving from every corner of the country will carry back fond memories of their pilgrimage.

100-bed hospitals, located at Baltal and Chandanwari, have been fully operational, handling an average of 1,300 to 1,400 OPD patients daily. These hospitals are playing a critical role in safeguarding the health of both the pilgrims and the dedicated personnel deployed along the routes.

I appeal to all pilgrims to strictly adhere to the guidelines established by the administration and the Shrine Board. The entire administrative machinery is working round-the-clock to assist you. In case of any inconvenience, please immediately inform the nearest Camp Director or deployed security personnel, and all possible assistance will be provided on priority," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Sujit Kumar, IGP Security; M. Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic J&K; Mohammad Aijaz, Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rahul Yadav, Managing Director JKPDCL and Nodal Officer for Baltal Axis; Rajiv Omprakash, DIG CKR; Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal; Sudhanshu Dhama, SSP Ganderbal; Anoo Malhotra, DG Rural Sanitation J&K, and senior officers of Shrine Board, civil administration, police and security forces. (KNO)

'Yatra crosses

pilgrims and one transgender pilgrim. A total of 354 vehicles, including 175 buses, 70 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 106 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and three two-wheelers, were deployed for the convoy. (KNO)

Ensure best care

Madhya Pradesh. The devotees were traveling to Pahalgam base camp for holy cave darshan when their vehicle skidded off the road. One pilgrim is seriously injured, while the other five are in stable condition and currently receiving care at GMC Udhampur. The critically injured pilgrim has been shifted to

GMC Jammu. I have directed the Divisional Commissioner of Jammu, the Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur and medical officials at GMC Jammu and Udhampur to ensure they receive the best possible treatment. I pray to Lord Shiva for their swift recovery".

Closed tourist

HALF MARATHON TO BECOME NATIONALLY RECOGNISED SPORTING EVENTS

CM Omar said the government intends to develop the Kashmir Marathon and Jammu Half Marathon into nationally recognised sporting events.

Drawing a comparison with the Ladakh Marathon, he said runners from almost every state and Union Territory travel to participate in that event, expressing hope that the Kashmir Marathon would also attract participants from across the country.

"Kashmir is safe, comfortable and welcoming. People who come here to participate in the marathon will return as ambassadors of Kashmir," he said, while encouraging people, including journalists, to take part in the event.

Asked about political developments related to the National Conference, the Chief Minister declined to comment, saying the interaction had been organised to discuss the marathon.

"This is not a National Conference press conference. We have a major party programme tomorrow where all political questions will be answered," he said.

On religious tourism, CM Omar said the ongoing Amarnath Yatra has witnessed an overwhelming response, with more pilgrims arriving than the number registered, making it challenging for the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board to adhere to the Supreme Court-mandated daily ceiling on the number of pilgrims allowed on the track.

He also said the Kheer Bhawani Mela witnessed a significant rise in participation this year compared to last year, with around 10,000 devotees staying overnight and over 30,000 visiting the shrine during the fair.

The Chief Minister said religious tourism continues to grow across both Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated that while the government does not interfere in the management of pilgrimages, it provides all necessary support through infrastructure development, inter-departmental coordination and tourism-related funding.

"Our responsibility is to support the Shrine Boards. Tourism is the nodal department for pilgrimages, and every department has a role in ensuring smooth conduct of these events," he said.

CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS BECOMING INCREASINGLY VISIBLE IN J&K

Replying to a question on climate change, Omar described it as a global challenge whose effects are becoming increasingly visible in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are struggling with unprecedented summer heat. Earlier, snow remained visible on the mountains even during summer and lasted much longer during the Amarnath Yatra. Today it disappears much earlier. Climate change is a reality, and the world must first acknowledge it before it can be addressed," he said.

He said the problem cannot be tackled by Jammu and Kashmir or India alone and called for collective global action, noting that industrialised nations also have a major responsibility in addressing the crisis.

On the National Conference's programmes, Omar said the party would hold its event on Saturday, where he would respond to political questions, including those related to support from other parties. He also said another programme is planned for July 20, subject to administrative permission. (KNO)

Coordinated action

15 Corps; DPT J&K; SP Cargo Srinagar; and other senior officers.

Senior officers presented detailed assessments of the security measures currently in place and shared updates on field-level preparedness across the Kashmir Valley.

