



Amarnath Yatra set to cross 3-lakh mark today

24,259 pay obeisance on Monday; 12th batch comprising 7754 pilgrims arrives in Kashmir

Umair Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Jul 13: The annual Amarnath Yatra is all set to cross the three-lakh pilgrim mark on Tuesday.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) 24,259 (twenty four thousand two hundred and fifty nine) pilgrims comprising of 17,076 men, 6,407 women, 295 children, 182 sadhus, 18 sadhis, seven transgender pilgrims and 274 security personnel paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Monday, taking the total number of devotees who have performed darshan to 2,75,618 (two lakh seventy five thousand six hundred and eighteen).

An official said that the steady surge in pilgrim arrivals has also been seen at the Jammu base camp, where the daily number of yatis embarking on the journey has continued to rise.

The 12th batch of pilgrims



departed from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu during the early hours of Monday under multi-layer security arrangements.

According to details, from Base Camp Bhagwati Nagar Jammu, 7,754 pilgrims left for the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam in a convoy of 303 vehicles and arrived in

Kashmir.

The Baltal-bound convoy, carrying 2,896 pilgrims in 133 vehicles, left at 2:44 a.m., while the Pahalgam-bound convoy, comprising 4,858 pilgrims in 170 vehicles, departed at 3:28 a.m.

The batch included 5,383 men, 2,071 women, 16 children, 222 sadhus, 58 sadhis and four transgender | [More on P6](#)

BJP serves legal notice to Omar over Rs 20-30 crore MLA poaching claim



Demands Rs 100 crore damages, apology

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 13: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday served a legal notice to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over his claims that a BJP functionary, who is practising as lawyer in the Supreme Court, offered Rs 20-30 crore to one of his MLAs to switch sides.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the notice, issued by advocate Parimoksh Seth on behalf of Sat Paul Sharma, President of the Jammu & Kashmir unit of BJP, describes Omar Abdullah's May statement—that a BJP office-bearer had approached his MLA with an offer of Rs 20-30 crore to defect-as false, baseless, and defamatory.

"That the | [More on P6](#)

BJP's legal notice a 'love letter', mark of respect: CM Omar

■ Saffron party hiding behind courts instead of responding politically

■ NC to issue legal notices to BJP leaders over 'slandorous' remarks

■ July 13 restrictions expose hollowness of normalcy claims

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 13: Calling the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP's) legal notice a "love letter" and a "mark of respect", Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the party had chosen courts over political debate.

He said the National

Conference (NC) would begin issuing legal notices to BJP leaders over their "baseless" and "slandorous" allegations against the party and its leadership.

Speaking to reporters at the NC headquarters, Nawa-i-Subha here, Omar, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said he had received an electronic copy of the legal notice and viewed it as an acknowledgement of his political relevance.

"I consider it (legal notice) a great honour because I am probably the only politician in Jammu and Kashmir who has received such a love letter from the BJP. | [More on P6](#)

J&K Govt notifies Tenancy Rules to codify landlord-tenant relations



KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Jul 13: In a significant move, the authorities have notified the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Rules, 2026, unveiling a comprehensive framework for landlord-tenant relations across the Union Territory.

The Rules, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department, will facilitate implementation of the Jammu & Kashmir Tenancy Act passed by the Assembly.

On April 15, 2026, the government had placed the draft Rules in the public domain. However, no suggestions or objections were received within the stipulated 15-day period, officials said.

As per the notified Rules, every tenancy agreement must be reported to the Rent Authority within two months of execution, either physically

or electronically. The Rent Authority will allot a Unique Identification Number and issue an e-receipt to both parties within seven working days.

The Rules mandate that the Rent Authority must establish a digital platform, in local or official languages, within the time specified by the Act, to enable submission of documents.

The Rent Authority is also required to take all necessary measures to maintain the privacy and security of data, including all documents and details submitted by the parties. "The details of the tenancy, including cases of renewal, extension, addendum, supplementary agreement and other related applications informed by the parties through the digital platform, shall be accessible only to the concerned parties and to such persons as may be authorised by the Rent Authority, and shall not be accessible to the | [More on P6](#)

Hot, humid weather to continue in J&K, heavy rain from Jul 18: MeT

Warns of flash floods, mudslides, landslides in vulnerable areas

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 13: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally hot and humid weather over the next few days, with the Meteorological Centre here forecasting a fresh spell of widespread rain and the possibility of heavy showers in parts of the Union Territory from July 18 onwards.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), weather conditions are expected to remain largely hot and humid between July 14 and 17, although scattered areas may receive brief spells of rain or thundershowers. Isolated places in the Jammu division could also witness short-duration intense showers during this period.

The MeT Centre said the weather is expected to change from July 18, with the forecast indicating partly to generally



cloudy skies accompanied by light to moderate rain or thundershowers at many places on July 18 and 19. Some isolated areas of the Jammu division may experience brief spells of heavy rainfall.

From July 20 to 22, the MeT Centre has predicted a further increase in rain activity, saying many parts of both Kashmir

and Jammu divisions are likely to receive light to moderate rainfall, while isolated locations could witness heavy rain or intense showers.

The weather office has also issued an advisory warning of heavy rainfall during the late hours of July 18, the morning of July 19 and again between July 20 and 22, | [More on P6](#)

Jammu tops mercury chart, Gulmarg remains coolest

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 13: Most parts of Jammu and Kashmir remained dry on Monday, with day temperatures hovering close to normal across the Union Territory, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The MeT department told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that no rainfall

was recorded at most weather stations between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm, while only Gulmarg received 1.6 mm of precipitation during the period.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 28.6 degrees Celsius, 1.1 notches below normal, while the minimum settled at 15.8 degrees Celsius, 2.6 degrees below the seasonal average.

Jammu registered a high of 34.1 degrees Celsius, marginally below | [More on P6](#)

Centre plans Hill Councils for all seven Ladakh districts

Article 371 framework under consideration

Sajid Raina

Leh, Jul 13: Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra on Monday said that the Centre has decided to extend the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) system to all seven districts of the Union Territory and Ladakh-specific institutional framework under Article 371 of the Constitution is under consideration.

Talking to reporters here Kundra, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the administration would amend the existing LAHDC Act, wherever required, and carry out constituency delimitation before constituting the new councils.

He said discussions with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs are in progress on a framework under Article 371

that would provide for a Union Territory-level institution with legislative, executive, financial and administrative responsibilities.

"The structure of the proposed institution will be worked out after consultations with representatives from Ladakh and the Government of India," Kundra told reporters here.

The announcement comes after recent rounds of talks between the Centre and representatives of the Apex Body Leh and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on issues related to governance and constitutional safeguards.

Highlighting administrative measures taken since Ladakh became a Union Territory in 2019, the chief secretary said recruitment has been completed or is in the final stages for more | [More on P6](#)



Lack of female ECG staff in J&K hospitals worries women patients

Health Minister urged to ensure deployment of trained female technicians in ECG rooms

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 13: The lack of female staff in Electrocardiogram (ECG) rooms across several government hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a significant concern, with women patients saying they often feel uncomfortable undergoing the diagnostic procedure in the presence of male technicians.

Many women and their attendants told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the absence of female technicians not only causes embarrassment but also discourages some patients from undergoing the test promptly, potentially delaying

diagnosis and treatment of serious heart-related conditions.

Rukhsana Bano, a patient who recently visited a district hospital in south Kashmir, said she postponed her ECG for several hours after learning that only a male technician was available.

"I was advised to undergo an ECG immediately, but I felt extremely uncomfortable when I found that only a male technician was present. I waited for hours, hoping a female staff member would become available, but there was none. Such situations create unnecessary stress for women patients and can even delay treatment," she said.

A woman from north Kashmir narrated a similar



experience, saying that the procedure requires exposure of the chest area, making many women hesitant when

no female staff member is available.

"Many women feel embarrassed during the test. Some

even choose to skip the ECG despite medical advice because there is no female technician. The government should ensure that female staff are posted in ECG rooms for women patients," she said.

Medical professionals acknowledged that patient comfort and privacy are crucial components of quality healthcare. A senior physician, requesting anonymity, said an ECG is often the first and most important investigation in diagnosing cardiac emergencies.

"An ECG is a simple, quick and frequently life-saving diagnostic test. If patients delay or refuse the procedure because they are uncomfortable, it can adversely affect

timely diagnosis and treatment. Ensuring the availability of trained female staff would improve patient confidence and healthcare outcomes," the doctor said.

Health experts believe the issue can be addressed through a simple administrative measure by ensuring that every hospital has at least one trained female technician or healthcare worker available to assist women patients during ECG examinations.

They expressed hope that Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo, being a woman herself, would appreciate the sensitivity of the issue and take appropriate steps to address it.

Patients and attendants have appealed to the Health and Medical Education Department to formulate a policy ensuring the availability of female staff in ECG rooms across all district hospitals, sub-district hospitals and other healthcare institutions.

"Female staff are routinely deployed in departments where women's privacy is a priority. A similar arrangement should be made in ECG rooms as well. It is not only about convenience but also about preserving the dignity, privacy and comfort of women patients," said Haseena, an attendant at a hospital in Pulwama.

The patients have urged Health Minister | [More on P6](#)

CS directs implementing roadmap for strengthening prevention, diagnosis, treatment in J&K

■ Reviews formulation of comprehensive Cancer Care Strategy

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting on Monday to assess the initial formulation of a comprehensive Cancer Care Strategy for the Union Territory aimed at creating an integrated, accessible and technology-enabled cancer care ecosystem across Jammu & Kashmir.

Among others, the meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Director, SKIMS; Mission Director, National Health Mission; Director, Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Chandigarh; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director, Health Services, Kashmir/Jammu; Faculty Members of GMCs and other senior officers of the Health & Medical Education Department.

The strategy, prepared by the Health & Medical Education Department in consultation with leading oncology experts and national institutions, envisages a holistic framework covering cancer prevention, early detection, screening, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care, research, capacity building and digital health interventions.

Reviewing the proposed roadmap, the Chief Secretary observed that cancer is emerging as a major public health challenge and called for a coordinated, evidence-based and patient-centric response to improve health outcomes across the Union Territory. He directed the department to ensure time-bound implementation of all proposed interventions through effective institutional coordination, regular monitoring and measurable outcomes.

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of establishing a robust preventive oncology framework across all Government Medical Colleges in the Union Territory to promote early detection and timely intervention against cancer. He stressed the need for simultaneously strengthening both human resource capacity and the requisite healthcare infrastructure so that quality diagnostic and treatment facilities are made available closer to the patients, thereby minimizing the need for travelling to distant facilities.

