



Further delay in statehood restoration unacceptable: CM Omar

Says statehood belongs to every J&K citizen, not NC alone

Appeals to political parties to join July 20 statehood protest

KNO

Srinagar, Jul 11: National Conference Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday called upon the Union Government to immediately restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, asserting that the Centre "must not mistake the people's patience for weakness".

Addressing the grand convention held on the death anniversary of Madar-e-Meharban Begum Akbar Jehan, Abdullah said, "For nearly two years, his government had exercised restraint and patience, but patience should never be interpreted as silence or surrender. 'Patience does not mean that we will stop raising our voice for our constitutional and democratic rights. It does not mean that anyone can take undue advantage of our restraint or



consider us weak. Our patience is our strength, our voice, and, God willing, it will ultimately lead us to victory."

He questioned why, despite nearly two years of his government being in office, they were now | [More on P6](#)

BJP attempting to break NC: CM Omar

Claims one MLA from Jammu was offered Rs 20-30 crore for switching sides

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 11: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was attempting to break the National Conference by offering its MLAs cash, ministerial berths, and the promise of restoring statehood.

Addressing National Conference workers on the 26th death anniversary of Begum Akbar Jehan Abdullah (Madar-e-Meharban) at Hazratbal, Omar, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) alleged that the BJP was trying to break the party by luring MLAs with assurances of statehood.

"Wherever your (BJP's) lure of money and ministerial berths doesn't work, you tell my MLA to join hands with you on the lure of restoration of statehood," he said.

The CM claimed that



a Supreme Court lawyer, who he said is an office-bearer of the BJP, had approached one of their MLAs from Jammu and offered him Rs 20-30 crore for switching sides.

"One of our MLAs from Jammu told me that a Supreme Court lawyer, who is also a BJP office-bearer, offered him Rs 20-30 crore, a ministerial berth, and statehood if he joined hands with them," Omar said.

"Do they (BJP) think our faith is weak? | [More on P6](#)

Weather fails to dampen spirit of Amarnath Yatris

Over 26,000 pay obeisance on Saturday; tally crosses 2.27 lakh; 10th batch of 9,182 pilgrims arrives



Umairsar Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Jul 11: Unfavourable weather conditions failed to dampen the enthusiasm of devotees as the annual Amarnath Yatra continued smoothly on Saturday, with 26,403 pilgrims paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine, taking the cumulative pilgrim count to 2,27,411.

According to figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the pilgrims who performed darshan on Saturday included 18,209 men, 7,434 women, 255 children, 155 sadhus, 12 sadhvis, 11 transgender devotees, and 327 security

personnel.

Despite intermittent rain and changing weather conditions along both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes, the pilgrimage continued without any disruption as thousands of devotees trekked towards the holy cave shrine with unwavering faith.

"The weather does not matter when you have faith. We have come here with devotion, and despite the rain and difficult conditions, our enthusiasm remains the same. We are grateful to the administration for making the journey safe and smooth," said a pilgrim from Delhi.

Meanwhile, | [More on P6](#)

Produce evidence or apologise, BJP tells Omar

Terms cash-for-MLA allegation baseless, politically motivated

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Jul 11: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday asked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to either produce evidence of BJP offering cash to MLAs for defections or tender an unconditional public apology for what it termed a "baseless and

irresponsible" statement. Addressing a press conference in Jammu, BJP MLA R.S. Pathania, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), described the Chief Minister's allegation as "baseless, irresponsible, and politically motivated."

"If Omar Abdullah has evidence, he should place it before the competent investigating | [More on P6](#)

Rain, thundershowers lash J&K parts

More precipitation likely; MeT warns of flash floods, mud, landslides in vulnerable areas



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 11: Widespread rain and thundershowers hit several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday evening, while the Meteorological Centre Srinagar warned of the possibility of flash floods, mudslides and landslides in vulnerable areas.

According to the details accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) rain and thundershowers affected many places across the Kashmir and parts of Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban, Doda, Reasi and Udhampur districts.

An official of the MeT Centre said that brief but intense showers accompanied by

thunderstorms were reported from isolated locations, particularly in parts of North, Central and South Kashmir.

The weather office said intense showers over parts of Kupwara, Baramulla and Budgam districts, as well as Ramban, Reasi, Doda, Batote and Udhampur, could trigger localized flash floods, mudslides and landslides in vulnerable areas.

It advised people to stay away from nallahs, streams and landslide-prone areas as a precaution.

Meanwhile, the MeT Centre said intermittent spells of rain and thundershowers are expected to continue on Sunday at many places | [More on P6](#)

'J&K's high-altitude areas warmed by nearly 1°C in two decades'

IIT Kharagpur research finds Pahalgam, Gulmarg warming faster

Reveals winter warming, reduced snowfall accelerating climate change in region

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 11: High-altitude regions of Jammu and Kashmir, including the tourist destinations of Pahalgam and Gulmarg, have witnessed a temperature rise of nearly 1°C over the last two decades, highlighting the growing impact of climate change on the fragile Himalayan ecosystem, according to a new scientific study.

The study, titled "Warming of the High-Mountainous Climate Sensitive Jammu and Kashmir During the Period 1980–2024", was conducted by researchers G.S. Gopikrishnan, Jayanarayanan Kutippurath and V.M. Pranav Chandran from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur.

The researchers analysed temperature records from 1980 to 2024 using observations from ten India



Meteorological Department (IMD) stations across Jammu and Kashmir, including Jammu, Srinagar, Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Kupwara, Kokernag, Qazigund, Banihal, Batote and Bhaderwah.

The study, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), found that warming is not uniform across the region. Mid- and high-altitude areas have experienced a stronger rise in temperatures than lower-altitude locations, a phenomenon known as Elevation-Dependent Warming (EDW). The strongest warming was recorded during winter, particularly in daytime temperatures at higher elevations.

According to the findings, Pahalgam and Gulmarg have

warmed by nearly 1°C over the past two decades, while several mid-elevation stations also showed significant increases in average temperatures. Bhaderwah recorded one of the highest annual warming trends of around 0.3°C per decade.

The study also found that night-time temperatures are increasing faster than daytime temperatures across many mountain stations. Minimum temperatures rose by 0.1°C to 0.5°C per decade in several mid- and high-altitude locations, indicating reduced night-time cooling.

Researchers attribute the winter warming at higher elevations mainly to surface albedo changes, where shrinking snow | [More on P6](#)

IIS Officer Trainees call on LG Manoj Sinha

Share Bharat Darshan tour experiences with Lt Governor



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 11: A group of 16 Indian Information Service (IIS) Officer Trainees, Group 'B' of the 2023 Batch called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, at Lok Bhavan

today. They were accompanied by Shri Qazi Salman, Director, Press Information Bureau (PIB), Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes to the Officer Trainees for their future endeavors. | [More on P6](#)

NC doesn't need me anymore: Aga Ruhullah

Distances himself from statehood protest

Umairsar Gul Ganai

Kulgam, Jul 11: National Conference Member of Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Saturday said the party "doesn't need" him anymore, saying he was neither invited nor present at the party convention. He also distanced himself from the party's Jantar Mantar protest on statehood.

Speaking to reporters in Kulgam, Ruhullah, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said he did

not attend the party convention to mark Begum Akbar Jahan's death anniversary as he was neither invited nor required to attend.

"How many times do I have to answer this question? They don't need me. I was not called and I was not there. I already had programmes in Kulgam, Srinagar and other places in connection with Muharram, so I remained busy. They don't need me anymore," he said.

Asked whether he would participate in the National Conference's | [More on P6](#)

Public health experts call for 'Safe System Approach' to prevent road accidents in J&K

Say safer roads, responsible users, effective enforcement key to reducing fatalities; recommend speed cameras, strict penalties, trauma centres

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 11: Stressing that road traffic injuries are preventable, public health experts have called for adopting a comprehensive "Safe System Approach" in Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on safer roads, responsible road users, safer vehicles, effective law enforcement, and improved post-crash emergency care.

The framework, as per Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Professor, Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College Srinagar, "outlines a

multi-sector strategy based on the internationally recognised Haddon Matrix, which examines factors before, during, and after road crashes to reduce fatalities and serious injuries."

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the framework emphasises that "road safety is a shared responsibility involving government departments, law enforcement agencies, healthcare institutions, educational institutions, civil society organisations, and citizens."

As per the recommendations, "human behaviour remains one of the most



important contributors to road crashes". Drivers should "possess valid driving licences, avoid speeding, refrain from using mobile phones while

driving, never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, ensure adequate sleep before long journeys, and strictly use helmets, seat belts, and child

restraint systems". Defensive driving, maintaining safe distances, and adhering to traffic rules are also highlighted as essential measures.

The document further stresses that "prompt post-crash response can save lives". It advises people to "immediately contact emergency services through 112 or 108, provide first aid only if trained, avoid moving seriously injured victims unless necessary, control bleeding, and assist in safe evacuation until medical teams arrive".

Vehicle safety has been identified as a "critical pillar

of accident prevention". The report recommends "regular vehicle fitness checks, proper tyre maintenance, functional brakes and lighting systems, emission control, and adherence to permissible load limits". It also encourages the use of "modern safety technologies such as airbags, Anti-lock Braking Systems (ABS), Electronic Stability Control (ESC), rollover protection, daytime running lights, GPS-based emergency location systems, and automatic crash notification systems" to minimise crash impact.

Significant improvements in

road infrastructure are also advocated. The framework calls for "well-maintained roads, clear lane markings, reflective signages, median barriers, guard rails, adequate street lighting, black spot identification and correction, pedestrian crossings, motorcycle lanes where feasible, and proper drainage systems". It recommends establishing "trauma care centres at regular intervals along highways, clearly marked emergency phones, helipad access in remote areas, and uninterrupted all-weather road maintenance".

"Strong policy | [More on P6](#)

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatri 2026

DC Ganderbal takes stock of facilities for devotees

Visits Yatra Transit Camp Manigam, directs highest standards of facilities

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Saturday visited the Yatra Transit Camp at Manigam to review the arrangements and facilities put in place for the smooth stay and welfare of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris.

During the visit, the DC, as per an official statement, undertook a comprehensive inspection of the camp and reviewed the functioning of various facilities, including medical services. He interacted with patients and healthcare staff to assess the quality of services and directed the medical teams to remain fully prepared to provide prompt and efficient healthcare to every pilgrim. The DC also inspected



sanitation and cleanliness arrangements across the transit camp and instructed the concerned departments to maintain the highest standards of hygiene to ensure a clean, healthy and

comfortable environment for the pilgrims. As part of the visit, the DC interacted with officers deployed at the camp, inspected various langars and met with the Yatris to receive firsthand

feedback about the facilities and services being provided. He reiterated that the comfort, safety and well-being of every pilgrim must remain the top priority of all departments.

Emphasizing a pilgrim-centric

approach, the DC directed all officers and frontline staff to extend every possible assistance to the Yatris with courtesy, compassion and promptness, ensuring that no pilgrim faces any inconvenience during their stay at the transit camp.

The DC also stressed close coordination among all line departments to ensure seamless delivery of essential services and immediate redressal of any issues arising at the camp.

Among others, the visit was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ganderbal, who is also the Nodal Officer for Yatra Transit Camp Manigam, Police incharge Transit Camp Manigam, officers from R&B, KPDC, Jal Shakti, Municipal Council Ganderbal, Information Department and other concerned officers.

IGNOU Admissions for July 2026 cycle to close on July 15



KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 11: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has invited applications for admission to its undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, postgraduate diploma and certificate programmes offered through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online modes for the July 2026 admission cycle. The last date for admission and re-registration is July 15, 2026.