DGP Nalin Prabhat emphasized that coordinated action and the timely dissemination of actionable intelligence remain critical for maintaining a robust security grid. The DGP instructed all agencies to intensify anti-terror operations across the Valley and maintain relentless pressure on terrorist networks and their support structures.

DGP Prabhat directed officers to keep a close watch on terrorist aides and other anti-national elements and to take timely preventive and

legal action, wherever required, in accordance with the law.

The DGP further emphasized the importance of area domination, enhanced night domination, and increased surveillance in vulnerable areas to deter any attempt to disturb peace and public order.

DGP Prabhat also directed the establishment of effective naka checkpoints at sensitive locations across the Valley to strengthen access control, improve surveillance, and facilitate the interception of suspicious movement.

The DGP laid special emphasis on strengthening security at vulnerable stretches of the Yatra route, key transit points, and other strategically significant locations.

DGP Prabhat also called for enhanced security oversight of the National Highway and railway infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted movement and the overall safety of yatis.

The Director General of Police also instructed field officers to conduct regular operational briefings for deployed personnel. The DGP directed officers to intensify public awareness initiatives at base camps and transit locations by educating pilgrims about safety guidelines and precautionary measures.

DGP Prabhat reiterated the need for sustained coordination, operational preparedness, and proactive policing among all security agencies. (KNO)

J&K Govt bans

indirectly promotes, glorifies, legitimises or justifies terrorism, violent extremism, secessionism, radicalisation or any activity prejudicial to the sovereignty, unity, integrity and security of the Nation, shall be procured, prescribed, recommended, retained, circulated, published, hosted or otherwise made available in educational institutions.

To ensure effective implementation, the government has institutionalised multi-tier academic and content scrutiny mechanisms across the school and higher education sectors. These mechanisms provide for systematic academic evaluation, content verification, quality assurance, periodic review and institutional oversight through committees constituted at the institutional, district, directorate, university and administrative department levels while respecting the statutory and academic autonomy of universities within the framework of the applicable laws and University Grants Commission regulations.

The circulars also assign clearly defined responsibilities to the Vice Chancellors, Principals of Colleges, Chief Education Officers, Zonal Education officers and Heads of Institutions (Hols), librarians, School Managements and other academic authorities entrusted with the academic governance to ensure meticulous implementation of the prescribed framework within the stipulated timelines. Institutional heads shall be responsible for ensuring compliance within their respective jurisdictions, and any omission, negligence or deviation from the prescribed procedures shall be viewed with utmost seriousness.

The initiative is intended to reinforce the academic standards, strengthen institutional accountability, preserve the integrity of the educational ecosystem and establish a transparent, objective and uniform framework for the periodic academic and content review of educational resources across schools, colleges and universities in the Union Territory.

NC yet to get

sabotage our programme by changing their dates to coincide with ours," he said.

Notably, the National Conference has announced the protest on the opening day of Parliament's Monsoon Session to press for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and has invited political and religious leaders from across the country to participate. (KNO)

'Eyewash': BJP won't

statehood protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar as an "eye wash" aimed at diverting public attention from alleged corruption, unfulfilled election promises and the "appointment scam."

Addressing a press conference here Sharma, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), questioned the fate of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's promised signature campaign for restoration of statehood.

"What happened to the signature campaign for restoration of statehood that the Chief Minister had promised last year?" he asked, alleging that the ruling dispensation was using the statehood issue to escape accountability

over governance failures.

Sharma alleged that corruption had become rampant during the present government's tenure, claiming that transfers and postings had turned into a "money-making industry" and accusing ministers and officials of collecting money through official processes.

He urged independent investigating agencies to probe the allegations, saying it was the responsibility of agencies to investigate while it remained the Opposition's duty to raise issues concerning the public.

Targeting the government's outsourcing policy, Sharma termed it an "appointment scam", alleging that deserving and meritorious youth were being denied employment while appointments were allegedly being made through the backdoor.

"This is not merely a backdoor entry; it is an appointment scandal. First people are appointed through outsourcing and later demands are raised for their regularisation, leaving deserving candidates deprived of opportunities," he said.

Demanding an immediate rollback of the outsourcing order, Sharma warned that the BJP would launch a mass agitation if the government failed to withdraw the policy.

He announced that the party would soon begin a protest campaign from Kashmir with a 'gherao of the Civil Secretariat', saying the movement would subsequently be expanded across every district and region of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The fight is for the rights of the youth. We appeal to young people across political affiliations, religions and regions to join this movement against injustice and protect merit," Sharma said.