He directed the Health Department to undertake a phased capacity-building programme by training the required specialist manpower, including Radiation Safety Officer (RSO)-certified personnel, while concurrently upgrading the necessary medical equipment and infrastructure in all medical colleges. He observed that these interventions would significantly enhance the quality and accessibility of cancer care services across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary further instructed that the entire strategy should be implemented in a well-defined, phase-wise manner over the coming years to ensure equitable



distribution of oncology facilities across the Union Territory. He also directed each of the expert committees constituted under the Cancer Care Strategy to prepare detailed, time-bound implementation plans within their respective domains.

He said that these implementation plans should be examined and harmonised by the Apex Committee chaired by Dr. Sudeep Gupta, Director, Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Mumbai and other experts here to ensure their technical soundness, feasibility and effective execution.

Highlighting the strategic collaboration with the Tata Memorial Centre, the Chief Secretary observed that the partnership with one of the country's premier cancer care institutions would provide invaluable technical guidance, facilitate adoption of national best practices and significantly accelerate the implementation of the Cancer Care Strategy on the ground, ultimately leading to improved patient outcomes across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was informed by MD, NHM, Akriti Sagar that a Steering Committee-cum-State Cancer Registry Coordination Unit has already been constituted to establish a robust Population-Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) and Hospital-Based Cancer Registry (HBCR) network across Jammu & Kashmir.

She added that the initiative would facilitate systematic collection of cancer incidence data, strengthen disease surveillance and support evidence-based planning under the National Cancer Registry Programme.

The MD further informed that following the notification declaring cancer as a notifiable disease in the Union Territory, the Government has initiated the process for executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Non-Communicable Disease Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE), Bengaluru, for technical support in establishing a modern cancer registry system here.

The meeting also reviewed the existing oncology infrastructure available in the Union Territory, including the State Cancer Institute at Government Medical College Jammu, SKIMS Soura, Government Medical College Srinagar, AIIMS Vijaypur,

newly established Government Medical Colleges and district-level Day Care Chemotherapy Centres established under the National Health Mission.

To strengthen diagnostic capabilities, the strategy proposes establishment of advanced Molecular Oncology Laboratories across Government Medical Colleges equipped with modern technologies including molecular pathology, immunohistochemistry, genomic profiling and next-generation sequencing.

The meeting was apprised that proposals have already been submitted to ICMR under the DiaMONDS Project for establishment of molecular oncology laboratories in selected medical colleges while additional funding support is being explored for expansion across the UT.

The strategy also recommends augmentation of cancer imaging facilities through phased establishment of mammography units, PET-CT scanners, MRI facilities, gamma cameras and endoscopy services to ensure timely diagnosis and improve early detection of various cancers.

The Chief Secretary reviewed proposals for strengthening cancer treatment services through expansion of radiotherapy infrastructure, enhancement of surgical oncology services, establishment of additional Bone Marrow Transplant and Stem Cell Transplant facilities and creation of multidisciplinary oncology teams across major tertiary healthcare institutions.

The meeting further reviewed proposals for extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns through print, electronic and digital media, schools, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Anganwadi Centres and community-based platforms to promote awareness regarding cancer risk factors, warning signs, screening services and healthy lifestyle practices. As proposed the Cancer Care Strategy seeks to build an integrated continuum of care covering prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, palliative care and research, with the ultimate objective of reducing cancer burden, improving survival outcomes and ensuring equitable access to quality oncology services for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sanjeev Verma chairs preparatory meeting for ECI's Electoral Literacy Conference in Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 13: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, Sanjeev Kumar Verma, Monday convened a preparatory meeting with the senior officers at Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, here to discuss arrangements for the proposed conference aimed to strengthen the electoral literacy in the UT.

The meeting, as per an official statement, discussed various other issues including participation of educational institutions, Universities and other stakeholders to ensure successful conduct of the conference.

Addressing the officers, the CEO informed that the Election Commission of India has initiated a programme to strengthen the network of Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs). In this regard, a conference is being organized at Jammu with the aim to familiarize the participants with ECI Net and to discuss the role of Universities and educational institutions in promoting electoral literacy, democratic values and meaningful participation. Sanjeev



Verma said the conference will also focus on strengthening the network of ELCs across schools, colleges and Universities at UT, district, ACs and polling station level throughout J&K as a vibrant platform for continuous electoral and democratic learning.

The CEO directed the senior officers of concerned departments and district administrations to ensure wide participation of students, faculty members and nodal officers of ELCs. He stressed on proper coordination with the Higher Education and School Education Departments for

maximum outreach.

Sanjeev Verma further directed all the concerned officers to complete venue identification and other preparatory arrangements at the earliest. He asked to seek any assistance from the CEO office for smooth conduct of the proposed conference.

All the District Election Officers (DCs), Senior officers of Election Department, Higher Education, School Education, Tourism, Universities and other concerned departments attended the meeting in person and through video conferencing.

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, CENTRAL DIVISION SRINAGAR POLICE GOLF CORSE, BOULEVARD ROAD SRINAGAR.

Mohammad Altaf Tewda,
S/o: Mohammad Shafi Tewda,
R/o: Thune Kangan

No: WLWC/Estt/2026-27/583-93

Dated: 11/07/2026

Subject: Final Eviction Notice under section 34A of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act-1972.

Reference: This office letter No. WLWC/Estt/2026-27/346-56 dated 18/06/2026.

Ganderbal Range Officer's letter No. ROG/WL/Sindh/2026-27/116-30 dated: 23.05.2026.

Block Forest Officer, Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary report bearing No. TWB/BO/WO/2025-26/77 dated 06/06/2026.

- Whereas Government has notified Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary vide SRO No 156 Dated 19:03 1987 under Section 18 of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
 - Whereas Section 27 of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 prohibits entry of a person In Wildlife areas.
 - Whereas Section 27(3) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 prohibits the alteration, destroying or defacing any boundary mark of a sanctuary with intent to cause damage to any such boundary mark or to cause any wrongful gains.
 - Whereas Section 29 of Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972 says that no person shall destroy, ex-ploit or remove any Wildlife Including forest produce from a wildlife sanctuary or damage or divert, stop or enhance the flow of water into or out-stand the sanctuary except under and in accordance with a permit granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
 - Whereas Range Officer, Ganderbal vide his office letter No. ROG/WL/Sindh/2026-27/116-30 dated: 23.05.2026 read with Block Forester Officer, Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary report No. TWB/Bo/WO/2025-26/77 DATED: 06.06.2026; wherein it has been brought under the notice of Un-designed that you have un-authorizedly installed temporary Tea stall with the notified limits of Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary at the foot hills of Thajwas Glacier as such you have caused damage to fragile ecosystem for your greedy and selfish benefits. The report is annexed with Geo-tagged photographs which substantiates that you have violated the provision of Indian Wildlife (Pro-tection) Act 1972.
 - Whereas Section 34 A (1) (a) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 has empowered Officer not be-low the Rank of Assistant Conservator of Forests to evict any person from a sanctuary or national park, who has un-authorizedly occupied Government Land. The Section 34 A (1)(b) of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 has also empowered the Officer not below the Rank Deputy Conservator of Forests to remove any unauthorized structures, buildings or constructions erected on any Government Land within any sanctuary or National Park.
- Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 34-A of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 final notice is issued upon you to evict from unauthorized occupied Land and to remove the en-croachment within 10 days from the date of issuance of this final notice and show cause within 07 days why action (including confiscation of tools and Belongings) shall not be taken against you for un-authorizedly occupying the Government Land.

Pervaiz Ahmad Wani
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Wildlife Warden
Central Division Srinagar

DIPK-3196/26
Dated: 13-07-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION GADOORA GANDERBAL

Website: www.jkgcope.edu.in

Email: pr-gcope@jk.gov.in

Ph No.: 0194-2951795

No:- GCOPE/Gbl/335-39

Date:- 08-07-2026

Subject: Advertisement for Admission to Bachelor of Physical Education (B.P.Ed.) Two-Year Course for Academic Session 2026-27.

Reference: DG-YSS/Estt/7715496/5548-49, Dated: 07-07-2026.

NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates who are residents of the UT of J&K and Ladakh possessing Graduation with at least 45% marks (General Category) and 40% marks (Reserved Category) from a recognized University or equivalent, along with sports participation at least at the Inter-District/Inter-State/Inter-College level, for admission to the Two-Year B.P.Ed. Course for the Academic Session 2026-27.

The online application link shall remain available on the College Website from 15-07-2026 to 22-08-2026 as per the schedule below:

Particulars	From	To
Availability of Online Application Form	15-07-2026	22-08-2026
Last Date for Submission of Online Admission Form	Up to 22-08-2026	
Submission of Hard Copies with testimonials and fee receipt (Rs.250/-)	24-08-2026	26-08-2026

Hard copies of the duly filled application form along with requisite documents shall be submitted in the office of the Principal, Government College of Physical Education, Gadoora, Ganderbal up to 26-08-2026.

The tentative dates for Physical Efficiency Test and Viva-Voce will be conducted as per the following schedule.

Physical Efficiency Test (PET)	31-08-2026	10:30 A.M.
Viva-Voce	01-09-2026	10:30 A.M.

For further details visit: www.jkgcope.edu.in

DIPK-3222/26
Dated: 13-07-2026

Principal
Govt. College of Physical Education
Gadoora, Ganderbal

FDA intensifies food safety drive in tourist destinations

31 samples lifted for testing

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: Food Safety Wing of the Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, has intensified enforcement and surveillance activities in major tourist destinations of Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Srinagar to ensure availability of safe, hygienic and quality food for tourists and the general public. During the enforcement drive, teams of Food Safety Officers, as per an official statement, inspected 56 hotels, restaurants and other food establishments to assess compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, including hygiene and sanitation practices, food handling, storage conditions and other statutory requirements.

As part of the drive, 31 enforcement samples including 20 from Pahalgam, five from Sonamarg and six from Srinagar of various food articles were lifted and sent to NABL-accredited Food Testing Laboratories for analysis of prescribed safety and quality parameters. During inspections, violations related to unhygienic and insanitary conditions were detected, following which two cases were initiated under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Further, a penalty of 10,500



was imposed and recovered from three Food Business Operators for violation of hygiene and sanitation requirements.

The Food & Drugs Administration under the overall supervision of the Health & Medical Education Department shall continue its efforts to enforce compliance with the regulatory norms and ensure availability of safe and wholesome food in food establishments, especially in tourist

areas witnessing heavy footfall. It was further informed that regular enforcement inspections and surveillance drives shall continue across the Union Territory to safeguard human health and curb malpractices on the part of some unscrupulous Food Business Operators (FBOs). The FDA appeals to consumers to remain vigilant and report any suspicious or unsafe food product through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

CS reviews commercial cultivation of medicinal, aromatic plants roadmap

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, July 13: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday convened a meeting to evaluate the roadmap prepared by the Agriculture Production Department (APD) for promotion of commercial cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at unlocking the sector's vast economic potential and transforming the Union Territory to become a hub in high-value Himalayan medicinal plants.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Vice Chancellors of SKUAST-Kashmir and SKUAST-Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; MD, HADP; Director Agriculture, Kashmir/Jammu; Representatives from CSIR-IIIM, Jammu; Senior Faculty from Agriculture Universities and other senior officers of the Agriculture Production Department, Forest Department.