The University, as per a PIB statement, has also introduced several new programmes, including Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes (FYUP) in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, besides new programmes in Climate

Change, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Criminal Justice Social Work, Geriatric Health and Care, and MBA specialisations in Human Resource Management, Marketing Management, Finance Management and Operational Management approved by UGC and AICTE.

Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar, Dr. A.H. Rizvi urged prospective learners to complete the admission process before the deadline and cautioned them against fraudulent calls or messages seeking payment through QR codes, WhatsApp or other social media platforms. He also advised eligible students to complete re-registration before July 15 to avoid last-minute inconvenience.

IGNOU has also established a new Study Centre at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), which will offer programmes of the School of Agriculture through the Open and Distance Learning mode.

DDC Kulgam review functioning of Education Department



KT News Desk

KULGAM, JULY 11: A review meeting of the Education Department was held under the Chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kulgam, Shahzad Alam to assess the progress of key educational programmes and infrastructure projects across the district.

The Chief Education Officer, as per an official statement, presented the status of PM POSHAN, Samagra Shiksha, APAAR, UDISE+, civil works, school infrastructure, KGBVs, Girls' Hostels, and other important initiatives.

After reviewing the progress, the

Chair directed that all pending civil works be completed on priority by resolving land and other issues in coordination with the concerned departments. Regular inspections of schools, KGBVs, and Girls' Hostels were emphasized to improve infrastructure, academic standards, and implementation of PM POSHAN. Strict adherence to food quality, hygiene, timely lifting of food grains, and proper record maintenance was also stressed.

The Chair further directed that 100% APAAR ID generation, UDISE+ data updation, and registration of all eligible Class 5 students for JNVST 2027-28 be completed

within the prescribed timelines. It was impressed that the vacancies of Cook-cum-Helpers shall be filled as per norms, and their training on hygiene and food safety shall be ensured. Convergence with the Health Department, establishment of School Nutrition Gardens, effective implementation of vocational education, solarisation of schools, construction of boundary walls, and provision of safe drinking water facilities were also emphasized.

To improve the overall learning environment, one Pilot Model School shall be developed in each educational zone with upgraded infrastructure and basic amenities. The Chief Education Officer was directed to closely monitor the implementation of all decisions, while Zonal Education Officers were directed to conduct regular field visits and submit progress reports. The Chair stressed that timely execution, accountability, and effective coordination at all levels are essential to achieve the desired outcomes and improve the quality of education across District Kulgam.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Chief Education Officer, Exens, District Officers, Zonal Education Officers, and other concerned officers.

Secretary DLSA Ganderbal reviews implementation of 'Pragya' Scholarship Scheme

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JULY 11: Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, who is also holding the additional charge of District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora, Sheikh Babar Hussain Saturday convened a virtual meeting to review the implementation of the 'Pragya' Scholarship Scheme and discuss the identification of vulnerable girl students eligible for scholarship assistance.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by all Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of District Legal Services Authorities, Ganderbal and Bandipora. During the meeting, the Secretary highlighted the objectives of the 'Pragya' Scholarship Scheme, stating that it aims to provide financial assistance to vulnerable girl students to enable them to continue their education.

He informed that the scheme covers girl students who have lost both parents, those who have lost the bread-winning parent, girls with physical disabilities whose parents are unable to support their education, girls whose fathers are in jail and whose mothers are not earning enough to support their education, tribal girls from economically disadvantaged families, and other similarly placed vulnerable girl students. The Secretary directed all Para Legal Volunteers of both districts to undertake door-to-door identification and verification of eligible beneficiaries in their respective areas. He instructed them to verify the supporting documents, socio-economic background and living conditions of the identified beneficiaries and submit detailed verification reports to the respective District Legal Services Authorities by July 13, 2026.

Director Extension SKUAST-K reviews Research and Extension activities

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JULY 11: Director Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Dr. Raihana Habib Kanth, Saturday visited KVK Bandipora-1 to review its ongoing research, demonstration, and extension activities.

On the occasion, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Bandipora-1, Dr. Tariq Sultan, as per an official statement, briefed the Director about the Centre's major research, frontline demonstrations, extension programmes, and innovative initiatives undertaken for the benefit of the farming community.

During the visit, the Director inspected the Lotus Demonstration Plots, Makhana Demonstration Plots, Water Chestnut Units, Paddy Research Fields, High-tech Greenhouses, and other research and demonstration units established at KVK Bandipora-1. She reviewed the technologies being promoted by the Centre and appreciated their potential in enhancing crop diversification, improving farm productivity, and generating sustainable livelihood opportunities for farmers.

Interacting with the scientists, Dr. Raihana Habib Kanth emphasized the importance of strengthening the linkage between research and extension to ensure the effective

dissemination of scientific technologies among farming communities. She highlighted the need for continued field demonstrations, farmer capacity building, and timely technical advisories to address emerging challenges in agriculture.

The Director appreciated the dedication and commitment of the scientists and staff of KVK Bandipora-1 in promoting innovative and location specific technologies. She observed that the Centre's initiatives in Lotus, Makhana, Water Chestnut, protected cultivation, and improved paddy production have significant potential to support sustainable agriculture, diversify farming systems, and enhance farmers' income in the district.

She also appreciated the well maintained research farms and demonstration units and commended KVK Bandipora-1 for its valuable contribution towards strengthening agricultural extension and improving the socio economic well being of the farming community.

The visit concluded with a review of the Centre's future action plan. Dr. Raihana Habib Kanth assured continued institutional support for strengthening research and extension programmes and expressed confidence that KVK Bandipora-1 would continue to serve as a centre of excellence in technology dissemination and farmer empowerment through scientific and need based interventions.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
E-NIT NO. 08 of 2026-27

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

S. No	Name of work	Advt. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Amt in Rs)@3%	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender Opening Authority
	C/O of FP Works on Chaka Nadi Jasco Colony by way of Laying crates and cement Concrete/ Jacketing at Sarnal Bala Ward13, Anantnag	4.54	13620/=	7 Days	DEE	300/=	District Capex CDF 44- Anantnag	Executive Engineer

Position of Funds:

Position of Administrative Approval: -

Position of Technical Sanction: -

Budgetary allocation 2026-27.

Accorded

Accorded

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

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11-07-2026 at 14:00 PM
2	Date of start of downloading	11-07-2026 at 14:00 PM
3	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial	11-07-2026 at 14:00 PM
4	Bid submission end date	16-07-2026 at 18:00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	17-07-2026 at 10:00 AM

Terms and Conditions:

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

name of the

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

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

03. Unbalanced and Abnormally Low Bids

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

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

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

b. Registration Certificate of GST NO.

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

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

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

f. Card verification letter

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

h. BOQ(xls)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C) The bidders

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

E) Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned in Para- 01.

F) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents with the bid. The Department will not be responsible for delays in online submission due to any reasons.

No.FCD/Ang/2026/2003-25

Dated :- 11-07-2026

DIPK-3153/26
Dated: 11-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Flood Control Division Anantnag

PM SVANidhi

Lakhanpur selected among 50 street food hubs: Dr Jitendra

Yogesh

Jammu, Jul 11: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, on Saturday announced that the Centre has selected Lakhanpur, the gateway town to Jammu and Kashmir on the Punjab border, for development as a Street Food Hub under a new national initiative.

Dr Singh, who is also the Member Parliament from the Jammu-Udhampur-Kathua-Doda constituency, while sharing the development said, "The initiative is aimed at promoting local culinary heritage and providing dignified livelihood opportunities to street vendors."

He said Lakhanpur is among the first 50 towns across the country chosen under the Government of India's Street Food Hub initiative being implemented as part of the PM SVANidhi scheme.

Calling it "good news for Kathua," the Union Minister said the project would transform Lakhanpur into a world-class vending destination while preserving and showcasing its rich food culture. "Street Food Hubs are sought to be developed as world-class vending spaces that will promote local culinary heritage and at the same time ensure dignified livelihood for street vendors," Dr. Singh said.

He added that the scheme envisages financial assistance along with additional financial



incentives for the development of the proposed hub.

According to Dr. Singh, the proposed Street Food Hub at Lakhanpur Market will comprise two clusters—one near the Old Bus Stand and another near the Sales Tax Office—to facilitate organized vending and improve amenities for visitors and vendors alike.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr. Singh said the inclusion of Lakhanpur in the very first phase of the national programme reflects the Centre's priority towards the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Thanks to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for giving high priority to J&K, which has enabled the inclusion of Lakhanpur in the very

first phase of this national-level plan," he said.

Dr. Singh noted that Lakhanpur, being the main entry point into Jammu and Kashmir from Punjab, witnesses heavy movement of tourists, pilgrims and transit travellers throughout the year. He said the initiative would further enhance the town's popularity as a preferred highway stopover.

Lakhanpur, located on the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway, is widely known as the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir. The town is particularly famous for its roadside eateries serving the traditional fried dal pakodas, popularly known as "Palle", which have long been a favourite among travellers entering and leaving the Union Territory—(KNO)

J&K's constitutional, democratic rights restoration imperative: Dr Farooq

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 11: The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah Saturday said that nations inevitably face hardships and trials, but such challenges are tests of faith, resilience and perseverance. He made these comments while addressing a grand Jammu and Kashmir National Conference convention held at Naseem Bagh to mark the 26th death anniversary of Madar-e-Meharban Begum Akbar Jehan. He urged the people not to lose hope, adding that difficulties are temporary and eventually give way to better times.

Dr. Farooq said that the National Conference has consistently appealed to every government at the Centre to ensure justice for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. However, whenever the Centre had the opportunity, it weakened Article 370 instead of honouring the constitutional relationship with the region.

Referring to former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao, Dr. Abdullah recalled that PM Rao had publicly assured the world that the shortcomings relating to Article 370 would be addressed and had famously declared that, within the



framework of the Constitution of India, "Sky is the Limit" in granting greater autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir.

He further said that during a meeting with the Prime Minister in 2021, he had candidly remarked that there was a trust deficit between New Delhi and the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Although assurances were given that the distance between Delhi and Kashmir would be bridged, no meaningful progress has been made in that direction to this day.

Dr. Abdullah asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is the crown of India and its people deserve dignity and respect. He said that successive promises made to the people were repeatedly broken. "We are not asking for anything outside the Constitution of India. We are only demanding the restoration of our dignity, constitutional safeguards,

and democratic rights," he said.

The National Conference President reiterated that his party has never surrendered in the face of adversity and remains steadfast in its struggle for the rights of the people. He described the National Conference as a party of the poor, the marginalized, and the common people, committed to protecting their interests at every stage.

Addressing political leaders whom he accused of acting at the behest of New Delhi, Dr. Abdullah said that if they truly cared for the people of Kashmir, they should abandon the politics of subservience. Otherwise, he warned, a day would come when they would no longer be accepted by the people of this land.

Praising the performance of the present National Conference government, Dr. Abdullah said that despite severe constraints, limited

powers, and numerous obstacles, the government has delivered exemplary public service and introduced a new direction in governance across various sectors. He said that National Conference legislators are working tirelessly to address public grievances, even though political opponents refuse to acknowledge these achievements.

Expressing confidence in divine justice, he said that Allah would remove every obstacle facing the people, just as He had provided relief from the scorching heat during the convention.

Dr. Abdullah also alleged that attempts were once again being made to weaken the National Conference through political horse-trading. Recalling the events of 1984, he said that those who participated in the politics of defections disappeared from the political landscape within two years and are remembered by no one today.