The BJP leader also accused the government of reneging on its election promises, including providing 200 units of free electricity, 10 kilograms of free ration, one lakh government jobs and 12 free LPG cylinders.

"More than two years have passed, but people have received none of these promises. Instead of answering these questions, the government is staging political dramas," he alleged.

Referring to the proposed NC-led demonstration at Jantar Mantar, Sharma said restoration of statehood remained BJP's commitment but insisted it would come only through Parliament.

"Statehood cannot be restored through protests at Jantar Mantar. It is Parliament that has the authority to restore statehood, and BJP remains committed to fulfilling that promise," he said.

Asked whether the BJP would participate in the NC-led protest in Delhi, Sharma categorically ruled it out.

"Why should we go to Jantar Mantar with thieves, fraudsters, looters and murderers? BJP will not stand with such people," he said while rejecting any possibility of joining the protest.

Sharma also alleged widespread corruption in departments including mining and other government offices, claiming that money was being collected at various administrative levels. However, when asked to produce evidence, he said the government itself had admitted in the Assembly to making thousands of appointments and maintained that it was for investigating agencies to probe the allegations.

"I am not an investigating officer. My responsibility as Leader of the Opposition is to raise public issues and expose failures of the government. Investigation is the job of independent agencies," he said.

On the National Conference's appeal for all political parties to unite for the restoration of statehood, Sharma reiterated that BJP's commitment to statehood remained intact but rejected the NC's approach, alleging that the ruling party was using the issue to conceal governance failures and corruption.

He appealed to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to unite against what he described as injustice in recruitment and corruption, asserting that BJP would continue its agitation until the outsourcing order was withdrawn and the interests of deserving candidates were protected. (KNO)

NIA chargesheets

Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

The charges against Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Abdul Ganie Lone and Mohd Yaqoob Wakeel stand abated as they had passed away during the pendency of the proceedings, it said, adding however, the chargesheet clearly established their roles in the criminal conspiracy

and the common object of the unlawful assembly, along with supporting evidence.

NIA, during investigation, had ascertained that all six accused had led an unlawful assembly and instigated large-scale violence against police personnel during a funeral procession of slain terrorist Hilal Ahmad Beigh at Naaz Crossing, Srinagar, on July 17, 1996.

Armed terrorists blended in with the procession, which was jointly led by the accused Hurriyat leaders, had fired indiscriminately at police personnel during the violence, in which several police officials were injured. Government vehicles were also extensively damaged in heavy stone pelting on the occasion, reads the statement.

It said that the Hurriyat leaders had actively incited the violence, raising anti-India, pro-Pakistan and secessionist slogans. They had delivered inflammatory speeches advocating armed struggle, NIA further found.

Investigation clearly established that the mob violence was part of a larger, pre-planned criminal conspiracy of the Hurriyat leadership to use the funeral procession as a platform for propagating separatist ideology, mobilising public support against the Government of India, provoking public disorder, and inciting violence against law enforcement agencies, while demonstrating the strength of the Hurriyat in Jammu & Kashmir, it said.

An FIR was initially registered in the case at Police Station Shergarhi, Srinagar, on the day of the violence. The NIA took over the case in April 2026, with further investigation underway, it said. (KNO)

MeT forecasts

of light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at many places across Jammu and Kashmir between July 17 and 19, the MeT Centre said.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained above normal in most parts of Kashmir Valley on Friday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 34.5 degrees Celsius, which was 4.8 degrees above normal, while Qazigund registered 32.0 degrees Celsius (4.1 degrees above normal). Kupwara recorded 33.0 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 31.0 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 28.0 degrees Celsius, and Gulmarg 24.9 degrees Celsius, all above their respective normal temperatures.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.5 degrees Celsius, Banihal 29.9 degrees Celsius, Batote 27.2 degrees Celsius, Bhandarwah 30.6 degrees Celsius, while Katra settled at 31.0 degrees Celsius, marginally below normal.

Leh in Ladakh recorded a maximum temperature of 23.4 degrees Celsius, according to the MeT Centre. (KNO)

The silent 'digital

growing evidence suggests that excessive use can negatively affect students, particularly those between the ages of 13 and 18 of Classes 7th-10th," reads the problem statement of the study.