The Chief Secretary observed that Jammu and Kashmir possesses immense natural advantages in terms of biodiversity, climate and availability of several high-value medicinal plant species which provide a strong foundation for developing a globally competitive medicinal plant economy.

He said the sector has enormous potential to diversify agriculture, enhance farmers' incomes, generate employment for rural youth and women, promote entrepreneurship and significantly strengthen the Union Territory's bio-economy.

He stressed that the roadmap



should be implemented with clearly defined timelines, measurable outcomes. He directed the Agriculture Production Department to work in close coordination with the Forest Department, AYUSH, research institutions and the private sector to build a complete value chain from cultivation to global markets.

The Chief Secretary further underscored the importance of attracting private investment in cultivation, processing and value addition while ensuring scientific conservation of valuable medicinal plant resources.

He called for adopting cluster-based cultivation models and facilitating stronger market linkages so that farmers receive higher returns from cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants.

While speaking the ACS, Agriculture Production Department, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma outlined a comprehensive Rs 150 Cr mission proposed to be implemented over six years for developing an integrated ecosystem encompassing conservation, scientific cultivation, quality planting material, research, processing, value addition,

branding, marketing and exports of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

He further maintained that although Jammu and Kashmir possesses one of the richest repositories of Himalayan medicinal plants, its current contribution to the national MAP sector remains below potential due to limited organised cultivation, inadequate processing infrastructure, dependence on wild collection, fragmented marketing systems and limited industry participation.

The roadmap seeks to address these challenges through a comprehensive strategy integrating conservation, cultivation, processing, research and marketing.

Detailing out further MD, HADP, Dr. Sagar Doifode Datatray informed that the proposed mission comprises six major intervention areas, namely conservation and cultivation, establishment of processing infrastructure, branding and marketing, translational research and development, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building of stakeholders.

Elaborating it, the MD made

out that the roadmap proposes geo-spatial mapping of MAP-rich niche zones across Jammu and Kashmir, restoration of 1,500 hectares of degraded forest ecosystems, establishment of 51 specialised MAP nurseries, expansion of cultivation outside forest areas, strengthening of 225 Biodiversity Management Committees and financial support for 500 farmers to obtain Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) and Organic Certification.

Regarding value addition, it was informed that the mission envisages establishment of six primary processing centres in the private sector besides creation of two advanced extraction units too.

These facilities would substantially strengthen processing capacity, improve product quality, reduce post-harvest losses and facilitate production of high-value herbal extracts and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

The meeting was further informed by the Nodal Officer, MAP in APD, Dr Abhimanyu that nearly 40 per cent of the total project cost has been earmarked for branding and

marketing initiatives, including establishment of two FPO/MFP Parks, two mega MAP clusters in Public-Private Partnership mode, two model MAP villages, creation of an Export Promotion Cell, development of a dedicated digital marketing platform and constitution of a Herbal Innovation Fund to support 80 start-ups in the medicinal plants sector.

The presentation also highlighted proposals for development of scientifically validated cultivation technologies, standardisation of 40 Packages of Practices, screening of 40 medicinal plant species for active pharmaceutical ingredients, commercialisation of 40 APIs, filing of nine patents and conservation of nearly 165 medicinal plant species through collaborative research involving SKUAST-Jammu, SKUAST-Kashmir and CSIR-IIIM Jammu.

The Department informed the meeting that successful implementation of the roadmap is expected to expand the area under MAP cultivation to over 1,700 hectares, support establishment of 80 start-ups and 25 export-oriented enterprises, besides benefiting over 5,000 farmers and entrepreneurs directly while generating substantial indirect employment across the value chain.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that the proposed roadmap represents a transformative opportunity to harness Jammu and Kashmir's unique biodiversity for sustainable economic growth while ensuring scientific conservation of its invaluable medicinal plant wealth creating new avenues of prosperity for farmers, entrepreneurs and rural communities.

Delegations call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 13: A public delegation from Shopian led by Adv Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Member Legislative Assembly from Shopian called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and put forth important matters related to implementation of Forest Rights Act and other issues of public importance.

In the meantime, Tirath Singh Rawat, former Chief Minister,

Uttarakhand called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Lok Bhavan.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Pahari Tribal Employees Welfare Forum led by its President Khalid Mehmood Khan called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha..

The members of the delegation projected various welfare issues of Pahari Tribal/ST-2 employees working in different departments including extension of benefits of reservation in promotion.

SANJY

'Pashu Seva' feeds 10,000 animals daily near Holy Cave Shrine



Umaisar Gull Ganie

Pahalgam, Jul 13: An initiative titled 'Pashu Seva' is providing daily feed to nearly 10,000 horses, mules and other pack animals that ferry Amarnath pilgrims along the arduous pilgrimage route, ensuring their well-being throughout the Yatra.

Shree Pashupati Nath Sewak, a Delhi-based langar organisation, has been providing free fodder, clean drinking water and basic care to animals besides running its traditional 56-bhog community kitchen for pilgrims and service providers during the yatra.

Rajiv Sethi, a representative of the organisation, said around 8,000 to 10,000 animals are being fed daily during the pilgrimage.

"For the last three years, we have been serving near the holy cave. Along with food for devotees, pony handlers and other people associated with the yatra, we also provide free fodder and care for horses, mules and other animals. These animals are an integral part of the pilgrimage and deserve equal care and respect," he said.

Sethi said nearly 200 volunteers are engaged in the service and continue to work throughout the yatra. "Everything is being carried out with the blessings of God. From the first day till the conclusion of the yatra, our team remains committed to serving both pilgrims and the animals. We will continue this service in the coming years as well," he added.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Hackers exploit X polls to steal users' login credentials

KNO

Srinagar, Jul 13: A cyber security expert on Monday warned users of a phishing campaign spreading rapidly on social media platform X, where hackers are using compromised accounts to send fake voting requests aimed at stealing users' login credentials and taking over their accounts.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir, Tahir Ashraf said users are receiving fraudulent "vote for me" messages from accounts that have already been hacked. He cautioned that clicking on the embedded link could instantly compromise a account.

Once victims click the malicious link and enter their credentials on a fake login page, attackers seize control of the account, change login details, demand payment to restore

access, and use the compromised account to send similar phishing messages to friends and followers, allowing the scam to spread further.

The SSP urged users not to trust unexpected voting requests, even if they appear to come from someone they know and advised verifying such requests through another communication channel before clicking any links.

Cyber security experts say such attacks rely on social engineering rather than technical vulnerabilities. Victims are tricked into visiting fake websites that closely resemble legitimate login pages, where their usernames and passwords are harvested by attackers.

"Vote for me" phishing scams have increasingly surfaced on X in recent months, targeting

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Div Com visits SKIMS Soura

Reviews medical care of SANJY Yatris



KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 13: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Monday visited the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical

Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, to review the medical care and treatment being provided to Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris (SANJY) admitted to the hospital with various health issues. During the visit,

the Divisional Commissioner interacted with the yatris undergoing treatment and enquired about their health, well-being, and the quality of medical care being provided. He assured them of the administration's full support and commitment to ensuring the best possible healthcare and assistance throughout their stay.

Reviewing the arrangements, Garg instructed the hospital administration and senior doctors to closely monitor treatment protocols and ensure the availability of all essential medical facilities. He directed the concerned officials to provide prompt, comprehensive, and quality healthcare to every admitted yatri.

Director SKIMS, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, informed the Divisional Commissioner that the hospital has earmarked a dedicated ward with exclusive medical and support staff to provide specialized care to the pilgrims. He further stated that SKIMS has received 44 yatris for treatment so far, out of which, 28 have been discharged after recovery.

Continued on
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GOC White Knight Corps reviews operational preparedness in Rajouri sector

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Jul 13: General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps, Lt Gen P K Mishra, on Monday visited forward military formations in Rajouri district and reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness.

Lt Gen Mishra visited the headquarters of the Ace of Spades Division and the Counter-Insurgency Force (CIF) Romeo, where senior officers briefed him on the prevailing security scenario and measures being taken to enhance operational capabilities.

The Corps Commander was apprised of developments related to surveillance systems,



precision strike capabilities and initiatives aimed at improving preparedness for emerging security challenges and future warfare.

During the visit, Lt Gen Mishra also interacted with troops deployed in the area and lauded them for maintaining a high level of professionalism and operational readiness.

He commended all ranks for their vigilance, operational efficiency and sustained efforts in ensuring peace and stability in the region, the officials said.

The visit forms part of the Army's periodic review of operational preparedness along the counter-insurgency grid in the Jammu region, they added—(KNO)

Fake certified copies in non existent case

Police registers FIR on sub-judge's complaint in Baramulla

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Jul 13: Police have registered an FIR in Baram-ulla on the complaint of the Sub Judge regarding the issuance of purported certified copies of a judgment and decree in a case that was never instituted or filed.

The complaint, filed by Majid Farooq Mir, sub judge (judicial magistrate), Baramulla names certain court staff and private individuals for offences including criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery, and criminal breach of trust.

Complaint Details

According to the Sub Judge's complaint, an application was submitted on June 13, 2026 by an

official of the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), Baramulla, seeking certified copies of the final order, decree, and compromise in a civil suit titled "Rabia Rashid vs Abida Malik", purportedly decided by the Court of sub judge on 22.01.2021.

When the District Record Room was asked to issue the copies, officials reported that the case file was "not trace-able." However, ACB officials produced photocopies of "certified copies" of the order and decree dated 28.06.2025, allegedly bearing the sub judge's signature.

A preliminary verification by the In charge Record Keeper revealed that while an application and a corresponding entry in the Issuance Register did exist, the actual case

file was missing.

Judicial Action
The matter was referred to the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Baramulla, who ordered a fact finding enquiry by the Additional District & Sessions Judge. The Principal District & Sessions Judge directed the Sub Judge (Judicial Magistrate), Baramulla—who prima facie appears to have been cheated and whose signatures were fraudulently procured on fabricated certified copies—to lodge an FIR in the matter under intimation to his office.