Reaffirming the party's commitment, Dr. Farooq Abdullah vowed that the National Conference would continue its struggle to alleviate the hardships of the people and work tirelessly for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional, democratic, and political rights.

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Govt places 318 masters as in-charge headmasters

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 11: In a significant step aimed at strengthening the administrative and academic framework of government schools, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has placed 318 Masters of School Education department as in-charge Headmasters and posted them in various schools across length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The decision marks a major initiative towards ensuring effective school leadership, addressing administrative requirements and enhancing the overall quality of education in government schools.

Speaking on this landmark development, Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo said that this significant decision reflects the Government's unwavering commitment to improving educational standards and

ensuring better academic outcomes for students across Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister said that strong institutional leadership plays a pivotal role in improving teaching-learning processes, enhancing accountability and creating a conducive environment for quality education. She expressed confidence that the placement of 318 Masters as Incharge Headmasters will significantly strengthen school administration and contribute to improved educational performance at the grassroots level.

Sakeena Itoo reiterated that the present Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, remains committed to upgrading educational institutions by ensuring adequate human resources, improving infrastructure and implementing progressive reforms across the education sector.

She further said that the Government is taking a series of measures to

modernise the school education system, bridge existing gaps and provide students with access to quality education in a vibrant academic environment. The Minister also said that the Government has also recruited 595 Lecturers in various disciplines and posted them across different Higher Secondary schools, thereby boosting the educational scenario here.

She also underscored the Government's resolve to continue undertaking policy initiatives aimed at strengthening the education sector and creating a robust, inclusive and future-ready schooling system across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister also extended best wishes to the headmasters who have been entrusted with their new responsibilities and expressed hope that they would discharge their duties with dedication, professionalism and a strong sense of responsibility towards the welfare and academic progress of students.

Ravinder Raina dismisses CM Omar's poaching allegations

Seeks evidence in public domain



KNO

Jammu, Jul 11: Senior BJP leader Ravinder Raina on Saturday dismissed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's allegations about BJP trying to poach upon National Conference MLAs.

Responding to the Chief Minister's remarks on BJP's attempt to lure NC MLAs with offer of Rs 20-30 cores, ministerial berths and other benefits, Raina said, "These allegations are baseless,

misleading and devoid of facts."

"If the Hon'ble Chief Minister has any proof, it should be placed in the public domain," Raina said.

The BJP leader maintained that allegations of such nature should be backed by credible evidence rather than political assertions, and asserted that transparency is essential in public discourse.

Raina said if the Chief Minister possesses any documentary or other material to support his allegations, it should be shared openly so that the people can judge the facts for themselves.

The remarks came amid an ongoing political exchange between the ruling National Conference and the opposition BJP over recent issues in Jammu and Kashmir.

Continued on
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CEO SSCL conducts inspection of historic water channels

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 11: In a significant initiative aimed at undertaking a comprehensive assessment of Srinagar's historic water network, the Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Faz Lul Haseeb on Saturday conducted an extensive inspection of several historic water channels and rivulets across the city, including Kutte Kul, Sonar Kul, Rainawari Kul, and other interconnected waterways.

The inspection was undertaken to obtain a first-hand assessment of the present condition of these water channels, examine their hydraulic connectivity, and evaluate various factors influencing their overall status.

During the visit, the CEO extensively inspected different stretches of the waterways, assessing issues such as silt accumulation, vegetation



growth, obstructions, encroachments, discharge points, and other location-specific conditions requiring detailed technical evaluation.

Interacting with officers and engineers on-site, Haseeb underscored the historical, ecological, and urban significance

of Srinagar's traditional water channels, observing that these waterways form an integral part of the city's unique landscape. He directed the concerned officers to undertake detailed documentation and technical assessments

Continued on
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NC President blames Delhi for 'promise failures'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 11: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Saturday accused successive governments in New Delhi of repeatedly breaking promises made to Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing National Conference workers on the occasion of 26th death anniversary of Begum Akbar Jehan Abdullah (Madar-e-Meharban) at Hazratbal, Dr Farooq recalled assurances given by former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Article 370 and his own interactions with different Prime Ministers, saying the trust deficit between Delhi and Kashmir had only widened despite repeated commitments.

Dr Farooq said every government in New Delhi since 1947 had promised justice to Jammu and Kashmir but failed to fulfil those assurances.

He alleged that whenever the Centre found an opportunity, it weakened Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional position by eroding Article 370. Recalling his meetings

with former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, Dr Farooq said Rao had publicly assured that the Centre would address the shortcomings relating to Article 370, famously stating that "the sky is the limit." "We never asked for independence. We are a part of this country and we want to strengthen it, not weaken it," he said.

TRUST DEFICIT BETWEEN DELHI AND KASHMIR PERSISTS

Dr Farooq said the biggest challenge today was the absence of trust between New Delhi and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Recalling a meeting convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the constitutional changes, Dr Farooq said he had candidly told the Prime Minister that both Delhi and Kashmir lacked trust in each other and that rebuilding confidence should be the first priority.

"He spoke about reducing the distance between Delhi and Kashmir, but I do not see that distance reducing even today," he said.

Dr Farooq said the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserved the same



dignity and respect as every other citizen of the country.

"We are also human beings. We are also the crown of India. We also have our dignity," he said.

PROMISES REMAIN UNFULFILLED

Supporting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's remarks on statehood, Dr Farooq said National Conference leaders have repeatedly raised Jammu and Kashmir's concerns with the Centre, but the promises

made over the years have remained unfulfilled.

He said the party had not lost hope and would continue its peaceful and democratic struggle for the restoration of the people's rights.

TARGETS POLITICAL OPPONENTS Taking a swipe at political rivals, Dr Farooq alleged that some leaders spoke differently in Delhi and differently before the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He accused them of acting at the Centre's behest and urged them to stand with the people instead of pursuing personal interests.

Questioning their commitment, he asked whether they were prepared to compromise the dignity of Jammu and Kashmir for personal gains and contracts.

DEFENDS GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Rejecting criticism of the Omar Abdullah-led government, Dr Farooq said no government could have achieved more under the prevailing circumstances.

He said the administration was working continuously to improve

schools, colleges, hospitals, roads and other public infrastructure despite several constraints.

RECALLS REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO WEAKEN NC

Dr Farooq alleged that repeated attempts had been made to weaken the National Conference, recalling the events of 1984 and similar political developments after the 2014 elections.

He said such efforts had failed in the past and would fail again.

WE ARE ASKING FOR OUR RIGHTS

Dr Farooq said the people of Jammu and Kashmir were not asking for charity but demanding restoration of what rightfully belonged to them. "We are not beggars. We are asking for our right. Give us back our rights," he said.

He said lasting peace could only be achieved through justice, dignity and fulfilment of the promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, expressing confidence that the ongoing democratic struggle would ultimately succeed—(KNO)

Sonamarg hits 3.92 lakh tourists in 7 months: CEO

Raja Syed Rather

Ganderbal, Jul 11: Sonamarg, one of Jammu and Kashmir's most scenic hill stations, has recorded nearly 3.92 lakh tourist arrivals, including around 8,000 foreign tourists, since January this year, emerging as a year-round destination following the operationalisation of the Z-Morh tunnel, officials said.

Bilal Mukhtar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) said the destination has witnessed an upward jump of nearly 35 to 40 per cent in foreign tourist arrivals. "Ever since the tunnel became operational, Sonamarg has remained open throughout all twelve months of the year. As of now, from

January till today, we have recorded nearly 392,000 tourist arrivals, including around 8,000 foreign tourists," he said. Mukhtar said Sonamarg has also become a transit point for Ladakh, with foreign tourists travelling to or returning from the Union Territory usually spending at least one night in the destination.

He said several infrastructure projects are in the pipeline to further enhance tourist facilities. Work is underway on an ornamental see-through fencing project, while the Children's Park has been completed and only equipment installation remains. Repair and renovation of tourism assets are also underway under the Capex scheme.

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The Strait Of Hormuz Is Now At The Centre Of Iranian And US Calculus

The fate of the strait is directly linked to what happens next to the world economy

Abdulla Bannadar Al-Etaibi

On Tuesday, two tankers were attacked as they transited the Strait of Hormuz via a passage in Omani waters. Gulf countries responded by sharply condemning the attacks and blaming Iran. The United States then launched attacks on Iranian territory, to which Tehran responded by striking Bahrain and Kuwait. US President Donald Trump has now said the memorandum of understanding (MoU) that Iran and the US signed is void.

This latest escalation illustrates how the Strait of Hormuz has become the central issue in the US-Israel war with Iran that began on February 28. Disagreements over the strait's future have proven to be the hardest to resolve in the US-Iranian negotiations, as questions about Iran's nuclear programme have been put to the side.

The disruption of traffic in the Strait of Hormuz has an immediate and costly price tag attached, for Iran, for its Gulf neighbours, and for a global economy that has spent four and a half months absorbing the largest oil supply shock in the history of the modern market.

Iran's leverage is also its liability

For Tehran, the strait is its strongest card – one that is also incredibly costly. Since the war began, Iranian forces have mined the strait, attacked vessels and cut traffic through the passage by roughly 95 percent. This has led to what the International Energy Agency's Fatih Birol has called “the largest supply disruption in the history of the global oil market”.

That leverage is real: about a fifth of the world's oil and a fifth of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) normally move through Hormuz, and no amount of Gulf pipeline capacity can fully replace it.

But Iran has effectively been strangling its own lifeline along with everyone else's. Iranian crude, once sold for \$3 a barrel less than international benchmarks, is now selling at a 20 percent discount. The country's oil exports collapsed by more than 90 percent in May as US naval enforcement squeezed its shadow fleet.

Even before the war, the World Bank projected that Iran's economy would contract in 2026. The impact of the collapse of oil sales will be far-reaching because of the closure.

A 60-day US Treasury waiver issued on June 22, permitting Iran to sell oil at full market rates through August 21, but has now been renounced following the attacks on Tuesday.

This is the economic backdrop to Iran's insistence on asserting joint authority over the strait and floating a system of transit fees or “service charges” for passing ships. Washington has made clear that Iran cannot



Vessels navigate the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman on June 18, 2026 [Stringer/Reuters]

charge tolls in international waters governed by the right of transit passage under the Law of the Sea.

For Tehran, the dispute is not really about toll revenue, which would be rather modest when compared to its oil income; it is about establishing precedent and sovereignty over a chokepoint that is its only real point of leverage once sanctions relief and frozen-asset release are negotiated.

The latter is itself contested: Iran wants half of an estimated \$25bn in frozen assets released immediately, while the US has resisted. A separate \$300bn reconstruction fund floated in the MoU has already become a political flashpoint in Washington.

The Gulf is paying for a crisis it didn't start. For the Gulf states, the Strait of Hormuz crisis has meant improvising around geography. Saudi Arabia has redirected crude through its roughly 1,200km (746-mile) East-West pipeline to the Red Sea port of Yanbu, and the UAE has leaned on the Habshan-to-Fujairah

line to the Gulf of Oman.

Together, though, these pipelines carry a fraction of what Hormuz once did, at best 7 million barrels a day of design capacity for the Saudi line and under 1.8 million for the Emirati one, against roughly 20 million barrels a day that transited the strait before the war.

Both alternatives have themselves come under attack: Iranian strikes cut the East-West pipeline's throughput by an estimated 700,000 barrels a day in April, and drone attacks disrupted loading at Fujairah. Seaborne crude exports from Gulf states excluding Iran fell by roughly half between February and March.