The study finds that one of the most noticeable effects observed during the surveys was the difficulty many students experienced in maintaining concentration, even for short periods.

"Research supports these observations, indicating that media multitasking and excessive social media use are negatively associated with attention, concentration, and academic performance. Studies have shown that prolonged screen exposure contributes to measurable concentration difficulties, with evidence suggesting a bidirectional relationship between social media use and attention-related challenges," reads the study.

About the academic performance problem, the research reveals that the effects of poor concentration extend beyond attention difficulties and directly influence academic performance.

"Academic success relies heavily on cognitive functions such as attention, memory, and executive functioning, all of which have been shown to be negatively affected by excessive screen use," it reads.

Research indicates that frequent mobile device usage is associated with lower academic achievement.

"Additionally, sleep deprivation caused by late-night screen use contributes to daytime fatigue, reduced classroom engagement, and poorer educational outcomes among adolescents," the study said. (KNO)

Strictly adhere to correct text, diction while singing National Song, National Anthem: MHA

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 10: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has said there should be strict adherence to the correct script and text, and diction and pronunciation while playing or singing the National Song and the National Anthem.

In a fresh order to all central government and governor offices, the ministry reiterated the rules related to the playing and singing of the National Song and the National Anthem.

The MHA said its orders contain an exhaustive list of occasions on which the National Song and the National Anthem of India "shall be played or sung" and the occasions on which they "may be sung or played".

The order dated July 9 said the National Song shall be sung on the occasions of civil investitures; on the arrival of the president at formal State functions and other functions organised by the government, and on his departure from such functions; immediately before and after the president addresses the nation over All India Radio (AIR) and television.

It shall also be played on the arrival of the governor and Lieutenant Governor (LG) at formal State functions



within his state and Union Territory (UT) and on his departure from such functions and when the National Flag is brought on parade.

"It is to be noted that while singing or playing the National Song and the National Anthem, their correct script/ text and diction/ pronunciations should be followed strictly," the order said.

The ministry has provided the correct text and pronunciation guide on its website, it said.

The National Song shall be played on any other occasion, for which special orders are issued by the

government of India, it said.

"In some of the States, State Song is also sung and played along with National Anthem/National Song. It is stated that whenever State Song is sung or played with National Song/National Anthem, both the National Song and National Anthem shall be sung or played together; and National Song will be sung or played first followed by National Anthem," it said.

In an order dated January 28, the home ministry had given the first set of protocols for singing the National Song, directing that six stanzas of it,

having a duration of three minutes ten seconds, shall be sung on official functions such as the arrival of the president, unfurling of the tricolour and speeches of governors.

"When the National Song and the National Anthem are sung or played, National Song will be sung or played first," the order read.

The assembly where the National Song is sung shall stand in attention, it said.

The Centre is observing the 150th year of Vande Mataram.

"It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of occasions on which the singing (as distinct from playing) of official version of the National Song can be permitted. But there is no objection to the singing of the National Song accompanied by mass singing so long as it is done with due respect as a salutation to the motherland and proper decorum is maintained," it said.

In a resolution adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950, it was decided that the composition consisting of the words and music known as 'Jana Gana Mana' is the National Anthem of India, subject to such alterations in the words as the government may authorise as occasion arises.

E20 may cut mileage by up to 5 pc but offers cleaner combustion, energy security benefits: Oil Min



PTI

New Delhi, Jul 10: Petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 3-5 per cent in some vehicles, the Oil Ministry said on Friday, but argued the impact is outweighed by benefits, including a higher octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, faster combustion, better pick-up, smoother acceleration, cleaner engine operation, and lower lifecycle carbon emissions.

In a detailed question-and-answer document issued to counter criticism of the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme, the

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said E20 was a "cleaner, higher-quality and more efficient fuel" than E10 or pure petrol and had been rolled out only after years of scientific testing, consultations with automobile manufacturers and the expansion of domestic ethanol production.

The ministry rejected concerns that the programme had been implemented too quickly, saying India's ethanol blending initiative dates back to pilot projects launched in 2001, with 5 per cent blending introduced in parts of the country by 2006.

While ethanol blending

remained around 1.5 per cent until 2014, the government accelerated production after introducing the National Policy on Biofuels in 2018 and expanding feedstocks beyond sugarcane.