In his communication, the Principal District & Sessions Judge observed: "The circumstances

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EDITORIAL

A Warning For The Himalayas

The findings of a recent study are deeply concerning. For decades, the picturesque valleys of Pahalgam and Gulmarg have drawn tourists from across the world, promising pristine snow and cool climes. Now, science tells us that these very regions are warming faster than the rest, with temperatures rising by nearly 1°C over the past two decades. This is a present reality. The phenomenon of Elevation-Dependent Warming (EDW) is particularly alarming. High-altitude

areas, which should naturally remain cooler, are experiencing stronger temperature rises than the plains. The winter warming, driven largely by shrinking snow cover and reduced albedo – the reflective power of white surfaces – is a vicious cycle. Less snow means darker ground, which absorbs more heat, leading to even less snow. This cycle threatens the very existence of glaciers that feed the rivers sustaining millions of people in the subcontinent. Equally concerning is the faster rise in

night-time temperatures. For mountain communities and ecosystems, reduced night-time cooling disrupts natural rhythms, affecting agriculture, biodiversity, and water availability. The IIT Kharagpur study's finding that observations above 3,000 metres remain limited is a gap that the government must urgently address. Without reliable data from high-altitude stations, our understanding of the crisis remains incomplete. The implications of this warming are not merely academic.

Reduced snowfall and accelerated glacier melt will directly impact the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab river systems, threatening agriculture, drinking water, and hydropower. The fragile Himalayan ecosystem, home to rare species and unique biodiversity, is under unprecedented stress. For communities in the region, climate change has become a survival issue. The government must treat this study as a red alert. First, a network of high-altitude weather stations must be established to fill

critical data gaps. Second, adaptation strategies must be developed for agriculture, water management, and tourism. Third, policies promoting sustainable tourism, reducing carbon footprints, and protecting forests must be implemented with urgency. Finally, local communities must be educated and involved in climate resilience efforts. The Himalayas are the water tower of Asia. The warming of Pahalgam and Gulmarg is a warning bell. It is time to listen, before it is too late.

Guardians Of India's Maritime Frontiers

Three Indigenous Naval Classes For Combat, Survey And Coastal Defence

Press Information Bureau

India's maritime strength depends on a balanced fleet protecting national interests across the full spectrum of naval operations. The Nilgiri, Sandhayak and Arnala classes represent three vital pillars of this capability. Recently commissioned INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray demonstrate the steady expansion of these indigenous warship classes. INS Mahendragiri further strengthens this capability. Built with high indigenous content, these platforms embody Aatmanirbhar Bharat and strengthen India's defence manufacturing ecosystem. Together, they enhance maritime security, support the Blue Economy and reinforce India's position as a leading maritime power.

India's Layered Naval Capability

The Indian Navy is a primary security provider in the Indian Ocean Region. It safeguards a coastline of about 11,098 kilometres, an Exclusive Economic Zone of nearly 2.4 million square kilometres, and sea lanes carrying close to 90 per cent of India's trade by volume. Achieving this requires a balanced fleet, with each class of warship contributing to a distinct layer of maritime security. In India, four new-generation indigenous naval platforms inducted in just one month now bring this layered approach to life.

The ability to deter and fight on the ocean surface sits at the front of this structure. The latest in this segment are Nilgiri-class stealth frigates which are built under Project 17A for high-intensity operations. Their reduced radar, thermal and acoustic signatures improve survivability in combat.

Maritime power also depends on a deep understanding of the seas. The Sandhayak-class Survey Vessel (Large) ships strengthen India's hydrographic capability. They map the seabed, gather ocean data and produce accurate nautical charts for safe navigation. This work supports naval operations, maritime trade and the Blue Economy, and it reinforces India's standing as a trusted hydrographic partner across the Indian Ocean Region.

Closer to the coastline, anti-submarine warfare forms the next layer of defence. The Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts are designed to detect and neutralise submarines in littoral waters. Alongside their core roles, all three classes can take on humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and search and rescue missions.

Together they mark the success of India's indigenous shipbuilding programmes. Their move into serial production strengthens maritime security, advances Aatmanirbhar Bharat and shows India's growing ability to design and build its own warships.

Did You Know?

On 21 June 2026, three indigenously designed and built platforms were commissioned together at Kolkata: INS Dunagiri, a Nilgiri-class stealth frigate; INS Sanshodhak, a Sandhayak-class survey vessel (large); and INS Agray, an Arnala-class anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft. All three ships were designed by Navy's own Warship Design Bureau and manufactured by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata, a defence public sector undertaking.

On 11 July 2026, the sixth indigenously designed and built Nilgiri-class stealth frigate INS Mahendragiri was commissioned at Visakhapatnam

Stealth Frigates: The Cutting Edge of Surface Power

Stealth frigates form the backbone of the Indian Navy's surface combat capability. They protect aircraft carriers, secure vital sea lanes and project power across distant waters. Designed for modern naval warfare, they integrate advanced weapons, sensors, and aviation facilities while optimizing radar, infrared (thermal), and acoustic signatures for enhanced stealth. This makes them difficult to detect while enabling both offensive and defensive operations.

Building on this capability, Project 17A represents the latest generation of indigenous stealth frigates. The Nilgiri-class comprises INS Nilgiri, INS Himgiri, INS



Taragiri, INS Udaygiri, INS Dunagiri, INS Mahendragiri and the under construction Vindhaygiri. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai, built four ships, while Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, is building three. The latest additions to the class, INS Dunagiri, was commissioned recently as its fifth ship and INS Mahendragiri, the vessel of the class, was commissioned on 11 July 2026 at Visakhapatnam. These warships strengthen India's maritime security and reinforce its presence across the Indian Ocean.

Did You Know?

Project 17A is the Indian Navy's advanced stealth frigate programme to build seven next-generation guided-missile warships. These frigates are designed for multi-mission operations, including anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare. Project 17A reflects India's growing strength in self-reliant warship design and construction.

Key specifications of Project 17A Nilgiri-class Stealth Frigates

Size: Around 149 metres long, displacing about 6,670 tonnes. Displacement is the weight of water a ship pushes aside.

Propulsion: A Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) system, that is Combined Diesel or Gas, pairing diesel engines with gas turbines for range and speed.

Speed: Maximum speed of 28 knots. A knot is about 1.85 kilometres per hour.

Strike power: Supersonic surface-to-surface missiles that hit distant ships and shore targets.

Air defence: These frigates feature advanced weaponry including Brahmos missiles, Medium-range air-defence missiles and close-in guns that stop aircraft and incoming missiles.

Sensors and air wing: Advanced radar, a hull-mounted sonar and helicopters. Sonar uses sound pulses to find submarines underwater.

Did You Know?

Apart from Project 17A frigates, Indian Navy also has two more classes of stealth vessels, namely: Talwar-class and the Shivalik-class. The Talwar class (Project 1135.6/11356) was designed and built in Russia, from a time when the Navy still bought its frontline warships abroad. That changed with the Shivalik class (Project 17),

India's first indigenously designed stealth frigate, created by the Navy's own Warship Design Bureau and built at Mazagon Dock, Mumbai. Project 17A (Nilgiri class) takes this legacy forward with better sensors, weapons and much higher indigenous content, marking the Navy's shift from a Buyer's Navy to a Builder's Navy under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision.

How Stealth Actually Works?

Stealth technology makes a warship harder for the enemy to detect. It does not make the ship invisible rather it simply makes the ship appear much smaller and quieter than it really is. Warships achieve this in a few key ways. Their angled surfaces deflect enemy radar waves away, while special coatings absorb radar signals instead of reflecting them.

Survey Vessels: Charting Seas for Security and Prosperity

Survey vessels strengthen the Indian Navy's hydrographic capability by mapping the seabed and coastal waters. Accurate nautical charts ensure safe navigation for warships and merchant vessels. They also support the Blue Economy through the sustainable use of ocean resources. These ships regularly undertake humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and search and rescue missions.

To sustain this vital capability, the Indian Navy is inducting the indigenous Sandhayak-class survey vessels. The class comprises INS Sandhayak, INS Nirdeshak, INS Ikshak and INS Sanshodhak. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, INS Sanshodhak was recently commissioned as the fourth and final ship of the class. They strengthen India's maritime domain awareness and reinforce its leadership in hydrographic cooperation across the Indian Ocean Region.

Key specifications of Sandhayak-class survey vessels

Size: Around 110 metres long, displacing about 3,400 tonnes.

Speed and range: Capable of a top speed of over 18 knots and an operational range of 6,500 nautical miles. The vessel can undertake long-distance missions across the Indian Ocean and beyond.

Complement: These ships have a crew of about 178 personnel.

Survey suite: Multi-beam echo sounders,

side-scan sonar and autonomous underwater vehicles that map the seabed in detail.

Secondary roles: It can operate helicopters and serve as a hospital ship in an emergency.

India's hydrographers have surveyed 89,000 square kilometres and produced 96 charts in five years (2019-24), aiding many friendly nations.

Did You Know?

The 21st of June is celebrated worldwide as World Hydrography Day. INS Sanshodhak, India's newest survey ship, was commissioned on that very day.

Shallow-Water Sub-Hunters: Guarding the Littorals

Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft strengthen the Indian Navy's coastal defence capability. They detect and neutralise submarines operating in shallow waters near the coast. Larger warships cannot manoeuvre effectively in these areas, making these agile vessels essential. They also support humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and search and rescue missions.

To reinforce this crucial layer of maritime security, the Indian Navy is inducting the indigenous Arnala-class craft. The eight-ship class comprises Arnala, Androth, Anjadip, Amini, Abhay, Agray, Akshay and Ajay. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited in partnership with L&T Shipbuilding, these vessels replace the ageing Abhay-class corvettes. INS Agray was recently commissioned as the fourth ship of the class. A parallel Mahe-class is under construction at Cochin Shipyard, raising the planned strength to 16 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft. They will secure India's littoral waters and allow larger warships to focus on open ocean operations.

Key specifications of Arnala-class crafts

Size: Around 77.6 metres long, displacing about 900 tonnes.

Propulsion: Waterjets that drive the craft with a jet of water instead of a propeller, giving agility in shallow waters.

Speed: A top speed of about 25 knots.

Weapons: Lightweight torpedoes and anti-submarine rockets to strike submarines below the surface.

Sensors: Shallow-water sonar and a combat management system that links sensors to weapons.

Did You Know?

INS Arnala is the largest waterjet-propelled warship yet inducted by the Indian Navy.

Strategic Value Beyond Combat

The Nilgiri, Sandhayak and Arnala classes deliver far more than frontline naval capability. They strengthen national security, advance self-reliance and support India's maritime ambitions. Their impact extends across defence manufacturing, employment, maritime diplomacy, the Blue Economy and defence exports. The table below highlights how these indigenous-warship classes contribute to India's broader national goals.

Goal And How These Vessels Deliver

Aatmanirbharta (Indigenisation)

All three classes are designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau (Nilgiri and Sandhayak Class) and Indian Shipyards (Arnala and Mahe class), and built in Indian yards. Indigenous content is 75 per cent for the Project 17A frigates and over 80 per cent for the Sandhayak survey vessels. Across the Navy, 64 of 66 ships and submarines on order are being built in India.