Qatar, host to the talks between Iran and the US, has its own acute stake: its entire LNG export industry depends on the Strait of Hormuz, and it has been pushing the hardest for a settlement.

Oman, drawn into Iran's sovereignty claim as co-owner of the strait's territorial waters,

is caught between commercial interest in a resolution and a legal position, as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that publicly rejects Iranian tolls. Iraq, highly dependent on its Gulf terminals, has quietly explored an export route north through Turkiye.

None of these workarounds are cheap, and all of them are political as well as commercial, tying Gulf capitals' economic fortunes to a settlement between the US and Iran.

The rest of the world: Insurance bills and inflation

Beyond the region, the crisis has been transmitted mainly through two channels: price and insurance. Higher oil prices are passed on to various consumer goods down supply chains and suppress growth. According to estimates, the global economy can slow down to 2.8 percent in 2026 from 3.4 percent last year due to the closure of the strait.

Insurance for Hormuz transit, which cost roughly 0.25 percent of a vessel's value

before the war, has spiked as high as 8 percent, turning a single large tanker's coverage into a \$3m-to-\$8m expense. Shipping lines including CMA CGM and Hapag-Lloyd have layered on conflict surcharges of \$1,500 to \$2,000 per twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU). Washington's own International Development Finance Corporation has had to step in as, in effect, an insurer of last resort, offering up to \$40bn in reinsurance capacity to keep vessels moving.

China has absorbed the largest share of this pain: It takes close to 40 percent of its crude imports through the Strait of Hormuz and buys more than 80 percent of Iran's oil exports outright, making it simultaneously Tehran's most important customer and one of the war's most exposed bystanders. Japan, which sources 70 percent of its Middle Eastern crude via the strait, has already tapped strategic reserves.

For import-dependent economies across Asia and Europe, the strait's fate is not an abstraction of Middle East diplomacy; it shows up directly in fuel, freight and fertiliser prices.

Oil and gas dominate the headlines, but roughly 30 percent of the world's seaborne fertiliser trade also passes through Hormuz.

The World Bank's fertiliser price index has risen more than 12 percent in the first quarter of 2026 and has since climbed to its highest level since October 2022, driven largely by the closure. The Food and Agriculture Organization has warned that the resulting scarcity of urea and other nitrogen products will show up as lower yields through the 2026–2027 growing season, hitting import-dependent and already food-insecure countries in Africa and Asia the hardest.

Unlike an oil-price spike, which mainly stings at the pump, a fertiliser shortfall reaches into next year's harvest, meaning an unresolved Hormuz standoff carries a slower-moving but longer tail of economic damage than crude prices alone suggest.

That is the arithmetic weighing on both sides. A deal that reopens the Strait of Hormuz without resolving who controls it risks recreating the same instability that shut it in the first place; one that concedes Iranian toll authority risks a precedent Washington and shipping nations will not accept. Until that circle is squared, the global economy is left pricing in a chokepoint that neither side can fully afford to keep closed, nor fully agree how to reopen.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial policy. Abdulla Bannadar Al-Etaibi is assistant professor in the Department of International Affairs at the College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University. Courtesy: Al Jazeera

A Brief History Of Human Pain

To understand the roots of how we think about pain today, it helps to go back and see how earlier cultures made sense of it

Pain is one of the few things all of us experience, from stubbing a toe to waking up with an aching back; we can all relate to the feeling of being in pain.

Although pain is a universal experience, the way we understand it has changed dramatically over time.

Ancient societies might have blamed pain on demons entering the body through the nose or ears, but we now know pain to be more about nerve endings and biology.

Cures have also moved on a lot. While our ancestors may have tried to sneeze, vomit, or even urinate out their pain, these days we're much more likely to take medications to ease our suffering.

Strange as these ancient “treatments” sound today, they do reveal something important about pain: that it's never just a physical sensation. Because throughout history, culture, religion and social beliefs have shaped how people talk about and respond to suffering – and many of those ideas still influence us to this day.

Indeed, after more than 30 years studying pain, one thing has become clear to me: while pain is universal, our experience of it is anything but.

Ancient pain

To understand the roots of how we think about pain today, it helps to go back and see how earlier cultures made sense of it.

In many ancient cultures, for example, people believed pain was caused by external forces. Treatments relied on occult rituals,



Sad angel as a symbol of pain and death. Ancient statue isolated on a black background. Zwiebackesser/Shutterstock

amulets, or trying to drain “bewitched” fluids from the body to expel such forces.

The ancient Egyptians believed that if you hadn't obviously hurt yourself (so no broken bones, no visible wound), then clearly something more sinister was at play. This could be the gods or perhaps a wandering spirit of death, which had decided to pay your body an unwelcome visit.

Others tried to explain pain in more bodily, rather than spiritual, terms. The ancient Greeks, including physicians like Hippocrates, believed pain and disease arose when the body's “four humours” – blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile – fell out of balance. Healers would use plant and animal remedies to try to restore harmony.

Moral judgement

By the middle ages, pain had taken on a moral and religious meaning.

Across Europe, convents and monasteries often served as early hospitals and had access to powerful pain-relieving substances such as opium. Yet pain was not always treated.

This is because many Christians believed suffering to be a test of faith, while others saw it as a path to spiritual purification.

As a result, enduring pain was viewed as virtuous. So rather than seeking relief, sufferers were often encouraged to bear their discomfort with patience and devotion.

Echoes of these beliefs can still be seen today. For example, some women choose to

go without pain relief during childbirth because of the idea that labour pain is a meaningful or a necessary part of the experience.

Toughing it out

Indeed, the idea that suffering should be endured hasn't disappeared as religion's influence has waned. In many societies, it has simply found a new home in philosophy.

If you've ever felt pressure to “tough it out” when you're ill or injured, you may recognise the influence of stoicism. At its core is the idea that we cannot always control pain, but we can control how we respond to it.

In many parts of the world, to this day, enduring pain quietly can be seen as a sign of resilience and self-control, with people often encouraged to minimise their discomfort and avoid making a fuss. This is despite the fact that vocalisations of pain are a common way for humans to bond, with research showing that human exclamations of pain are similar across the world.

So whether you like to express your pain or keep it on the down low, one thing is certain: the way we think about and even feel our pain has been directly influenced by human history.

And although most of us no longer blame demons or divine punishment for our aches and illnesses, we are still, in many ways, just trying to make sense of our suffering – much in the same way as our ancestors did.

Courtesy: The Conversation UK

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

Stay away from drugs, become ambassadors of anti-drug movement: Gen Sec IRCS J&K Organises drug de-addiction awareness programme at GDC Uri

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JULY 11: The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) Uri, Saturday organized a Drug De-addiction Awareness Programme under the Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan at the college auditorium to create awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The programme, as per an official statement, commenced with the National Anthem, followed by the screening of a special message from Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, emphasizing the collective responsibility of society in eradicating the menace of drug abuse. An awareness documentary on drug abuse, prepared by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Baramulla, was also screened to educate participants about the devastating impact of substance abuse and the importance of prevention and rehabilitation.

The programme was presided over by General Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu & Kashmir, Shubhankar Pratyush



Pathak, who, in his address, stressed that drug addiction is a serious social challenge that can only be tackled through co-ordinated efforts of educational institutions, families, civil society and government agencies. He urged the youth to stay away from drugs and become ambassadors of the anti-drug movement in their communities.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Uri, Prince Kumar, in his address, called upon students to remain focused on education, discipline and positive life values. He urged the youth to channelize their energy towards nation-building and contribute actively towards realizing the

vision of a drug-free Jammu & Kashmir. Appreciating the initiative of the Indian Red Cross Society and GDC Uri, he emphasized that sustained awareness, community participation and timely intervention are key to effectively combating drug abuse.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal, Government Degree College Uri, Prof. Abdul Majeed Chalkoo, highlighted the crucial role of educational institutions in shaping responsible citizens and creating awareness against substance abuse. He reiterated the college's commitment to supporting initiatives that safeguard the physical, mental and social well-being of students.

Experts from the Indian Red Cross Society, Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, and Jammu & Kashmir Police delivered informative sessions on the medical, psychological, social and legal consequences of drug abuse. They sensitized students about preventive measures, early intervention, rehabilitation, and the importance of making informed and responsible life choices.

Later, a special First Aid Training session was conducted by experts from the Indian Red Cross Society. Participants were imparted practical training on basic life-saving techniques, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), management of bleeding, fracture immobilization and emergency response, equipping them with essential skills to provide immediate assistance during medical emergencies and accidents.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members and officials, who actively interacted with the speakers and experts during the awareness and training sessions. The event concluded with a collective pledge by all participants to stay away from drugs and work together towards building a healthy, safe and drug-free society.

Member Parliament Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana inspects Ward No. 74, reviews development, civic works

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 11: Member Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana Saturday conducted an extensive inspection of Ward No. 74 (Bathindi-Sunjan) and its adjoining localities to review the progress of ongoing development works and assess the status of essential civic infrastructure. He was accompanied by Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav.

During the visit, the Member Parliament, as per an official statement, interacted with locals and patiently listened to their grievances and suggestions. The residents highlighted various civic issues, including damaged roads, inadequate drainage, desilting and cleaning of drains, construction of new drains at vulnerable locations, sanitation, beautification of public spaces, drinking water supply and other essential civic amenities. He conducted on-the-spot inspections of the affected locations and issued necessary directions to the concerned officers for the prompt execution of the required works.

Special emphasis was laid on strengthening the drainage network to ensure efficient stormwater disposal and prevent waterlogging during the ongoing monsoon season. The Member Parliament reviewed the progress of drain-cleaning operations, identified critical



locations requiring additional drainage infrastructure and directed the concerned officials to prepare and implement comprehensive measures for improving civic facilities across the area.

Addressing the residents, the Member Parliament reiterated his commitment to the holistic development of Bathindi-Sunjan and adjoining areas. He stated that all developmental works falling within the jurisdiction of the Jammu Municipal Corporation would be expedited in close coordination with the concerned departments. He assured the public that every genuine issue would receive due attention and that sustained efforts would be made to provide improved civic amenities and robust public infrastructure.

The Commissioner JMC reaffirmed the Corporation's

resolve to deliver efficient, transparent and citizen-centric civic services. He assured the residents that all genuine grievances would be addressed in a time-bound manner and directed the concerned officers to regularly monitor the ongoing works, maintain quality standards and ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines.

The Commissioner appealed to the residents to voluntarily remove all encroachments over drains and nallahs, stating that such obstructions impede the free flow of stormwater and significantly increase the risk of waterlogging and flood-like situations during the monsoon season. He urged the public to extend full cooperation to the Corporation in keeping drainage channels free from encroachments to ensure smooth and efficient water discharge.

District admin Kishtwar disburses funds under PM-RAHAT Scheme

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, JULY 11: The district administration Kishtwar under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma successfully disbursed the treatment funds received through MoRTH to the eligible beneficiaries through PFMS, thereby effectively implementing the Prime Minister's Road Accident Victims' Hospitalisation and Assured Treatment (PM-RAHAT) Scheme.

The district administration, as per an official statement has ensured the effective rollout of the PM-RAHAT Scheme, which provides cashless treatment to eligible road accident victims during the critical golden-hour period, thereby enhancing the chances of survival through timely medical intervention.