India achieved 10 per cent ethanol blending in 2022, ahead of schedule, and reached 20 per cent blending during the 2025-26 ethanol supply year after investments in dedicated ethanol plants, storage and logistics, the ministry said.

Addressing concerns over older vehicles, the ministry said E20 underwent extensive testing covering engine durability, fuel systems, material compatibility, corrosion resistance, drivability and emissions before its nationwide rollout.

It cited feedback from automobile manufacturers, including Maruti Suzuki and Hero MotoCorp, saying they had not reported E20-related corrosion, abnormal wear or component-life damage in vehicles serviced under real-world conditions.

Country's first hydrogen train to cover 89 km from Jind to Sonipat in 2 hours

12 stoppages en route

PTI

New Delhi, July 10: The country's first hydrogen-powered train, scheduled to be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 17, will cover the 89-km distance between Jind and Sonipat in two hours, with stoppages at 12 intermediate stations.

According to an official communication issued by the Railway Board to Northern Railway on July 8, Hydrogen Train No 74010 will depart from Jind railway station at 7.40 am during its regular service and arrive at Sonipat at 9.40 am.

The train will halt at 12 intermediate stations: Jind City, Pandu Pindara, Lalit Khera, Bhambeva, Ishapur Kheri, Butana, Khandrai, Gohana, Rabhra, Lath, Mohana Haryana and Barwasni. On its return journey, Train No 74009 will depart from Sonipat at 10.40 am and reach Jind at 1.00 pm, halting at the same stations en route.

The Railway Board has also directed the Northern Railway to commence the country's first hydrogen train service at the earliest, following its inauguration by the prime minister on July 17.

"The train will operate as a special inaugural service on July 17. The date



for the commencement of its regular passenger service has not yet been decided. We have asked the Northern Railway to finalise it at the earliest and inform us accordingly," a senior Railway Board official said.

The board, in its July 8 circular to Northern Railway, announced the train's daily operational schedule between Jind and Sonipat, along with the list of intermediate stoppages. However, it has left the decision on the date of commencement of regular services to the Northern Railway.

In earlier communications, the Railway Board had said the train would cover 356 km daily, making two round trips between Jind and Sonipat, with each one-way journey spanning 89 km. The 10-coach train

has 682 seats and a total passenger capacity of 2,600.

Although the train attained a maximum speed of 120 kmph during trials, its maximum operational speed during regular service will be 75 kmph.

In May 2026, the Railway Board approved the introduction of the country's first hydrogen-powered 10-coach DEMU train, which uses hydrogen fuel cells to generate traction power instead of diesel.

As a safety measure, the Ministry of Railways has directed that, for the first three months of operation, the train will be accompanied by trained technical personnel with expertise in hydrogen trainsets to attend to any en-route technical issues.

I'm not 'weak, coward' CM like Mamata, says Suvendu

Warns Humayun Kabir for hate speech

PTI

Rejinagar (WB), Jul 10: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Friday said he is not a "weak and coward" CM like Mamata Banerjee, and asserted that he will not tolerate reckless remarks from elected representatives that can potentially stoke communal tension. He was referring to Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) chief Humayun Kabir, an MLA who recently made certain "inflammatory" remarks.

Speaking at a BJP rally ahead of the bypoll in Rejinagar in Murshidabad district, the schedule for which is yet to be announced, Adhikari called his predecessor and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee "weak and coward" and stated that his response to such "irresponsible acts" would be diametrically opposite. "Make no mistake, I am not a weak and coward chief minister like Mamata Banerjee. I will not tolerate reckless comments from elected representatives. I have asked the local MLA to choose his words carefully, keeping in mind the Constitution of the country," the CM said. Alongside Nandigram, a seat that was vacated by Adhikari after he simultaneously won the prestigious Bhabanipur seat where he defeated the TMC chief, bye-elections are likely to take place in Rejinagar after it was given up by Kabir who also won the Nowda seat.

"The bypolls in Rejinagar will be held in the next 30 to 45 days. We will usher in development here, with whatever demands



the voters here may have as against the Hindu-Muslim politics which has been practised for so long in this region," Adhikari said. He alleged that people of the region have had to endure endless suffering since the previous TMC-led government allegedly stoked the fire of violence across Murshidabad in the name of protests against issues like CAA-NRC and Waqf Act.