Jobs Creation

Building these classes in series sustains shipyards and a wide vendor base. The Project 17A frigate line engaged over 200 MSMEs and about 4,000 direct jobs. It created over 10,000 indirect jobs, and the Arnala-class adds a GRSE and L&T Kattupalli partnership.

Maritime Security (Preferred Security Partner)

The classes give layered strength: frigates for sea control, survey ships for safe passage, ASW craft for the littorals. As the region's first responder, the Navy counters piracy at choke points like the Gulf of Aden. It safeguards freedom of navigation and trade for all.

Blue Economy

Survey-class charts open ports, channels and the Exclusive Economic Zone. This supports fishing, offshore energy and safe shipping, guarded by the frigate and ASW classes. India's blue economy contributes about 4 per cent of GDP.

Maritime Export of Warships

India is shifting from importer to exporter of naval platforms. GRSE, builder of the survey and ASW classes, is executing overseas orders. National defence exports hit a record Rs 23,622 crore in 2024-25, up about 12 per cent over the defence exports figures of FY 2023-24, which were Rs 21,083 crore.

SAGAR and MAHASAGAR Vision

The Sandhayak-class survey ships chart the oceans for safe navigation. They protect India's maritime interests and those of friendly nations. This advances the SAGAR (2015) and MAHASAGAR (2025) visions, with warships deploying to partner countries.

Did You Know?

India launched SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) in 2015 to secure its immediate Indian Ocean neighbourhood. It later evolved and expanded its reach globally by launching MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) in 2025 to build partnerships across the broader Global South. Both doctrines work to improve regional security, grow the ocean economy, and respond to disasters.

Securing India's Maritime Future

The Nilgiri, Sandhayak and Arnala classes reflect the steady evolution of India's naval capability. Together, they strengthen surface combat, hydrography and coastal anti-submarine warfare. Each class is designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built in Indian shipyards. They demonstrate India's growing expertise in designing and building complex frontline warships. Their expanding production also deepens self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

Their contribution extends well beyond naval operations. They sustain Indian shipyards, support hundreds of MSMEs and generate thousands of skilled jobs. They also advance the SAGAR and MAHASAGAR visions through stronger maritime security and regional cooperation. As India's maritime interests expand, these indigenous warship classes will safeguard national interests and reinforce India's position across the Indian Ocean Region.

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

Boost to Medical Education in J&K

NMC approves increase of 50 MBBS seats at GMC Jammu for Academic Year 2026-27



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: In a significant development for the medical education sector and aspiring medical students in the Union Territory, the Health and Medical Education Department Monday announced that the National Medical Commission (NMC) has granted permission to increase the annual MBBS intake capacity at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu. The Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) of the

NMC, as per an official statement, has issued the Letter of Permission (LoP) approving an additional 50 MBBS seats for the college. With this approval, the total annual intake capacity of GMC Jammu will rise from the existing 200 seats to 250 seats, effective from the upcoming Academic Year (A.Y.) 2026-27.

It is pertinent to mention that earlier, on 10.07.2026, the NMC has granted permission in favour of GMC Srinagar for additional 50 MBBS Seats,

thereby raising the total intake of GMC Srinagar to 250 seats.

Expressing satisfaction over the allocation of additional seats in these GMCs, the Health and Medical Education Department has stated that the expansion reflects the government's steadfast commitment to upgrading medical infrastructure, improving human resource capacity, and providing greater opportunities for local youth to pursue medical careers within the region.

MP Main Altaf reviews developmental works, Government schemes in Shopian

Chairs DISHA meeting, underscores need for increasing outcomes under public welfare initiatives

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, JULY 13: Member of Parliament for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, Mian Altaf Ahmad Monday chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at Mini Secretariat, Shopian, to review the implementation and progress of government flagged schemes and major developmental projects across the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by MP, Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi; MLA, Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie; MLA, Shopian, Shabir Ahmed Kullay, and other officers of district administration.

District Development Commissioner (DDC), Shopian, Shishir Gupta gave a comprehensive presentation highlighting the physical and financial progress of flagship schemes and development initiatives being implemented in the district.

During the meeting, the progress and achievements recorded under centrally sponsored schemes including MPLADS, MGNREGA, PMAY-G, PMGSY, PMAY- U, SBM-Grameen & Urban, HADP, JKICP, FRA, PMFBY, PM SVANidhi, AMRUT 2.0, JJM,



POSHAN 2.0, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PM Vishwakarma, Samagra Shiksha, RDSS, PM Surya Ghar, along with Urban Development, Social & labour welfare, social security, self employment and skill development initiatives and schemes were presented by the DDC during the department wise review. He also flagged off department wise issues and manpower deficits before the chair. The MP, Chairperson DISHA reviewed the status of major infrastructure projects, including the Shopian town beautification, de- congestion works, development of adjoining villages, tribal welfare projects,

50-bedded Critical Care Block, District Integrated District Public Health Laboratory, road connectivity projects, water supply schemes and irrigation works alongwith other public welfare works.

Emphasising effective implementation of public benefit programmes, Mian Altaf called upon officers to ensure timely completion of all ongoing projects, enhance public outreach regarding government schemes and expedite works aimed at improving infrastructure and public service delivery.

The MP stressed that special focus should be laid on promoting schemes for agriculture &

allied sectors, sheep and animal husbandry besides focusing on tribal welfare and employment generation to maximise benefits for the people. He underscored the importance of extensive awareness among people regarding the scheme benefits of centrally and UT sponsored schemes.

The MP also called for speedy disposal of Forest Rights Act claims, improved civic amenities, better road connectivity and adequate facilities for tourists and commuters, particularly along the Mughal Road.

During the meeting, MLAs of Zainapora and Shopian raised several constituency- specific issues, including the augmentation of public infrastructure, strengthening of healthcare and education facilities, drinking water supply, irrigation and expeditious implementation of ongoing developmental works.

Responding to the concerns, the chairperson assured the legislators that all genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments and higher authorities for prompt redressal. He emphasized that equitable and inclusive development of all constituencies remains a priority and directed district administration officers to address the issues in a time-bound and coordinated manner.

District Admin Pulwama, IRCS organise mega drug de-addiction awareness programme in Tral

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, JULY 13: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Jammu & Kashmir, Monday organised a Mega Drug De-Addiction Awareness Programme at Government Degree College, Tral to educate students and the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society.

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Tral, Rafiq Ahmad Naik attended the programme as the chief guest. Among others present were Treasurer, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K, G.A. Qureshi; Principal, Government Degree College Tral; Chief Medical Officer Pulwama; senior officers from various departments; social workers; faculty members; and a large gathering of students.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA, as per an official statement, appreciated the series of activities organised across the district under the ongoing campaign. He advised the youth and students to remain vigilant against the dangers of substance abuse and urged them to channel their energies towards education, sports and

other constructive pursuits. He also appealed to parents to remain closely connected with their children, monitor their activities and provide timely guidance to prevent them from falling prey to drug addiction.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers highlighted the harmful effects of drug abuse and the need for a coordinated and community-driven approach to eradicate the menace. They stressed the importance of sustained awareness, early intervention, counselling, rehabilitation and active participation of educational institutions, families and civil society in protecting the younger generation from substance abuse.

Medical experts, on the occasion, also conducted awareness sessions on the physical, psychological and social consequences of drug addiction. They encouraged students to adopt healthy lifestyles, make informed choices and become ambassadors of a drug-free society.

Furthermore, during the programme, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Pulwama screened an awareness film highlighting the devastating impact of drug abuse on individuals, families and society. The audio-visual presentation highlighted the campaign's message of awareness, prevention and community participation.

DC Ganderbal reviews implementation of Mission YUVA Approves 267 beneficiary cases

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JULY 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Monday chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA to review the progress of the flagship self-employment programme and consider beneficiary cases for approval.

At the outset, the DC, as per an official statement, reviewed the pace of sanctioning and disbursement of approved cases. He directed the concerned departments, financial institutions and implementing agencies to expedite the process so that aspiring entrepreneurs receive timely financial assistance to establish their ventures.

Stressing the need to improve the overall performance under the scheme, the DC called for enhanced coordination among all stakeholders to ensure faster processing of cases and timely achievement of programme targets. He also directed the concerned officers to strengthen output tracking and closely monitor the progress of units established under Mission YUVA



to ensure that beneficiaries receive continuous handholding and their enterprises become sustainable.

Highlighting the importance of skill development and entrepreneurship, the DC instructed the concerned departments to organise capacity-building and orientation programmes without delay so that beneficiaries are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to successfully manage their enterprises.

Special emphasis was laid on extending the benefits of Mission YUVA to members of Self Help Groups, particularly Lakhpati Didi beneficiaries. The DC directed the concerned officers to proactively identify eligible women entrepreneurs and facilitate their coverage

under the scheme to promote sustainable livelihoods and women-led economic empowerment.

During the meeting, the District Level Implementation Committee approved 267 beneficiary cases under Mission YUVA for financial assistance.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad; General Manager District Industries Centre, Assistant Director Employment, District Social Welfare Officer, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, District Development Manager NABARD, Cluster Head J&K Bank, Lead District Manager and other members of the District Level Implementation Committee.

Curbing Single-Use Plastic Enforcement drive, cleanliness campaign intensified in Gurez

18 kilograms of single-use plastic seized, penalty of Rs 13,000 imposed on 4 shopkeepers for violations

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JULY 13: Continuing its sustained efforts to preserve the fragile ecology of Gurez Valley, the District Administration Bandipora on Monday intensified enforcement against the use of banned single-use plastic (SUP) while conducting extensive cleanliness drives across Dawar Market and nearby tourist locations.

An enforcement drive, as per an official statement, was carried out at Dawar Market by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gurez, Mukhtar Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Lone; and Block Development Officer (BDO) Gurez, Lateef Ahmad Mantoo,



along with a police team led by the Station House Officer (SHO) Gurez.

During the drive, around 18 kilograms of single-use plastic was seized, while a penalty of Rs 13,000 was imposed on four shopkeepers found violating the ban on single-use plastic.

A cleanliness drive was also conducted in the Main Market, Dawar, under the supervision

of the SDM Gurez and ACP Bandipora. Officials, field staff and sanitation workers participated in the campaign to collect waste and enhance public cleanliness.

Another cleanliness drive was undertaken at the Badi Dassi camping site under the supervision of BDO Gurez, Lateef Ahmad Mantoo, during which a substantial quantity of waste was collected and scientifically disposed of to restore the site's cleanliness.

The District Administration reiterated that strict enforcement against banned single-use plastic will continue alongside regular sanitation drives to safeguard the pristine environment of Gurez Valley.

The Administration appealed to citizens, traders and visitors to cooperate by avoiding the use of single-use plastic and maintaining cleanliness at all public places and tourist destinations.