As part of the implementation, the Office of the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar

has facilitated the disbursement of 4,200 (Rupees Four Thousand Two Hundred only) to the concerned empanelled hospital for the treatment of an eligible beneficiary under the scheme, marking a landmark in the operationalisation of the initiative in the district of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Since the launch of the scheme in the district, 36 cases have been registered on the PM-RAHAT portal, of which 23 cases have been approved after police verification, while 13 cases were rejected due to ineligibility. Notably, there are currently no pending or pre-approved cases, reflecting prompt verification and efficient inter-departmental coordination.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Motor Vehicle Department Kishtwar under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner conducted

ADDC Baramulla concludes 2-day tour of Gulmarg Sub-Division, reviews developmental works

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JULY 11: The two-day extensive tour of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Pranjal J. Hazarika, across Gulmarg Sub-Division concluded Saturday with a comprehensive review of developmental works, implementation of government schemes and progress of key infrastructure projects in the area.

During the tour, the ADDC was accompanied by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Gulmarg, Jaliel Ahmed Mir, along with the Tehsildar Tangmarg, Block Development Officer (BDO), Executive Officers of the Municipal Committees, officers from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries and Tourism departments, besides other concerned officials.

As part of the tour, the ADDC, as per an official statement,



inspected the Apiculture Unit and Trout Farm established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at Tangmarg. He reviewed the functioning of these units, assessed the infrastructure created under the programme and interacted with the concerned officers regarding production, beneficiary outreach and future expansion plans.

Emphasizing the effective implementation of HADP, the ADDC directed officers to

maximize the benefits of the programme for local farmers, beekeepers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders by ensuring proper execution and greater public outreach.

The ADDC also visited the Ziarat of Baba Reshi, Drung Temple Ruins (Pandava Temple), St. Mary's Church and Maharani Temple at Gulmarg, where he reviewed ongoing efforts for the preservation, maintenance and promotion of these important heritage sites.

DC Doda assesses restoration works in flood affected areas of Thathri

KT News Desk

DODA, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Krishan Lal Saturday visited the flood-affected areas of sub division Thathri to assess the ongoing restoration works following the recent heavy rains and flash floods.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, accompanied by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Thathri and the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Thathri, inspected the affected locations, interacted with locals, reviewed the progress of restoration works and directed the concerned officers to expedite the process so that normalcy is restored at the earliest.

The DC instructed all concerned departments to remain on high alert and ensure the prompt restoration of essential services. He directed the officers to intensify relief

and rehabilitation measures, clear blocked roads on priority, restore power and drinking water supply and provide all necessary assistance to the affected people without delay.

Emphasising the need for coordinated action, the Deputy Commissioner instructed field officers to maintain close surveillance of vulnerable areas, monitor the situation round the clock and ensure that public grievances are addressed promptly. He further directed the departments to work in close coordination so that all essential services are restored in the shortest possible time.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the affected residents that every possible effort is being made to restore normalcy at the earliest. He stated that the district administration is closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide all necessary support and assistance to the affected population until complete normalcy restored.

District admin Rajouri launches PMFBY awareness, enrolment campaign

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, chaired a detailed review meeting with senior district officers and representatives of the concerned departments to review preparations for the district-wide awareness and enrolment campaign under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

During the meeting, as per an official statement, a comprehensive district strategy covering inter-departmental convergence, farmer mobilisation, publicity, camp management, enrolment assistance, claim-procedure awareness and monitoring was discussed and finalised.

Under the campaign, 140 awareness, enrolment and claim-procedure camps are scheduled to be organised across different areas of the district from July 11 to July 30, 2026. The camps will serve as farmer-service points where eligible cultivators will be provided information and assistance regarding enrolment, required documentation, correction of application-related deficiencies, insurance coverage, claim procedures and grievance redressal.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure the presence of their nominated officers and officials at the assigned camps. The Agriculture Department, Revenue authorities, Rural Development and Panchayati



Raj institutions, banks, Common Service Centres and the implementing insurance company have been asked to function as a coordinated field team.

Special emphasis has been laid on reaching non-loanee farmers, small and marginal cultivators, women farmers, eligible tenant and sharecroppers and farmers residing in remote, hilly and border areas.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed that each camp must clearly explain the procedure for reporting crop loss. Farmers will be advised to report losses arising from notified localized

calamities or post-harvest risks within 72 hours through the prescribed channels and to safely retain their application acknowledgement and grievance or claim reference number.

A coordinated publicity campaign will be undertaken through newspapers, official social media platforms, WhatsApp groups, Panchayat-level networks, public announcements and locally appropriate communication channels. Publicity material will clearly indicate the date, time, exact venue, area covered and contact details for every camp.

Messages, posters and audio material will also be disseminated in Hindi and Urdu and wherever required in Gojri, Pahari and Dogri to ensure effective outreach in different parts of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that the campaign should not be treated merely as a series of awareness meetings. Each camp must result in measurable service delivery, including assistance to farmers, completion or correction of applications, resolution of documentation issues and proper guidance regarding claims and grievances.

A dedicated coordination mechanism has also been established for daily communication, reporting and immediate resolution of issues related to banks, CSCs, land records, portal connectivity and the insurance company. Senior officers will monitor the camps within their respective jurisdictions, while daily outcome-based reports will be reviewed at the district level.

The district administration appealed to all eligible farmers to attend the camps being organised in their respective areas and avail the assistance being provided under the campaign.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Malikzada Sheraz-ul-Haq; ADC, Ravi Kumar Sihag; ACR Mohd Jahangir Khan; Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO), Rajesh Verma besides other district and sectoral officers.

MY Bharat Initiative

DC Rajouri calls for mission-mode implementation

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Advisory Committee (DAC) to review the implementation of the MY Bharat initiative, with a focus on maximizing youth registration, strengthening departmental participation and enhancing coordination across the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed institution-wise registrations on the MY Bharat portal, covering Government Degree Colleges, schools, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and other educational institutions. A subdivision-wise assessment was also conducted to identify areas requiring intensified registration efforts.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all officers to ensure maximum enrolment of youth on the MY Bharat portal by mobilizing educational institutions, youth clubs and volunteers. He emphasized that greater participation would enable young people to benefit from the platform's opportunities for experiential learning, volunteerism and nation-building.

Highlighting the importance of convergence, the DC instructed officers to integrate

MY Bharat with flagship initiatives such as Mission YUVA, Dharti Aaba Janatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) and the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP). He laid special emphasis on conducting intensive registration drives in the district's 143 border villages to ensure the active participation of youth from remote and border areas.

To streamline implementation, all Additional Deputy Commissioners were directed to prepare and share comprehensive calendars for registration and outreach activities within their respective jurisdictions. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the onboarding status of government departments on the MY Bharat portal and instructed every department to prepare activity calendars and regularly upload programmes, awareness campaigns and volunteer initiatives to the portal.

Special emphasis was laid on the registration of Aapada Mitras to strengthen disaster preparedness and community resilience. The concerned departments were asked to expedite the registration process and encourage wider participation of trained volunteers.

To improve coordination and accountability, the Deputy Commissioner directed every department to nominate

a dedicated Nodal Officer responsible for registrations, activity planning, timely uploading of events and coordination with the district administration.

Reiterating the transformative potential of MY Bharat, the Deputy Commissioner called upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination to make the initiative a vibrant youth movement across Rajouri, ensuring meaningful participation from every educational institution, government department and village.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress under Mission YUVA and directed the concerned officers to expedite the disbursement of benefits to eligible beneficiaries in a time-bound manner. He stressed the need to intensify awareness and outreach through Yuva Doots to motivate unemployed youth towards entrepreneurship, self-employment and government-supported livelihood opportunities.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Malikzada Sheraz Ul-Haq; ADC Ravi Kumar Sihag; ADC Pritam Lal Thapa; ADC Mohd Tanvir; ADC Ramkesh Sharma; ADC Dil Mir; CPO Maqsood Ahmed; SDM Abid Hussain Shah; DDE Mohd Nawaz Choudhary; CMO Dr Manohar Lal Rana; DSWO Abdul Raheem, besides officers from various departments.

CJI flags delay in creation of Arbitration Council of India

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 11: Flagging the delay in the formation of the Arbitration Council of India, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday expressed the hope that a bill in this regard will now come up before Parliament.

Speaking at the Indian Institute of Arbitration and Mediation silver jubilee event, CJI Kant stressed that India is moving towards treating alternative dispute redressal (ADR) not as a lesser substitute for justice but as one of its ordinary pathways.

He said the Arbitration Council of India was created on the statute book by the 2019 amendment to grade institutions and accredit arbitrators.

"Six years later, it has still not been constituted. A further Draft Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, circulated for public consultation in October 2024 on the recommendations of the Viswanathan Committee, remains exactly that, and its new avatar is hopefully now being introduced in Parliament.

"If our ambition is to become a preferred seat, this gap between announcement and implementation is precisely the credibility deficit we cannot legislate our way out of," he said, noting that credibility is not built by judgments alone.

The courts remain indispensable guardians of rights but with more than five crore cases pending, the backlog has to be met partly outside the courtroom, the CJI said.

He said the single underlying purpose of arbitration, mediation and digital dispute resolution is to build an architecture of trust that allows disputing parties to believe that a fair, timely and enforceable resolution is available to them outside the traditional courtroom.

The CJI was speaking on the theme: "Reimagining ADR: Innovation, Technology and the Future of Justice".

"Courts undoubtedly remain indispensable guardians of rights that cannot be bargained away. But not every dispute needs a judicial verdict. Many need only to be properly understood and harmonised.

"It is, therefore, encouraging that India is moving, however unevenly, towards treating ADR not as a lesser substitute for justice but as one of its ordinary pathways and a reliable pillar.

"The scale of the problem is worth stating plainly. Indian courts currently carry more than five crore cases, at least half of which are the actual arrears, mostly pending in our district and trial courts.

"Government departments and public bodies are, by most estimates, party to roughly

half of that docket. A fifth of all pending cases concern land and property disputes, that frequently outlive the original litigants," he said.

The CJI said no adjudicatory model, however well-resourced, resolves a backlog of that scale on its own. It has to be met partly outside the courtroom, not as a matter of convenience, but as a matter of arithmetic.

CJI Kant said the modern justice ecosystem now includes arbitration centres, mediation institutions, online dispute resolution platforms, community mediation and hybrid processes.

"None of this competes with courts, but still relieves them of disputes that do not need a judicial dictum for being resolved. This complementary process saves judicial time to be spent only where a reasoned judgment is the last resort," he said.

The CJI said the road ahead for the mediation movement in India depends on three things -- the professionalisation of mediator training and accreditation, corporate India's willingness to draft mediation clauses in their business agreements with the same seriousness as it drafts arbitration clauses; and India's actual ratification of the Singapore Convention on Mediation.

HC committed to strengthening judicial institutions through modern infra: Justice Sanjeev Kumar

KT News Desk

Kathua, Jul 11: Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Sanjeev Kumar on Saturday laid the foundation stone for new Court Complex at Mahanpur, marking another significant milestone towards strengthening of judicial infrastructure in Kathua district.

The foundation stone laying ceremony at Mahanpur was held in presence of Deputy Commissioner, Kathua Rajesh Sharma; Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua Mohita Sharma; judicial officers, officers of the civil administration, members of the Bar and other dignitaries.

Later, the acting Chief Justice inaugurated the newly constructed Court Complex at Basohli in presence of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for District Kathua; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Basholi Pankaj Bagotra; President Bar association Kathua and Hiranagar, judicial officers, members of the Bar and officers of the civil administration.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the unveiling of the commemorative plaque by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, followed by an inspection and visit of the newly constructed Court Complex and its various facilities and amenities.