On June 29, while addressing the state assembly during the budget session, Adhikari lashed out at Kabir, accusing the Nowda MLA of making inflammatory statements to polarise voters for a bypoll the AJUP leader's son is likely to fight after he vacated the Rejinagar seat.

"I will not allow you (Kabir) to make such reckless and unrestrained public statements ever again. I will not only make him withdraw his statements, but also ensure he thinks multiple times before making such remarks. I assure this House that this would be the last time he makes such comments in public," Adhikari had said, and added that "time has come to teach the Nowda MLA a lesson".

Solar thermal technologies can help decarbonise industries: TERI

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 10: Solar thermal technologies can play a crucial role in reducing fossil fuel dependence and support India's transition toward a low-carbon industrial economy, according to a new report.

These technologies are used to collect sunlight and transform it into heat which is stored and later on transformed into electricity. Note that this is unlike solar panels, which capture sun rays and directly convert the sunlight into electricity.

The report, 'Policy Brief on Solar Thermal Energy for Industrial Decarbonization', was released by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) on Friday.

In a statement, Dr Vibha Dhawan, director general at TERI, highlighted why the study was done and said, "India's net-zero transition depends on empowering SMEs to overcome financial and technological barriers through affordable capital, proven pilot projects, and market-driven ESG incentives for clean process heat."

The analysis gives a host of recommendations for accelerated adoption of solar thermal technologies.

Stocks, oil prices drift as global markets continue to calm

AP

New York, Jun 10: US stocks and oil prices are drifting toward a quiet finish of the week Friday following their earlier fireworks on worries about how the war with Iran will affect the global flow of crude.

The S&P 500 rose 0.1 per cent and was on track to close out a fourth winning week in the last five. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 65 points, or 0.1 per cent, as of 9:35 am Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.1 per cent higher.

Oil prices were holding relatively steady, even after a series of unclaimed airstrikes hit Iran after the US said it finished its attacks. The price for a barrel of Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose 0.2 per cent to USD 76.47.

That's above the USD 72 it was at the start of the week, when it was back below its level from before the war with Iran, but it's still well below its wartime peak of nearly USD 120. The worry is that continued fighting could block oil tankers from the Strait of Hormuz and prevent the delivery of crude from the Persian Gulf to customers worldwide.

With the wait ongoing for what will happen next with the strait, the focus on Wall



Street is swinging toward the upcoming reporting season for companies' profits during the spring.

Delta Air Lines said it was able to absorb higher fuel prices from April through June because of strong demand from customers

to fly, including from a wide range of corporate travellers. Its profit and revenue topped analysts' expectations, and it gave a forecasted range for profit in the summer whose midpoint was above analysts' expectations. Delta's stock fell 2.5 per cent,

after coming into the day with a 28.2 per cent rise for the year so far.

Companies across industries will need to produce strong growth in profits to justify the big moves for their stock prices, which are broadly need records. Next week will

feature reports from many of the biggest US banks, including Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo on Tuesday alone.

Later in the day on Friday, shares of South Korean chipmaker SK Hynix that trade in the United States are set to make their debut on the Nasdaq. The tech giant is raising nearly USD 26.5 billion through its sale of American depositary shares.

Its stock in Seoul has surged more than 600 per cent over the last year thanks to euphoria around artificial-intelligence technology. The boom has created real profits thanks to surging demand for computer memory. But it's also raised worries that AI stock prices have shot too high and that all the world's spending on chips and data centres won't be able to produce enough productivity and profit growth to make it worth it.

Drops for some chip companies were the heaviest weights on the S&P 500 Friday, including a 2.3 per cent fall for Micron Technology.

In the bond market, Treasury yields held relatively steady as oil prices drifted. The yield on the 10-year Treasury edged up to 4.55 per cent from 4.54 per cent late Thursday.

Body of slain Iranian supreme leader Khamenei buried at Shiite shrine

AP

DUBAI: Former Iranian supreme leader Ali Khamenei was buried Friday in his home city of Mashhad, state television reported, following a ceremony at which his son and successor was not seen.

The funeral procession of Iran's slain Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had reached the country's holiest shrine for his burial on the Thursday with a huge crowd packing the courtyard, some bearing banners reading "We Will Kill Trump."

As a week of funeral events reached its culmination, Khamenei's son and successor Mojtaba Khamenei is still hidden from public view after being disfigured in the February 28 strike that killed his father, a sign of the unease still gripping Iran.