SWD Srinagar organises PMMVY drive

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW, Srinagar organised a comprehensive awareness and registration drive under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) at the Maternity Hospital, Lal Ded (LD) Hospital, Srinagar.

The programme was organized with the objective of enhancing awareness among pregnant and lactating women about the benefits of the flagship maternity benefit scheme.

The drive, as per an official statement, witnessed enthusiastic participation from expecting mothers, their attendants, healthcare professionals, and field functionaries. Officials of the SWD provided detailed information regarding the eligibility criteria, registration process, documentation requirements, and the financial assistance available under the scheme. On-the-spot registration and facilitation support were also extended to eligible beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar highlighted that PMMVY is a flagship maternity benefit scheme of the Government of India aimed at improving the health and nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The scheme seeks to encourage timely antenatal care, institutional deliveries, and improved maternal and child health outcomes.

The Department reiterated its commitment to ensuring that every eligible beneficiary is enrolled under the scheme and receives the entitled benefits without delay. The officials also appealed to all eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers to approach their nearest Anganwadi Centre or the concerned Social Welfare Office for registration and assistance under PMMVY. The awareness drive forms part of the department's ongoing efforts to strengthen outreach, improve scheme coverage, and ensure that welfare benefits reach every deserving beneficiary across

DC Kulgam oversees process of Jamabandi reading of latest Digitised Jamabandi

Visits Tehsil Office Pahloo

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JULY 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Monday visited the Tehsil Office to oversee the process of Jamabandi reading of the latest digitized Jamabandi, prepared after digitization and incorporation of mutations.

The Jamabandi reading, as per an official statement, was conducted in the presence of the public, who had been duly informed about the process.

It was informed that the latest digitized Jamabandi is available

on the Zameen Sudhar Portal (jkzameensudhar.jk.gov.in), enabling every estate holder to check their land-related records.

The DC stated that the public can verify their land records and identify if any corrections are required.

It was informed that non-quasi-judicial errors can be corrected at the level of the concerned Tehsildar.

Later, the DC visited newly constructed Tehsil building and directed Exen R&B to complete the remaining work in a time bound manner. He also visited the Patwar Halqa Pahloo and Zangalpura and assessed the progress of Agri stack.

BBBP: SHEW Shopian conducts awareness camp on Girl Child Empowerment in Heerpora

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, JULY 13: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti, Shopian Monday organized an awareness programme under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative at Heerpora.

The programme, as per an official statement, focused on sensitizing participants about the importance of protecting, educating and empowering girls while fostering gender equality and eliminating gender-based discrimination.

Resource persons highlighted the objectives of the BBBP campaign and stressed the collective responsibility of society in ensuring equal opportunities

for girls in education, healthcare and overall development. Participants were also informed about various women-centric welfare schemes being implemented under Mission Shakti. Awareness was created regarding women safety measures and protection mechanisms, including the Women Helpline (181), Child Helpline (1098) and other support services available for women and children.

The event concluded with an interactive session during which participants raised queries and shared their views. The programme ended with a renewed pledge to build a safe, inclusive and gender-equal society through collective community participation and sustained awareness efforts.

Director Agriculture Kashmir inaugurates District-Level MIDH Workshop

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: Department of Agriculture, Kashmir, Monday organized a One-Day District-Level Workshop-cum-Exhibition under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) at Srinagar, aimed at creating awareness among farmers about the various interventions, incentives, and opportunities available under the scheme.

Farmers from the Qamerwari, Brain, and Harwan zones participated enthusiastically in the programme.

The workshop, as per an official statement, was presided over by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah,

in the presence of Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar, Aijaz Hussain Dar, senior officers of the department, technical experts, and field functionaries.

Addressing the gathering, Director Agriculture Kashmir emphasized the immense potential of the agriculture sector in transforming the rural economy and enhancing farmers' livelihoods. He highlighted that the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture is a key initiative of the Government aimed at promoting scientific agriculture through financial assistance, infrastructure development, technology dissemination, and capacity building.

Committed to people-centric governance: Minister Sharma

Assures swift redress of public issues

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jul 13: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, on Monday met several deputations from different districts of the Jammu division and held detailed interactions on a wide range of public issues concerning infrastructure, civic amenities, public services and developmental requirements.

The deputations, comprising representatives of social organisations, trade bodies, youth groups and local residents, apprised the Minister of issues pertaining to road connectivity, drinking water supply, power infrastructure, sports facilities, ration distribution, digital services, employment opportunities and other development-related matters. They also put forth several area-specific demands aimed at improving the quality of life of the people.

Giving a patient hearing to each deputation, Satish Sharma reiterated the Jammu and Kashmir Government's unwavering commitment to ensure transparent, accountable and people-centric governance. He said the present dispensation is working with the sole objective of taking governance to the grassroots and ensuring that every citizen has access to quality public services and modern infrastructure.

"The government is committed to deliver state-of-the-art facilities across Jammu and



Kashmir. Our focus is not merely on creating infrastructure but on ensuring that every development initiative directly benefits the people and improves their quality of life," the Minister said.

He emphasized that public participation remains the cornerstone of effective governance and said regular interaction with citizens helps the government understand ground realities and formulate policies that are responsive to people's aspirations. He assured the deputations that all genuine issues raised during the meeting would be examined on priority and taken up with the concerned departments for early resolution.

The Minister further stated that under the leadership of the Chief Minister, the government is making sustained efforts to strengthen the public infrastructure, improve service delivery, promote digital governance and create greater opportunities for youth through enhanced sports infrastructure, technology-driven initiatives and inclusive development programmes.

Satish Sharma also stressed that every department has been directed to adopt a responsive and citizen-friendly approach while implementing welfare and development schemes. He said timely redress of public grievances remains one of the government's foremost priorities.

Jal Shakti ministry releases three key water management documents

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 13: Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil on Monday released three key water management documents, including a city-level action plan for the reuse of treated water in Varanasi.

The documents released at the All India Water Secretaries' Conference here include the city-level action plan for the reuse of treated water for Varanasi, which provides a roadmap for the safe reuse of treated wastewater and promotes a circular water economy.

The documents also include the operation and maintenance manual for artificial recharge and groundwater conservation structures jointly developed by the National Water Mission and the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), and the schedule of rates for drilling and allied works prepared by the CGWB to bring transparency and standardisation in drilling and allied works.

The conference, organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, was chaired by Patil in the presence of Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary.

Secretary of the department V L Kantha Rao, senior secretaries from all states and Union Territories, and officials of the Ministry of Jal Shakti attended the conference. Around 200 participants took part in the event.

The conference deliberated on eight priority agenda items, including the status of the Modernisation of Command

Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) scheme, the special one-month nationwide Catch the Rain campaign, revised draft project appraisal guidelines for irrigation, multipurpose and flood management projects, rule curves of dam reservoirs, the State Water Reforms Framework, completion of comprehensive dam safety evaluation under the Dam Safety Act, 2021, progress of irrigation censuses and a framework for model state water awards.

Addressing the conference, Patil said, "Water is the foundation of India's economic growth, food security, environmental sustainability and the well-being of every citizen."

Highlighting the challenges posed by climate change, groundwater depletion and rapid urbanisation, he called for scientific, efficient and sustainable water resources management.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call during the June 28 episode of Mann Ki Baat, Patil urged all states and Union Territories to intensify the Catch the Rain 2026 campaign through rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, rejuvenation of traditional water bodies, afforestation and public participation.

He also stressed the need to accelerate the implementation of the M-CADWM scheme, strengthen water user associations, improve irrigation efficiency and simplify project appraisal processes to facilitate faster implementation of irrigation and flood management projects.

'NCSC resolved historic 60,000 cases nationally in last two years'

PTI

Hyderabad, Jul 13: NCSC Chairman Kishor Makwana on Monday said the National Commission for Scheduled Castes has resolved a historic 60,000 cases nationally in the last two years.

Speaking after inaugurating the renovated State Office of the NCSC here, Makwana stated that NCSC offices across the states are firmly dedicated to ensuring justice and protecting the rights of deprived and marginalised communities, an official release said.

Invoking the constitutional mandate under Article 338 and the core vision of B R Ambedkar, he said: "The Commission has been working tirelessly for 75 years to safeguard the rights of Scheduled Castes and address public grievances."

Highlighting a significant surge in public trust, he noted that more than 60,000 cases were resolved nationally over the last two years—marking the highest disposal rate in the Commission's history.

He reaffirmed the Commission's unwavering commitment to realising Dr Ambedkar's dream by ensuring timely justice for every petitioner.

Speaking on the occasion, Member of NCSC, Vaddepalli Ramchander, highlighted the powerful statutory mechanisms vested in the Commission to ensure accountability.

He reiterated that the NCSC is fully empowered to issue

notices, execute summons, and initiate stringent action against non-compliance when required.

Expressing concern over the current state of financial support for SC entrepreneurs, he urged elected representatives and policymakers to prioritise MSME development and welfare measures for marginalised communities, assuring entrepreneurs of the Commission's continued support in addressing their grievances and promoting inclusive growth.

Earlier, in his address, Secretary of NCSC, Gudey Srinivas, emphasised the Commission's commitment to utilising digital tools and modern infrastructure to eliminate delays and enhance the overall efficiency of grievance resolution.

Meanwhile, Makwana met Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy here, a release from the CMO said.

During the meeting, the CM briefed him about the opportunities provided for the socio-economic and political empowerment of the SC communities. Implementation of the SC categorisation was discussed in the meeting, it said.

Revanth Reddy said that the state government was taking a slew of measures to eliminate caste discrimination among students.

The CM asserted that the union government should take initiatives to provide necessary support and cooperation for the development of SCs, the release added.

Capacity Building Commission, in collaboration with IMPARD J&K and General Administration Department, launches Karmayogi Kartavya Karyakram for State Master Trainers in Jammu & Kashmir

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 13: The Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Government of India, in collaboration with the Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD), J&K and the General Administration Department (GAD), Government of Jammu & Kashmir, has commenced the first batch of the two-day Karmayogi Kartavya Karyakram (KKK) for State Master Trainers at the IMPARD campus in Srinagar.

The programme, being conducted on July 13-14, 2026, marks an important milestone

in the implementation of Mission Karmayogi in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. It seeks to create a cadre of State Master Trainers who will subsequently cascade behavioural training across departments of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, thereby institutionalising citizen-centric governance and a culture of excellence in public service.

The programme is being steered by Ms. Rehana Batool, IAS, Director General, IMPARD J&K, in collaboration with the Capacity Building Commission and the General Administration Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.



Senior officers from various departments of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir are participating in the programme as State Master Trainers. Upon

successful completion of the training, they will lead the delivery of the Karmayogi Kartavya Karyakram to government officials across their respective

departments, ensuring wider institutional adoption of the principles of Mission Karmayogi.