Thereafter, the formal function commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries on the dais.

Delivering the keynote address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, reiterated the commitment of the High Court towards strengthening the judicial institutions through creation of adequate and modern infrastructure. He observed that, being a son of the soil, he had made earnest efforts to ensure judicial development in his home district by providing the judiciary with the requisite basic infrastructure for efficient functioning and effective justice delivery.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar further observed that these endeavours attained fruition owing to the collective efforts and cooperation extended by the people and civil administration of Basholi and District Kathua. He also

placed on record his appreciation for the invaluable support and cooperation extended by the Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, in facilitating and overseeing the execution of various infrastructural projects undertaken in the district.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Administrative Judge for District Kathua, in his special address, appreciated the vision and commitment of the Acting Chief Justice towards judicial infrastructural development in District Kathua.

He observed that during the last two years the district had witnessed remarkable growth in judicial infrastructure, including the inauguration of Court Complexes at Kathua, Hiranagar and Basholi, laying of the foundation stone for the Court Complex at Mahanpur, besides inauguration of Lawyers' Chambers at Kathua and Judicial Quarters in the district.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal remarked that while the Chief Justice (Acting) had sown the seeds of this infrastructural transformation, he had merely been fortunate to reap the fruits of the initiatives already undertaken by His Lordship for the district.

Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kathua Jatinder Singh Jamwal expressed gratitude to the Chief Justice (Acting) and Administrative Judge for their continued guidance and support in augmenting the judicial infrastructure in Kathua. He observed that the district had witnessed the inauguration of Court Complexes at Kathua, Hiranagar and now Basholi, thereby substantially strengthening the justice delivery system and facilitating greater access to justice for the litigant public.

President, Bar Association Basholi Shub Kumar, also addressed the gathering and expressed gratitude to the High Court for providing modern judicial infrastructure in the region for the benefit of litigants, members of the Bar and the general public.

The vote of thanks was presented by Bhanu Bhasin. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kathua, Urvasi Raina, who acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the occasion.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Further delay

compelled to speak of protesting at Jantar Mantar. "There must be a reason that has forced us to take this course," he remarked.

The Chief Minister said that he had staked his political credibility on pursuing dialogue with the Centre instead of confrontation, despite knowing that such an approach could carry political costs. He added that while many in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Kashmir, expect confrontation with New Delhi, he deliberately chose to give the Union Government an opportunity to honour its commitments.

Omar reminded the gathering that the Union Government had assured the Supreme Court that the restoration of statehood would take place in three stages: delimitation, Assembly elections and finally the restoration of full statehood.

"The National Conference was fully aware that the delimitation exercise would favour a particular political party and its allies. Nevertheless, the party accepted the process," he said.

Referring to the addition of seven Assembly seats, six of which were won by the BJP and only one by the National Conference, he alleged that the exercise was designed to manipulate democracy. However, he said, the people of Jammu and Kashmir defeated those designs through their verdict.

The CM expressed anguish over the continued delay in restoration of statehood to J&K. "If that was always the intention, why was it not stated before the Supreme Court? The commitment made before the Court was that statehood would be restored after the elections," he said.

He added, "The people had given the National Conference a clear mandate while the BJP and all its allies had failed to secure public support. The people's democratic verdict was now being turned into a punishment by denying the elected government its rightful powers."

Questioning the functioning of the present administrative system, Omar Abdullah said, "If all decisions were to continue being taken by LG secretariat, if officers were not expected to implement the elected government's decisions, and if matters such as dismissals of employees, demolition drives and other key decisions were to remain outside the government's control, then the very purpose of holding elections stood defeated."

He maintained that despite these severe limitations, his government continued to work tirelessly and deliver maximum governance within the restricted powers available to it. However, he added, the message now being conveyed was that nothing would be achieved without public protest.

Drawing a comparison with Ladakh, Abdullah asked why the Union Government was willing to engage in dialogue with Ladakh on constitutional safeguards under Article 371 and issues relating to administrative authority, including the appointment of the Chief Secretary and budgetary powers, while refusing similar engagement with Jammu and Kashmir. "We are only asking for the restoration of our constitutional status as a State," he said.

Omar said he had raised the issue of statehood with the Prime Minister on every occasion, including meetings in Sonamarg and Kathua, but each time he was told that it would happen at the "appropriate time". He questioned when that appropriate time would arrive, adding that if the Centre's position was that statehood would only be restored after the BJP formed the government in Jammu and Kashmir, then it should state so openly instead of keeping the people under false expectations.

The Chief Minister observed that the promise of restoring statehood had already been used during the Parliamentary and Assembly elections, and was now being linked to Panchayat and Urban Local Body elections. While reiterating that such elections should certainly be held, he stressed that they must take place at an appropriate time, and not solely at the Centre's discretion.

He warned against testing the patience, dignity and restraint of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, asking whether there were attempts to once again push the region towards instability. "Have no lessons been learnt from the past? Do some people want to set Jammu and Kashmir on fire once again?" he asked.

The Chief Minister said the National Conference leadership had inherited the values taught by Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Madar-e-Meherban Begum Akbar Jehan and Dr. Farooq Abdullah, adding that every individual would ultimately be answerable before Almighty Allah for their actions. He warned the BJP against believing that it could enter Jammu and Kashmir through political manipulation.

Referring to the proposed protest programme on July 20, Omar Abdullah said the movement was not the struggle of one family or one political party, but of the entire people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said invitations had therefore been extended to all political parties currently represented in the Assembly, as well as those that had previously been represented, to participate in the campaign.

"Statehood does not belong to the National Conference alone; it belongs to every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, urging all political leaders to set aside electoral differences and unite for the restoration of the region's constitutional status.

He pointed to Ladakh as an example, where political parties and communities—including Buddhists and Muslims, the National Conference, Congress, BJP and others—had come together on issues of common concern. He said it would be a grave injustice to the people if any political party in Jammu and Kashmir stayed away from the movement out of fear, pressure or political expediency.

Concluding his address, Omar announced that peaceful demonstrations would be held at all district headquarters on 20 July, with the sole demand of restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. He described the protest as the "beginning of a broader democratic movement". "Its future course would depend on whether the Union Government was genuinely prepared to engage in meaningful dialogue on the restoration of statehood," he said.

BJP attempting

You will not find a single person on this podium who will sell his conscience even for Rs 100 crore," he added.

Slams Centre over delay in restoration of statehood

Questioning the delay in restoring statehood, Omar said he had consciously chosen dialogue over confrontation after assuming office, despite knowing that many expected a more aggressive political approach.

"I repeatedly said we wanted to secure our rights through dialogue, not conflict. I consciously gave the Centre time to fulfil its promises. But today we are compelled to speak of protest because something has clearly changed," he said.

The CM said that while many expected him to confront New Delhi immediately after the elections, he instead gave the Centre an opportunity to honour its commitments.

Omar said the Union Government itself had outlined a three-stage roadmap comprising delimitation, Assembly elections, and restoration of statehood.

"Delimitation has been completed, elections have been conducted, and a popular government has assumed office, yet the final promise remains unfulfilled. What is our fault now? Why is the promise of restoring statehood still pending?" he asked.

"Our demand is simple: restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir. Our patience remains, but it should never be mistaken for surrender," Omar said.

Omar said the prevailing situation had conveyed

a message that nothing could be achieved without protest.

"Today, we are being told, knowingly or unknowingly, that nothing can be achieved without protest. We compare our situation with Ladakh and are forced to ask questions," he said.

He pointed out that while the Centre was willing to discuss constitutional safeguards for Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir continued to await restoration of statehood.

"We are told there should be one system in one country, yet Ladakh is being offered constitutional safeguards while Jammu and Kashmir is denied even statehood," he said.

The Chief Minister said he had consistently raised the issue of statehood with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and every senior Union minister he met.

He said he had also raised the issue during the Prime Minister's visit to Sonamarg and at subsequent meetings but was repeatedly told that statehood would be restored at an "appropriate time."

"There has not been a single meeting with the Prime Minister, Amit Shah, or any senior Union minister where I have not raised the issue of statehood. Every time we are told it will happen at an appropriate time. I ask them—what exactly is that appropriate time?" he said.

Omar challenged the BJP to publicly declare that statehood would only be restored after it forms the government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to criticism over the announcement of the July 20 protest, Omar said the programme did not belong solely to the National Conference but to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said restoration of statehood was a collective demand and not a partisan issue.

Paying tributes to his grandmother, Begum Akbar Jehan Abdullah, Omar said she remained steadfast through some of the most difficult phases in Jammu and Kashmir's political history and taught the National Conference that patience should never be mistaken for weakness. (KNO)

Produce evidence

agencies. If he does not, he must tender an unconditional and unqualified public apology. Otherwise, the BJP will be constrained to initiate appropriate criminal and legal proceedings against him," Pathania said.

He questioned why neither the alleged recipient nor the Chief Minister approached the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), or any other investigating agency if an attempt to bribe an elected representative had indeed taken place.

"Who allegedly made the offer? Which BJP office-bearer was involved? Which NC legislator was approached? When and where did the alleged incident occur? If the allegation is true, why was no FIR registered?" he asked.

Pathania said allegations of attempts to purchase elected representatives strike at the very foundation of parliamentary democracy and such things cannot be reduced to political rhetoric or sensationalism without credible evidence.

He alleged that instead of addressing governance-related concerns and criticism from within the ruling party over the functioning of the government, the Chief Minister had chosen "diversionary politics" by levelling unsubstantiated allegations against the BJP.

Pathania asserted that the BJP remains committed to constitutional values and democratic accountability and would vigorously defend its reputation against what he described as "false and malicious allegations." (KNO)

Weather fails

the 10th batch of pilgrims undertaking the Yatra left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu during the early hours of Saturday under elaborate security arrangements.

Officials said 9,182 pilgrims departed for the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam in a

convoy of 333 vehicles.

According to official figures, the Baltal-bound convoy, carrying 3,305 pilgrims, left Jammu at 2:43 a.m., while the Pahalgam-bound convoy, comprising 5,877 pilgrims, departed at 3:31 a.m.

The batch included 6,455 men, 2,389 women, 31 children, 256 sadhus, 46 sadhvis, and five transgender pilgrims. No foreign pilgrim was part of the 10th batch.

Officials said the pilgrims were travelling in 196 buses, 43 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 91 light motor vehicles (LMVs), and three two-wheelers.

Authorities said the weather situation was being closely monitored, and all necessary measures had been put in place to ensure the safety, security, and convenience of the pilgrims throughout the ongoing pilgrimage. (KNO)

IIS Officer Trainees

He exhorted them to work with the utmost sensitivity, integrity, and dedication, while serving in different departments.

The Lieutenant Governor also discussed the evolving landscape of public communication and the vital need for credible and timely information dissemination in the digital era.

The Officer Trainees shared the experiences from their visit to Jammu Kashmir, as a part of the Bharat Darshan tour programme.

NC doesn't need

Jantar Mantar protest, he ruled out his participation, saying his focus would remain on issues concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"They are going to protest for statehood, a responsibility for which people have not given them a mandate. I will go among the people of Jammu and Kashmir and speak about Article 370. I will work on the people's agenda," Ruhullah said.

He alleged that shifting the political discourse from Article 370 to statehood amounts to advancing the BJP's narrative.