Khamenei's body was carried by truck slowly through the cramped streets of Mashhad in northeastern Iran toward the gilt dome and minarets of the Shrine of Imam Reza, flanked by white-turbaned clerics. Black-clad mourners pressed in close behind, waving Iranian flags, photographs of the late Khamenei and red placards with revolutionary slogans.

A helicopter lifted his coffin the final short stretch with the truck unable to pass through the thick crowds. It then lay on a carpet as clerics stood praying behind.

Hostilities with the United States burst out again this week despite a truce, with Iran still controlling the vital Strait of Hormuz waterway and proclaiming its victory in having survived a



months-long assault by its most powerful enemies, Israel and the US. Iranian authorities are presenting Khamenei's burial and the huge crowds attending his funeral as evidence of the popularity of their theocratic state and its lasting ideological fire, nearly half a century after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"Kill Trump" placards appear at burial ceremony

But beneath the surface, Iran faces huge internal challenges and the legacy of Khamenei's 37-year rule is bitterly disputed in a country where large numbers have repeatedly risen up to protest poverty and repression in recent years.

The whereabouts of Mojtaba Khamenei, proclaimed supreme leader by a clerical assembly in

early March, a week after his father's death, has remained a mystery to Iranians.

He has not appeared in public since the war began with the strike that killed Ali Khamenei. While he has issued written statements, no image, video or voice recording of him has been issued.

Senior sources in Tehran have said he is recovering but that he has not yet been well enough to manage public appearances and state security services are also trying to limit his exposure in case of more US attacks. As crowds jostled in Mashhad awaiting Khamenei's funeral cortege, the crowd chanted slogans demanding revenge on US President Donald Trump for his killing. "I swear by the blood

of the Supreme Leader, Trump, we will kill you!" they shouted, with women holding up placards reading "Kill Trump." Khamenei's remains, along with those of four family members killed alongside him, have already been paraded through Tehran, the Shiite Muslim clerical center of Qom, and the Iraqi shrine cities of Najaf and Karbala. At each event, huge crowds have thronged the streets to the mournful accompaniment of sung Shiite laments and chanted revolutionary slogans.

Martyrdom holds a central place in Shiite theology and Khamenei's death at the hands of foreign enemies has played into a religious and political tradition that runs deep through the

Islamic Republic.

He suffered debilitating injuries in that same strike, his face disfigured and limbs badly wounded.

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Chants against America

The shrine's courtyard was a sea of mourners as dusk fell, their defiant chants of "Death to America" ringing out above the lyrical funeral laments and sorrowful string music broadcast by loudspeakers.

Senior ayatollahs sat waiting on a raised dais, under the intricate blue tiling of an arched shrine. Imam Reza was one of Shiite Islam's holiest figures and the shrine complex in Mashhad, Khamenei's hometown, is a center for pilgrimage with its golden dome and another azure domed mosque among Iran's most recognizable buildings.

As the crowds awaited the coffins of Khamenei and his family in the sweltering July heat, hoses pumped water high into the air to spray across the mourners and keep them cool.

PM Modi arrives in New Zealand on final leg of three-nation tour



PTI

Auckland, Jul 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday arrived in New Zealand on the final leg of his three-nation visit, during which he will hold talks with his counterpart Christopher Luxon and address the Indian diaspora.

This is the first visit to New Zealand by an Indian prime minister in 40 years. Modi was received by Luxon at the airport, where the two leaders exchanged a warm hug.

"Reached Auckland a short while ago. Thankful to Prime Minister Luxon for the welcome at the airport," Modi said in a post on X.

"This visit is historic, being the first Prime Ministerial visit to New Zealand in four decades.

I look forward to holding talks with Prime Minister Luxon and discussing the complete range of the India-NZ friendship. I will also be addressing a community programme tomorrow in Auckland," he said.

In a post on X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "This historic visit is set to strengthen bilateral ties and unlock new avenues of cooperation across several areas especially trade, defence, sports, culture, education, and people-to-people exchanges." Calling it as a "special welcome in Auckland!", the MEA in another post on X said the iconic Sky Tower was illuminated to mark Modi's visit to New Zealand, "symbolising the friendship between our two countries."

Sheikh Hasina eyes December return to Bangladesh to revive Awami League

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 10: Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina is preparing to voluntarily return to Dhaka by December to revive her Awami League, sources close to her said on Friday. Hasina, 78, has been living in India after she fled Dhaka following the collapse of her government in August, 2024 in the face of a massive anti-government agitation.