Karmayogi Kartavya Karyakram is the flagship behavioural transformation programme of the Capacity Building Commission, designed to strengthen values-based public service. The programme focuses on fostering behavioural competencies such as citizen-centricity, empathy, integrity, accountability, collaboration and selfless service, enabling public officials to deliver responsive, efficient and people-centric governance.

The sessions are being conducted by National Lead Trainers of the Capacity Building

Commission, Uzair Simnani and Shreshtha Bansal, as part of the nationwide rollout of the Karmayogi Kartavya Karyakram under Mission Karmayogi.

The behavioural transformation programme has already been implemented across the Government of India, with more than 10 lakh Central Government officials, including officers up to the level of Secretaries to the Government of India, having undergone the training. The expansion of the programme to States and Union Territories reflects the Government of India's commitment to embedding the principles of Mission Karmayogi throughout the public

administration ecosystem.

The initiative represents a collaborative effort between the Capacity Building Commission, IMPARD J&K and the General Administration Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, to build a competent, future-ready and citizen-centric civil service capable of delivering transparent, accountable and effective governance.

The two-day programme will include interactive sessions, experiential learning exercises and facilitated discussions to prepare the State Master Trainers for the effective rollout of the Karmayogi Kartavya Karyakram across Jammu & Kashmir.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Amarnath Yatra set

pilgrims. Officials said the sharp rise in pilgrim numbers is the outcome of sustained efforts by the administration and security agencies to provide a safe, smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage. Enhanced accommodation, transport, sanitation, medical facilities and round-the-clock security have significantly improved the overall experience for devotees.

Besides official measures, positive word-of-mouth from pilgrims has emerged as a major driving force behind the growing footfall. Devotees returning after darshan have been widely appreciating the arrangements, encouraging more people from across the country to undertake the pilgrimage.

"I had heard a lot about the improved arrangements this year, but after reaching here, I found everything even better than expected. From security to accommodation and medical facilities, everything is well managed. I will definitely encourage my family and friends to undertake the Amarnath Yatra because the entire experience has been peaceful, safe and spiritually fulfilling," a devotee from Maharashtra said.

Officials said the increasing number of registered pilgrims leaving Jammu every day, along with the heavy rush at on-the-spot registration counters, shows the growing enthusiasm for the Yatra.

They said that all arrangements are being continuously reviewed to ensure every pilgrim has a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience. (KNO)

BJP serves legal

said allegations made by you are entirely untrue, malicious, and without any factual basis. The statement issued by you has seriously harmed my client's reputation, dignity, and standing in society, and has caused immense damage to his public image," the notice reads.

The legal notice demands that Omar Abdullah withdraw his allegations in writing and issue an unconditional public apology within seven days. It also directs him to refrain from publishing or circulating any further

defamatory material about the BJP and to immediately cease and desist from making or repeating any false or defamatory statements against the party.

"In the event of your failure to comply with the above demands within the stipulated period, my client shall be constrained to initiate appropriate civil as well as criminal proceedings against you before the competent court, including but not limited to damages to the tune of Rs100 crore for defamation, and filing of criminal prosecution for defamation, along with any other remedies available under law, entirely at your own risk and responsibility as to costs and consequences," the notice warns.

On July 11, the Chief Minister said that the BJP was attempting to topple his government, and one of its office-bearers had approached a party MLA, offering him Rs 20-30 crore to side with the BJP. (KNO)

BJP's legal notice

I consider it a mark of respect because it tells me that I am a political force they cannot ignore," he said.

The Chief Minister said he had deliberately made the remarks from a political platform, expecting a political response from the BJP rather than legal action.

"I could have made the same statement inside the Assembly under privilege, where it could not have been challenged outside. But I didn't. I made the point on a political stage, expecting the BJP to respond politically. They have chosen not to. They take political fights and hide behind the courts. They would rather settle political scores in court," he said.

Abdullah said the National Conference would now adopt the same legal course against BJP leaders who, he alleged, had repeatedly levelled unfounded allegations against the party.

"For the last few months, senior BJP leaders have levelled baseless and slanderous allegations against the National Conference and its leadership. We have been fighting them politically. From now on, we will begin the process of sending legal notices to one particular BJP leader and a few others. Let us see where this process goes," he said.

Referring to the proposed NC protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Omar said the party was awaiting permission from the Delhi Police.

"We have been informed that permission usually takes five days. We are following it up and expect to hear from Delhi Police by tomorrow or Wednesday morning," he said.

Commenting on the restrictions imposed on July 13, CM Abdullah said preventing him and other NC leaders from paying tributes at the "Martyrs' Graveyard" exposed the gap between official claims of normalcy and the situation on the ground.

"It is a very sad thing that those people who, on July 13, sacrificed their precious lives against British rule, against personal rule and for democracy are being remembered in this manner. We were not discredited by not being allowed to visit the Martyrs' Graveyard. Those who took this decision have discredited themselves. On one hand, we are told everything is normal in Jammu and Kashmir, but on the ground, nothing appears normal," he said.

Questioning the security situation, the CM referred to the arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, saying he did not recall the National Highway being closed for the pilgrimage in previous years.

"I don't remember a time when the National Highway had to be closed for the Amarnath Yatra. This year, it has been closed so that yatis can travel safely. What does that tell you about the security situation? It shows how uncertain they are about the calm that prevails," he said.

The Chief Minister added that the administration had prevented even a small group of NC leaders from visiting the "Martyrs' Graveyard". "We were not talking about lakhs of people or even thousands. We would not have gone there with more than 100 or 150 people. If they feel threatened even by such a small gathering, that discredits them, not us," he said. (KNO)

Centre plans Hill

than 4,500 government posts. He said the recruitment process for another 1,684 vacancies is underway, while notifications will soon be issued for 262 primary and upper primary teacher posts, 47 vacancies in

the University of Ladakh and 331 constable posts.

Kundra said the administration has created 17 new tehsils and posted tehsildars in them. New divisions under the Public Works Department, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the Public Health Engineering Department have also been established across all seven districts, he added.

Senior officers will regularly visit newly created districts, particularly remote and border areas, to monitor development works and address public grievances, he said.

The Chief Secretary also clarified that Panchayati Raj Institutions would continue to function alongside the proposed Hill Councils, while additional district-level administrative posts would be created in phases.

On the draft Excise policy, Kundra said the administration is examining suggestions and objections received from the public before taking a final decision.

Officials said the proposal to establish Hill Councils in all seven districts, along with the discussions on an Article 371 framework, is part of efforts to evolve a governance structure suited to Ladakh's geographical and administrative requirements.

If implemented, the measures are expected to expand local self-governance and strengthen public participation in decision-making across the Union Territory, they added. (KNO)

Hot, humid

particularly during the early morning and late afternoon hours.

It cautioned that the expected rainfall could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides at vulnerable locations, especially in the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal range, and advised people to avoid venturing near streams, nallas and landslide-prone areas during the forecast period. (KNO)

Jammu tops mercury

normal, with the minimum at 23.4 degrees Celsius.

Among other stations, Qazigund recorded a maximum of 28 degrees Celsius, Banihal 30

degrees, Katra 30.4 degrees, Batote 27 degrees and Bhaderwah 27.4 degrees. Pahalgam recorded a high of 23 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg remained the coolest place in the Valley at 18.4 degrees Celsius.

Night temperatures also remained below normal at most stations. Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature at 8.5 degrees Celsius, followed by Pahalgam at 9.6 degrees Celsius.

The IMD said light rainfall during the previous 24 hours was reported at a few places, including Bhaderwah (2.4 mm), Pahalgam and Jammu (2 mm each), Gulmarg (2 mm), Kukernag (1.3 mm), Srinagar (0.8 mm), Batote (0.6 mm), Banihal (0.4 mm), Kupwara (0.2 mm), Katra (0.2 mm) and Qazigund (0.1 mm).

Humidity levels remained relatively high across the Union Territory, with morning humidity ranging between 71 and 90 per cent at most stations, the Met department said. (KNO)

J&K Govt notifies

public or to any unauthorised person," the Rules state.

The Rules further define the procedure for resolving disputes between landlords and tenants regarding revision of rent or other charges. The Rent Authority will hear both parties, consider relevant factors such as prevailing rates in the locality, and then determine the revised rent or charges payable. It also has powers to appoint government-recognized property valuers to assist in determining revised rent and charges.

As per Rules, tenants may deposit rent directly with the Rent Authority if landlords refuse to accept payments.

Besides, landlords who fail to refund advance rent or security deposits will be liable to pay interest equivalent to the Jammu and Kashmir Bank's Marginal Cost of Lending Rate. (KNO)

Lack of female

Sakeena Itoo to intervene and issue necessary directions so that trained female staff are made available in ECG rooms, enabling women across Jammu and Kashmir to access essential diagnostic services without hesitation or discomfort. (KNO)

Confident India holds out for better terms in US trade talks despite fresh tariff pressure

REUTERS

New Delhi, Jul 13: India re-jected a quick trade agree-ment with the U.S. in recent talks and is holding out for a better deal as Prime Min-ister Narendra Modi draws confidence from new trad-ing partners, eased econom-ic risks and political gains at home, officials and ana-lysts said. After months of talks, the two nations failed to finalise an interim trade agreement during U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer's visit to New Delhi last month, despite expectations from both sides that a limited deal was within reach.

There was no consensus because Washington did not offer assurances on New Delhi's key demands: a tariff advantage over competitors such as China and no new U.S. levies after the deal, said an Indian government official aware of the talks.

"Our position is clear - we don't intend to rush into a deal that is not on favourable terms or compromise on red lines like ceding ground on agriculture," the official said.

Washington had hoped for quick trade concessions from a strategic partner as Presi-dent Donald Trump prepares new tariffs likely to come into effect later this month, offi-cials and analysts said, while India's holdout risks high-er levies on its exports and prolonged uncertainty for businesses.

A day after talks with Greer, Indian Trade Minister Piyush Goyal said the U.S. deal would not be implemented unless an advantage is ensured, indi-cating New Delhi's hardened position and lack of urgen-cy despite the risk of higher tariffs.

Like most countries, the bulk of goods from India cur-rently face a 10% U.S. tariff. But the Trump administra-tion is expected to introduce steeper tariffs later this month



through probes into excess industrial capacity. India has denied U.S. charges of surplus capacity.

Washington has already proposed new tariffs of up to 12.5% on dozens of nations, including India, over allegations they failed to curb trade in goods made with forced labour.

The U.S. view has been that India needs to earn the preferential treatment on trade provisions it has sought by making its own concessions, a U.S. source aware of the talks said.

The Indian official and the U.S. source did not wish to be named as negotiations are confidential. The Indi-an trade ministry and the Office of the United States Trade Representative did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Washington remained engaged with India and still expected an agreement, but did not offer a timeline.