"The National Conference had campaigned against the abrogation of Article 370 during the elections. We all campaigned on that issue. Whoever walks away from that and speaks only about statehood is helping normalise the status quo and advancing the BJP's propaganda," he said. (KNO)

J&K's high-altitude

cover exposes darker ground that absorbs more solar radiation. Rising atmospheric moisture and increased longwave radiation were identified as key contributors to the rapid increase in nighttime temperatures.

The authors cautioned that continued warming in Jammu and Kashmir's mountain regions could have serious implications for glaciers, snow cover, river flows, biodiversity and water security, affecting millions of people dependent on Himalayan water resources.

While the study confirms significant warming trends across the region, the researchers noted that observations above 3,000 metres remain limited and called for a denser network of high-altitude weather stations to improve future climate assessments.

The findings add to growing evidence that the Western Himalaya is becoming increasingly vulnerable to climate change, underlining the need for stronger adaptation strategies to safeguard the region's fragile mountain ecosystems and water resources. (KNO)

Rain, thundershowers

across Jammu and Kashmir, with isolated heavy rain and brief intense showers likely over parts of the Chenab Valley and the Pir Panjal range of Jammu division.

WEATHER TO REMAIN DRY FROM JULY 13 ONWARDS

From July 13 to 17, the weather is expected to remain generally hot and humid, although scattered

places may witness brief spells of rain and thundershowers, with isolated intense showers mainly over Jammu division.

Fresh spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at many places across the Union Territory between July 18 and 20, the weather office said.

The Met Centre has also cautioned that heavy rainfall and brief intense showers during July 11 and 12, particularly during afternoon, evening and early morning hours, may lead to flash floods, mudslides and landslides at vulnerable locations in the Chenab Valley and the Pir Panjal range.

It reiterated its advisory asking people to avoid venturing near streams, nallahs and landslide-prone areas. (KNO)

Public health

measures and strict enforcement are equally important," the report states. It suggests measures like "installation of speed cameras, enhanced surveillance, strict penalties for traffic violations, graduated licensing systems, compulsory road safety education in schools, enforcement of helmet and seat belt laws, child restraint regulations, vehicle fitness certification, emergency trauma care standards, and integrated road crash data systems".

The framework also highlights "several measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)" for assessing progress over the next five years. These include "a substantial reduction in road traffic deaths, increased compliance with helmet and seat belt usage, greater use of child restraint systems, reduction in accident-prone black spots, improved ambulance response times—targeting less than 15 minutes in urban areas and under 30 minutes on highways—and comprehensive trauma registry reporting across healthcare facilities".

Recognising Jammu and Kashmir's unique geographical challenges, the document proposes "region-specific interventions". On National Highway-44 and other highways, it recommends "strict control of over-speeding, fatigue management for long-distance drivers, early warning systems for fog, snow, and black ice, installation of rumble strips and reflective signage, regular highway patrols, intelligent transport systems, and trauma stabilisation units every 50 to 75 kilometres."

For the mountainous roads, the framework advocates "stronger guard rails, landslide and rock-fall protection measures, avalanche monitoring systems, escape lanes on steep descents, convoy regulation during snowfall, slope stabilisation, and improved reflective signage and curve mirrors".

In urban centres like Srinagar and Jammu, it recommends "speed-calming measures near schools and hospitals, protected pedestrian crossings, dedicated cycling infrastructure where feasible, intelligent traffic signal systems, better parking management, dedicated public transport lanes, and CCTV-based traffic enforcement".

The report identifies a "wide range of stakeholders responsible for implementing these measures", including "the Health and Medical Education Department, Traffic Police, Transport Department, Public Works Department, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Health Mission, Municipal Corporations, medical colleges, district hospitals, educational institutions, NGOs, media organisations, and the general public".

It concludes that "road crashes are preventable through coordinated action and sustained public awareness". The report urges every road user to "follow traffic rules, avoid speeding, never drink and drive, refrain from mobile phone use while driving, wear helmets and seat belts, respect pedestrians, and contribute towards building a safer road environment across Jammu and Kashmir."

"Follow traffic rules—it's not just the law, it's a responsibility towards protecting human life," the framework states, reiterating that "safe roads, safe speeds, safe vehicles, safe road users, and safe post-crash care together can save thousands of lives" (KNO)

Despite global challenges, India's pace of development 'unprecedented': PM Modi

PTI

Auckland, Jul 11: India's pace of development is "unprecedented" despite global challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, emphasising that the country is giving the world new models of development.

Speaking at an Indian community event titled 'Kia Ora Modi' in Auckland, also attended by his Kiwi counterpart Christopher Luxon, Modi said that the relationship between India and New Zealand is built on cherished memories, enduring friendship, shared values and a mutual commitment.

"Amidst global challenges, the speed at which India is developing is unprecedented. Today, India is the world's fastest-growing major economy," Modi said, amid cheers and applause from the audience.

Prime Minister Modi said India is giving the world new models of development.

"Today in India, billions of digital transactions are happening every month through UPI. India is touching new heights in drone technology and the space economy," he said, amid cheers and chants of 'Modi Modi'.

Stating that the future of India and New Zealand is intertwined, Modi said the bilateral trade agreement will accelerate India's journey towards a developed nation.

Modi said that the space sector itself demonstrates the immense



potential of the economic partnership between India and New Zealand.

"The same spirit is reflected in our trade agreement. This agreement will accelerate our journey towards a developed India. It will create new opportunities for businesses in both India and New Zealand," he told the more than 10,000-strong gathering of the Indian diaspora.

"This is the picture of the new India, showing how India is maintaining a balance in both ecology and economy, just like New Zealand," he added.

Modi, who arrived in Auckland on Friday on the final leg of his three-nation tour, said that there is another important similarity between the two nations.

"It is our shared commitment

to celebrating and preserving our indigenous cultures," he added.

Modi, the first Indian prime minister to visit New Zealand in 40 years, showed a muffler to the crowd and said he received it as a gift along with a cap and glove when he visited New Zealand around 25-30 years ago, before entering public life.

He said that the relationship between India and New Zealand is built on cherished memories, enduring friendship, shared values and a mutual commitment.

"A beautiful expression from New Zealand's culture captures the essence of this relationship -- Waka. For centuries, this word has symbolised bringing people together. A Waka is not merely a boat. It is a symbol of a shared journey. Today, the India-New Zealand Waka is

ready to embark on a new voyage together," he said.

"A vast ocean of opportunities lies before India and New Zealand," he said.

Modi thanked his Kiwi counterpart Luxon, government officials and the members of the Labour Party, saying that their presence reflects the strong bipartisan support for the India-New Zealand relationship.

"It is also a testament to the remarkable achievements of the Kiwi-Indian community," he said.

Modi said the local people have embraced the Indian community in New Zealand as he mentioned a few achievers like Air New Zealand CEO Nikhil Ravi Shankar, Governor-General Anand Satyananda and cricketer Rachin Ravindra.

"New Zealand is the place where Indian cities have been respected even on the streets," he added.

"In every era, India has transformed itself... and the reason is that India is always willing to learn from others. For us, it is not the size of a country's population that matters, but its commitment to the welfare of its people, and therefore, we have learnt a lot from New Zealand and are still learning from it," he said.

"Today, we see that women are contributing on a massive scale in New Zealand's society. India, too, is today opening new doors of opportunity for women with the mantra of women-led development," he said.

FSSAI issues notices to Swiggy Instamart

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 11: Food regulator FSSAI on Saturday said it has issued 9 notices to Swiggy Instamart following several consumer complaints, including of alleged supply of rotten and expired food products by the platform.

Instamart is the quick-commerce platform of Swiggy.

In a social media post on X, Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said it has "issued 9 notices to Swiggy Instamart following multiple consumer complaints alleging violations under the FSS Act 2006."

Meanwhile, an Instamart spokesperson said: "We are reviewing the flagged listings by FSSAI and are in touch with the authorities to resolve the same."

Consumer complaints against the platform alleged the supply of expired, spoiled, rotten, contaminated and otherwise unsafe food products through Swiggy Instamart, the regulator said.

The regulator has directed the platform to submit a detailed explanation and compliance report failing which appropriate legal action will be initiated.

Elaborating on the consumer complaints, FSSAI said, "An infant food formulation was reportedly found in a highly deteriorated and unsafe condition, showing signs of contamination and improper storage and handling."

Even after return of the same product, it was allegedly re-supplied. Complaints also alleged delivery of contaminated eggs and milk, along



with damaged packaged food items through Swiggy Instamart.

FSSAI also observed incorrect, invalid or non-existent FSSAI licence number. Food business entities were allegedly being listed under names different from those reflected against their FSSAI Registration.

"Some complaints alleged that no satisfactory response, grievance redressal or corrective action was taken despite the complaints being forwarded or escalated, while one complaint stated that only a refund was offered without addressing the reported food safety concerns," FSSAI said.

The regulator said these notices raised concerns regarding seller onboarding, compliance verification, traceability, food quality monitoring, consumer grievance redressal, supervision of food business activities and the adequacy of food safety compliance systems.

Of late, the regulator has been posting on social media platforms regarding its actions taken on food business operators (FBOs).

At least 15 Indian tourists dead after boat capsizes in Vietnam

Mission sets up

helplines

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 11: Fifteen Indian tourists were killed in a boat capsize incident near Vietnam's Phu Quoc Island on Saturday, according to a local media report.

According to Vietnamese news portal VN Express International, the speedboat was carrying 32 Indian tourists and four crew members from Hon May Rut to An Thoi Port when it capsized about 400 metres off Hon May Rut Ngaoi, throwing everyone on board into the sea.

Citing initial information from authorities in the Phu Quoc Special Economic Zone, the news portal said nearby tourist boats rushed to assist before border guards, the navy, the coast guard and other forces joined the search-and-rescue operation.

A total of 15 people were killed, it said.

Three people from Andhra Pradesh were killed, and two others from the state were hospitalised in Vietnam. Ten tourists from Tamil Nadu have died, according to an official.

"Preliminary information indicates that two persons from Machilipatnam are among the deceased. We are coordinating with the Indian Embassy and the Vietnamese authorities, and further details will be shared after official confirmation," Andhra Pradesh sources told PTI.

The tour was organised by



Vietnam-based Threeland Travel through local coordinating vendor Sai Vietnam, while the Indian tourist group was reportedly associated with a mobile company.

Preliminary reports indicated that Jalalakshmi and Jayashree, both from Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh, were among the deceased. Andra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu said 33 people from Andhra Pradesh visited Vietnam, of whom 19 were on the boat.

Verification of the identities of other affected Indian nationals was underway, the sources said.

Earlier, the Indian Embassy in Hanoi said that it set up control rooms as search and rescue operations would continue.

But the Indian mission is yet to share details about the deaths.

"In a tragic incident, a boat carrying several Indian tourists has capsized near Phu Quoc Island in Vietnam," the embassy said in a post on X. It said control rooms have been established at the Consulate

General of India in Ho Chi Minh City and at the Embassy in Hanoi to provide information and assistance.

The first control room can be reached at: +84 36 281 7930, +84 91 552 37 14 and +84 33 452 0414. The other one in Hanoi can be reached at: +84 91 308 9165. They are available for any assistance and queries, the Indian mission said.

They are available for any assistance and queries, the Indian mission said.

PM Modi condoled the loss of lives in the tragic incident on X (formerly Twitter) and said, "Our Embassy and Consulate are providing all possible assistance. Our officials are also in close contact with the Vietnamese authorities."

Expressing grief over the incident, leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi urged the Indian government to coordinate closely with the Vietnamese authorities to support the ongoing rescue efforts and ensure all possible assistance reaches the affected families.