It is completely a voluntary decision by her to return home, the sources said. In November last, Hasina was sentenced to death

in absentia by a special tribunal in Dhaka for alleged "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests in 2024. Since the verdict, Dhaka has been urging New Delhi to extradite her to face the law. She is not afraid to face any consequences, the sources said.

"We are all prepared to welcome our leader back. Whatever instructions our leader give us, we will follow them," Kazi Nasim Rupak, a member of the publicity sub-committee of the Awami League party, told PTI Videos.

Ministry clears contingent of 191 for CWG; won't bear cost of IOA EC members in list

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 10: The Sports Ministry on Friday approved a 191-strong Indian contingent, including 126 athletes and 51 team officials, for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow starting July 23, making it clear that it would not bear expenses of those officials who are elected members of the Indian Olympic Association's Executive Committee. The notification also stated that a detailed report on the contingent's performance, including action photographs, would also need to be submitted



to the Ministry within 30 days of its return to India. The 126-strong athlete contingent includes 78 male and 48 female athletes.

"IOA will ensure that any person, if he/she is holding elected position in EC of IOA, any NSF or any sports body, whose name has been

included in the list of team officials, will be treated at no cost to the Government," the Ministry asserted.

The ministry has specified that the definition of Team Officials would include coaches, support staff, medical staff, and contingent officials. Chef de Mission Rohit Rajpal is the lone member of the contingent staff who is a member of the IOA EC and the cost of his stay in Glasgow will not be covered by the government.

"The IOA will manage his expenses during the trip as he is an elected member of its EC," a ministry source confirmed to PTI.

AFP

New York, Jul 10: Israel shared intelligence with the United States this week about a new and "specific" plan by Iran to assassinate President Donald Trump, US media reported Thursday.

The reports come as renewed US and Iranian attacks raised fears of a return to all-out war, and after Trump's puzzling use of an old plane to depart from Turkey after the NATO summit. Washington has monitored "a steady drumbeat" of intelligence about possible plans to assassinate Trump, "but the warning from Israel was new and concerned a specific plot," CNN reported, citing unnamed sources familiar

with the matter. The Wall Street Journal, also citing unidentified sources, said the intelligence described a "fresh" plot.

Tehran has for years vowed to hit back at Trump for ordering the assassination of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani in January 2020, during his first term. When AFP contacted the White House about the reports, an unidentified official pointed to Trump's remarks from Wednesday.

"They want to take out the US leader — me. I'm on whatever list. I saw this morning I'm on every single one of their lists," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew home from a NATO summit.

India assures six medals in U-23 men's category at Asian boxing c'ships



PTI

Jakarta, Jul 10: India's U-23 men boxers delivered a strong performance at the Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing Championships with six boxers advancing to the semifinals to assure themselves of medals here on Friday.

Leading the charge, Asian Champion Vishvanath (50kg) continued his dominant run with a convincing 5:0 win over Saudi Arabia's Ibrahim

Aljohani. Ganga (55kg) then matched that performance with a clinical 5:0 victory against Vietnam's Quang Loc Tran.

In the 65kg category, Vanshaj secured a solid 4:1 win over Kazakhstan's Assylkhan Kosherbay, while Hitesh (70kg) delivered a standout performance, stopping Indonesia's Radiyahsyah via RSC in the first round.

Despite a few closely contested bouts, Aryan Malik

(80kg) and Rocky Chaudhary (85kg) went down fighting in 1:4 and 0:4 decisions respectively, while Hemant Sangwan (90kg) lost to Uzbekistan's Samir Sobirov 0:5.

With these results, India have now assured of six medals in the U-23 men's competition with the semifinalists including Vishvanath (50kg), Ganga (55kg), Vanshaj (65kg), Hitesh (70kg), Neeraj (75kg), and Ishan Kataria (+90kg).

	DHAMAAL 4 HINDI ATMOS U/A 13+ 10:35 AM, 01:25 PM, 04:20 PM, 07:15 PM
	EVIL DEAD BURN ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE A 11:00 AM, 04:15 PM
	WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE HINDI U/A 16+ 01:25 PM, 07:30 PM
	ALPHA HINDI U/A 16+ 11:00 AM, 04:40 PM
	MOANA ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES U 01:50 PM
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