Health ministry launches monthly webinar to discuss good initiatives by states

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 11: The Union Health Ministry on Saturday launched a monthly webinar series under the National Health Mission (NHM) so that innovative public health practices across states and Union territories can be replicated where needed.

The webinar, launched on the occasion of World Population Day, has been envisaged as a year-round knowledge-sharing platform where states and UTs will present successful innovations, exchange implementation experiences and promote the adoption of scalable healthcare models across the country.

Chairing the inaugural session, Additional Secretary in the Union Health Ministry and Mission Director (NHM) Aradhana Patnaik said innovation is central to building responsive and resilient public health systems.

She described the webinar series as an institutional mechanism to identify, document and disseminate innovative

practices emerging from states and UTs so that solutions developed in one region can be replicated elsewhere. Patnaik urged states and UTs to showcase innovations that go beyond existing programme frameworks and address emerging public health challenges through locally developed solutions. She also appreciated the efforts of state and district teams whose work often remains undocumented despite their contribution to programme implementation.

Patnaik said the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) will provide technical support for documenting and showcasing such innovations, helping expand the scope and impact of the National Summit on Good and Replicable Innovative Practices.

The inaugural webinar focused on "Anaemia, Child and Adolescent Health" and featured presentations by Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh on interventions that have shown measurable impact in addressing local health challenges, a ministry statement said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (CIVIL WORKS)

NIT No: 28/R&B of 2026-27

Dated:-11-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Up-gradation of Awlawta to Chanmohalla Masjid Sharief road with links Awlawta	9.87	600/-	19740/-	30 days	District Capex 2026-27	D/C	District Development Commissioner Baramulla	1 st
2	Up-gradation of Mughama Chuker link road via Narpora	10.07	600/-	20140/-	30 days	District Capex 2026-27	D/C/B	District Development Commissioner Baramulla	1 st
3	Up-gradation of Takiya Batpora to Bunbani Link road.	9.74	600/-	19480/-	30 days	District Capex 2026-27	D/C	District Development Commissioner Baramulla	1 st
4	Up-gradation of Tangkhalh road from Kanilu to Sonium phase 2nd.	2.40	200/-	4800/-	20 days	District Capex 2026-27	DEE	District Development Commissioner Baramulla	1 st
5	Construction of Culvert at Utikoo Barzulla road.	7.82	300/-	15640/-	30 days	District Capex 2026-27	D/C	District Development Commissioner Baramulla	1 st

Position Of AAA:

Accorded

Position of T.S:

Accorded

Position of funds:

Assured

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 details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-07-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11-07-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	11-07-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	20-07-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21-07-2026 11:00 AM

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority).

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

Inter State Migrant workmen's (Regulation of employment & Conditions of service)Act 1979.

The Building and other Construction works (Regulation of employment and Condition of service) Act 1996 and the Census Act of 1996.

Factories Act 1948.

Compliance with Labour Regulation Laws of J&K State.

4. Specification/Quality Control:-All items of works shall conform to specifications as per IRC/ MORTH/ NBO/ CPWD/ SSRI Any other prescribed specifications.

32. Insurance:- Insurance cover to Labour/ Machinery Work I Plant material I Equipment by the contractor shall be mandatory.

Laws Governing the Contract:-The contract shall be governed by Law of the land.

Court's Jurisdiction:-In case of a disputes/differences between contractor and Department the jurisdiction shall be J&K.

Time Extension:-

The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT and the time of completion will also increase I decrease in proportion with additional I deleted quantum of work depending upon the actual quantum of work.

ii. Request for extension of time shall be made by the contractor in writing not later than fifteen days of happening of the event causing delay. The contractor shall also indicate in such a request the period for which extension is desired.

iii. Abnormal /bad weather or Serious loss or damage by fire or Civil commotion, strike or lockout (other than among the labour engaged by the contractor) affecting any or the trades employed on the work, or Non availability of departmental stores. Any other cause which in the absolute discretion of the accepting authority is beyond the contractor's desire.

iv. On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the Department.

v. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

37. The tender I bid is liable rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

38. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

39. Any Typographical error in units or items shall be corrected and paid as per SSR of 2022 or as per Technical sanction.

40. As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily dis-close the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/2150-60
Dated: 11 -07-2026

Sd/-
Technical Officer

DIPK-3161/26
DATED: 11-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Tangmarg.

Iran's supreme leader pledges revenge for slain father & predecessor



REUTERS

Tehran, Jul 11: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei threatened vengeance for the death of his predecessor and father on Saturday, but added that it would depend not only on Iran but also on "free people around the world."

In the supreme leader's first public message since funeral ceremonies for his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, began a week ago, the statement read on state television said that vengeance was "the demand of the nation" and "must certainly" take place. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in a US-Israeli airstrike on Feb. 28, at the start of the war. "We pledge to avenge the blood of the martyred

leader and all the martyrs of these two wars from the criminal and disgraced killers," the statement said. Mojtaba Khamenei, who senior sources have said suffered facial disfigurement and other injuries in the strike, has not been seen by Iranians since he was appointed supreme leader on March 8.

"Whether we are there or not, this will be accomplished, and soon every free person around the world will fulfill a part of this divine mission," the statement said.

An exchange of attacks between US and Iranian forces this week has raised doubts over a truce agreed between Washington and Tehran aimed at ending the four-month war. Iran says the deal will ultimately deliver major economic benefits.

Iran FM in Oman for talks on Strait of Hormuz

REUTERS

Washington/Cairo, Jul 11: Iran's foreign minister arrived in Oman on Saturday to discuss arrangements for the safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian state media said, with Washington seeking a public pledge of free, secure transit.

US President Donald Trump said on Friday the US and Iran had agreed to continue talks despite an escalation of hostilities this week, while also declaring an end to the ceasefire reached between the two sides. No attacks were reported on Friday or early Saturday, however.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency said on Saturday that Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had arrived in Oman. The country is helping to mediate an end to a war that has spread insecurity in the Gulf and raised prices around the world since



the US and Israel launched airstrikes on Iran on February 28.

CBS News and its UK partner the BBC both reported that US Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner were expected to lead

negotiations on Saturday with Araghchi.

Reuters was not immediately able to confirm the reports, which did not say whether they would be in Oman or attend virtually. Iran's Fars news agency later cited a source saying no negotiations would take place until the US retreated from its positions.

PM Modi tours New Zealand sports innovation showcase



PTI

Auckland, Jul 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday toured an exhibition showcasing New Zealand's innovative sports equipment and technologies, demonstrated by some of the country's leading athletes and sporting icons.

Modi is in New Zealand on the final leg of his three-nation visit. This is the first visit to New Zealand by an Indian prime minister in 40 years. He was joined by his Kiwi counterpart Christopher Luxon at the sports equipment showcase.

"Sports have always been a strong bridge between India and New Zealand. This year, we are also marking a century of vibrant sporting ties," Modi said in a post on X. "In Auckland, PM Luxon and I attended a Sporting Showcase, where we saw a range of cutting-edge sporting innovations. It was wonderful to see how technology and creativity are shaping the future of sports while bringing our two nations even closer," he added. The two leaders did a walk-through of the equipment on display at the

venue and interacted with decorated athletes from New Zealand and other stakeholders associated with high-performance sports, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

"The leaders witnessed cutting-edge sports equipment and technologies, demonstrated by some of New Zealand's leading athletes and sporting icons," the ministry said in a post on X.

At the showcase, Modi recalled 100 years of sports engagement between India and New Zealand and noted that a Sports Joint Action Plan concluded during the visit would help the two countries expand ties beyond cricket.

The visit was in keeping with the desire of both sides to expand sports cooperation, especially as India gears up to host the Commonwealth Games 2030, the MEA said.

Earlier in the day, Modi and Luxon held talks, following which India and New Zealand elevated their ties to a strategic partnership and set a five-year target to double their annual bilateral trade in goods and services to Rs 35,000 crore.

Heatwave: Eiffel Tower to close early



AFP

Paris, Jul 11: The operator of the Eiffel Tower said the latticed-steel Paris monument would "exceptionally close" early over the weekend at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT), as France was gripped by a third heatwave since May.

"Due to the high temperatures forecast, the Eiffel Tower will be adjusting its operations" on Saturday and Sunday, the operator's website said, as the French capital was under the weather service's highest alert level.

North Korea condemns NATO summit

■ Says denuclearization should start with US allies

REUTERS

Seoul, Jul 11: North Korea condemned the United States and its allies on Saturday for what it called strengthening military blocs and accelerating arms buildups after a NATO summit this week.

Pyongyang accused NATO leaders of portraying North Korea's exercise of its legitimate sovereign rights as a threat, the foreign ministry said in a statement carried on state media KCNA.

The alliance demonstrated a stronger commitment to bloc-to-bloc confrontation through increased arms spending and closer military cooperation with allies in the Asia-Pacific region, the ministry said.

At the NATO summit in Türkiye on Tuesday, officials announced more than \$50 billion in military procurement and industrial agreements as European allies face continued pressure from US President Donald Trump



to shoulder a greater share of the alliance's defense burden.

President Lee Jae Myung of Pyongyang's rival South Korea said on the sidelines of the summit that he hoped Seoul would expand cooperation with NATO allies in research and development, including in cutting-edge technologies, and in production of

weapons systems.

North Korea said the summit showed that NATO was a body geared toward war and confrontation, pursuing what Pyongyang described as exclusive geopolitical interests at the expense of peace and security in Europe and the Asia-Pacific.

Pyongyang, which says a push by the West for it to abandon nuclear weapons has been irreversibly terminated, believes instead that denuclearization efforts should focus first on what it described as attempts by South Korea and Japan to pursue their own nuclear weapons under US protection, as well as the nuclear ambitions of NATO members participating in the alliance's nuclear-sharing arrangements, the ministry said.

It said North Korea would safeguard its sovereignty and security interests, as well as regional peace, through the responsible exercise of its sovereign rights.

India fielding coach T. Dilip unlikely to get extension

■ BCCI wants to continue with Morkel-Ryan



PTI

New Delhi, Jul 11: The two-year contracts for head coach Gautam Gambhir's team of support staff will come to an end after the current white ball tour of England with fielding coach T Dilip, unlikely to get any more extension. It must be mentioned that pace bowling coach Morne Morkel and assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate's two-year terms also come to an end but they have a provision for extension. At least from BCCI's perspective, they would like to continue with the duo.

Dilip, who came in as a part of Rahul Dravid's coaching team,

has been a popular member and will be fondly remembered for his morale boosting speeches and the introduction of the 'Best Fielder Medal' after every game.

He was the only member who continued after Dravid, Vikram Rathour and Paras Mhambrey ended their tenure post the 2024 T20 World Cup triumph. After the Champions Trophy victory in 2025, he was given an year's extension but it is highly unlikely that he would be given another one-year term.

India's fielding standards have dipped under Dilip over the past few months and the BCCI would want a reset. Under

Morkel, Indian bowling attack has done a decent job over the past two years and with an important tour against New Zealand at the end of the year and the ODI World Cup in South Africa, Gambhir would definitely want BCCI to retain his trusted lieutenant.

Among Gambhir's team of support staff, the most fascinating character has to be former Netherlands skipper and KKR all-rounder Ten Doeschate.

His interactions with the media has been based on honest assessments, clear information and some fabulous insights about various trends.

Movies SCHEDULE

Sunday 12TH JULY

INOX SRINAGAR 95416 13868 FOR TICKET ASSISTANCE

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	
MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA HINDI U/A 16+ 06:40 PM	