The official however added India had at times been slow, bureaucratic and difficult in the negotiations, signalling that no quick deal was likely.

Asked about the impasse, White House spokesman

Kush Desai said: "The Trump administration continues to productively engage with Indian officials to finalise a historic trade deal that puts Americans and America First."

India's exports tick up, economic risks ease
Rising exports, new trade deals with other countries and blocs and eased economic risks have strengthened India's hand, trade analysts said.

In April-June, India's overall goods exports rose about 15% from a year earlier despite dis-ruptions from the war on Iran, buoyed by pricier petroleum shipments, officials said.

Exports to Gulf countries have recovered to pre-war lev-els, rising to \$5.3 billion in May from \$2.62 billion in March as traders shifted to alternative shipping routes, while exports to the United States edged up to \$17.29 billion during April and May.

India is also broadening access to other developed markets, with a UK free trade pact set to take effect this month, and an EU agreement expected by early next year.

"Indian negotiators have gained some leverage in the talks, given its strong econ-omy, diversification initiatives with other partners, and its strategic standing in the

world," said Wendy Cutler, senior vice president at the Washington-based Asia Soci-ety Policy Institute, and a former U.S. trade official.

The interim U.S.-Iran peace deal improved India's econom-ic outlook by easing oil prices, Goldman Sachs economist Santanu Sengupta said in a report.

The bank has raised its 2026 growth forecast for India to 6.8%, and lowered its inflation and current-account deficit estimates, suggesting New Delhi has more economic room to hold out for better terms.

A weaker rupee has also improved exporters' competitiveness.

Waiting out Washington
India is also calculating that some U.S. trade meas-ures could face legal or political setbacks, another Indian official said.

A group of 22 Democratic state attorneys general have already filed objections to the Trump administration's pro-posed tariffs from probes into forced labour.

Trade analysts said legal uncertainty over U.S. tar-iffs, combined with Modi's recent state election victo-ries, have helped India resist a rushed deal.

India setting new benchmarks in medical research: Rajnath

PTI

Lucknow, Jul 13: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday as-erted that India is setting new benchmarks in medical research and developing indigenous solu-tions to global health challenges through gene therapy and nucle-ar medicine.

India's health system is also emerging as more self-reliant, he said addressing the 22nd convoca-tion ceremony of the King George's Medical University, Lucknow.

"Today, India's health system has emerged as more self-reliant, accessible, affordable, modern and people-centric as compared to ear-lier times. Today, India is developing indigenous solutions to global health challenges through gene therapy, nuclear medicine, and other mod-ern technologies," Singh said.

The Lok Sabha MP said the coun-try's scientists have successfully demonstrated an indigenous gene therapy for the treatment of hae-mophilia, while scientists at an institute in Pune have developed a



state-of-the-art nanomedicine for treating breast cancer.

The 'Production Linked Incentive' scheme, he said, has given fresh momentum to the indigenous man-ufacturing of medical equipment.

"In 2024, we developed Nafithro-mycin --- the first indigenous macrolide antibiotic. It will prove highly effective in the treatment of Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia. Today, India is rap-idly advancing towards self-reliance in the health sector. In 2023, we developed the first indigenous MRI machine which is affordable, light-weight, ultrafast, and high-field," Singh said. The minister noted

that people across the country are receiving high-quality medicines at very affordable prices through more than 19,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

Singh also asked medical profes-sionals to take care of their health, noting that they were work in a highly stressful environment, which can negatively impact their health.

He said under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, healthcare services in Uttar Pradesh have also seen significant improve-ment over the past nine years.

Prior to 2017, there were only 17 medical colleges in the state while today, 81 medical colleges are oper-ational across the state.

Two AIIMS are also function-al in the state which means Uttar Pradesh has now surpassed the 'One District-One Medical College' mile-stone, he said.

"The quality of healthcare ser-vices can only improve if there is an adequate number of doctors and specialists available. With this vision in mind, our government has un-der-taken an unprecedented expansion of medical education," Singh said.

Meta's reply to govt notice under examination, action to follow: IT Secy

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 13: The Centre is examining Meta's response to a government notice over advertisements relat-ed to child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on In-stagram, with appropri-ate action to be taken after the review, IT Sec-etary S Krishnan said on Monday.

The Ministry of Elec-tronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had recently issued a stern notice to Meta over Child Sexual Exploita-tive and Abuse Material (CSEAM) appearing in paid advertisements on Instagram. The company was directed to disable

all advertisements and content promoting or facilitating access to such material and submit a detailed explanation within a stipulated deadline.

Confirming that the response has been received, Krishnan said, "On the CSAM con-tent, we had issued a notice to Meta, and the reply has been received. It is currently under examination."

The IT Secretary add-ed, "And based on an examination of the reply, appropriate action would be taken."

The reply reached the IT Ministry on Saturday, which was the deadline set for Meta to respond.

Patna court grants anticipatory bail to Khan Sir, 3 staffers

PTI

Patna, Jul 13: A court in Bihar's Patna on Mon-day granted anticipatory bail to educator Faisal Khan, popularly known as Khan Sir, in con-nection with the coaching institute firing case.

Three staff members of the coaching institute also got anticipatory bail, Khan Sir's lawyer said.

The case relates to a firing incident that occurred in early June after Khan Sir's coaching institute was allegedly vandalised by a group of miscreants. His two security guards have been accused of firing during the incident.

"Six people have been granted bail. The judge first announced Khan Sir's anticipatory bail, fol-lowed by that of his three staff members," lawyer Arvind Kumar Mouar told reporters.

The Patna Civil Court also granted bail to two security guards, who were arrested in connection with the case, he said.

The court on Friday deferred its order on the anticipatory bail plea of Khan Sir in the case till July 13, citing the district judge's leave.

On July 8, it had reserved the order after hearing final arguments from both sides.

Stock markets slump in early trade on rising tensions in West Asia, higher oil prices



PTI

Mumbai, Jul 13: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty slumped in ear-ly trade on Monday amid escalat-ing tensions in West Asia and rising crude oil prices.

Bearish trend in Asian peers also dragged the domestic markets lower.

After two days of rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 616.15 points to 76,946.97 in early deals. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 190.50 points to 24,015.

From the Sensex pack, InterGlobe Aviation, Tata Steel, Maruti, Asian Paints, HDFC Bank and Bajaj Finserv were among the major laggards.

Tata Consultancy Services, NTPC, HCL Tech and Power Grid were the gainers.

Brent crude, the global oil bench-mark, quoted 3.96 per cent higher at USD 79.02 per barrel.

The escalation in geopolitical ten-sions has triggered a sharp rebound in crude oil prices, weighing on overall investor sentiment, accord-ing to a market analyst.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kos-pi slumped nearly 7 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Com-posite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also traded lower.

US markets ended higher on Friday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,603.72 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. On Friday, the Sen-sex jumped 827.57 points, or 1.08 per cent, to settle at 77,569.39. The Nifty surged 244.10 points, or 1.02 per cent, to end at 24,206.90.

Red Fort blast

Delhi court allows cremation of victims' remains



PTI

New Delhi, Jul 13: A Delhi court on Monday allowed the National Inves-tigating Agency to cremate or dis-pose of the remains of 11 persons killed in the car bomb explosion near the Red Fort last November.

Special Judge Pitambar Dutt also allowed the agency to dispose of the body parts of Dr Umer Un Nabi, the driver of the explosive-laden car who was killed in the suicide blast.

The court underlined that the bi-ological body parts must be disposed of with full dignity after taking into account the religious beliefs of the victims. It also sought a compli-ance report from the National Inves-tigation Agency (NIA).

The NIA told the court that forensic

evidence had been collected from the body parts of the victims and the sui-cide bomber, Nabi.

It had earlier sought the court's permission to dispose of the body parts, as they had started decomposing.

On May 14, the NIA filed a 7,500-page chargesheet in connection with the high-intensity IED blast that rocked the national capital on November 10 last year.

Last month, the NIA filed a sup-plementary chargesheet against three more persons, including an absconding paediatrician identi-fied as the founding member of a terror module, for involvement in the blast, taking the number of persons chargesheeted in the case to 13, including Nabi.

SC stays Madras HC order directing TN govt to ensure ban on cow slaughter

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 13: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed a Madras High Court order which directed the Tamil Nadu government to en-sure that no cow or calf is slaugh-tered in the state.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta passed the order while hearing a plea filed by the state government challenging a May 27 order of the high court.

The apex court agreed to hear the matter and issued notice to the

respondents.

The Tamil Nadu government challenged the May 27 order of the high court, which directed the state authorities to ensure that no cow or calf is slaughtered across the state either on the eve of Bakrid on May 28, or on any other day.

"We allow this writ petition with a direction to the state of Tamil Nadu to ensure that no cow or calf is slaughtered on the eve of Bakrid or on any other day," the high court had said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

ENIT NO. 24 OF R&B /CHADOORA/ 2140-49 of 2026-27 DATED: 11/07/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In Two 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:-

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Repair and Renovation of Swami Nand Lalji Ash-ram Hoshru Chadoora.	45.00	1100	90,000	90	4202- Art & Culture	AAV

Project Authority: Director Archives Archaeology and Museums J&K

Position of Funds: Budgeted/Committed.

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Sanctioned

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 seen/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	18/07/2026 upto 5.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	20/07/2026 10:30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora** (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to **Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora** (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submis-sion End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1.1 The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora** (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work, The CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non- responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., **Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora**. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

18. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 2140-49
DATED: 11/07/2026

DIPK-3177/26
DATED: 13-07-2026

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chadoora

Iran says will stop complying with deal if US does not honor commitments

AFP

Manama/Tehran, Jul 13: Iran on Monday said it would no longer abide by the memorandum of understanding signed with the United States if Washington failed to uphold its commitments to end the war.

"Each time that the other party has failed to meet its obligations, we did not uphold ours ... We will continue to act in this manner," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei told a press conference in Tehran, following the latest bout of hostilities between the foes.

Baqaei said Tehran was continuing talks with mediators from Qatar, Pakistan and Oman in an effort to prevent any further escalation in its war with the United States.

"The role of the mediators is to continue their efforts to prevent an escalation of tensions," Baqaei said.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had struck US military targets and bases in Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait, state media reported on Monday.

The official news agency IRNA cited several statements released by the Guards saying they had attacked Prince Hassan Air Base in Jordan, a US military drone command center in Bahrain and air bases including Ali Al-Salem in Kuwait.

Radar systems in Oman were also destroyed in the latest retaliatory attacks.

Iranian missiles entered the country's airspace, the Jordanian army said Monday, with four rockets fired from Iranian territory intercepted and shot down. No injuries or material damage



has been reported.

Any attempt to undermine the country's sovereignty will be met with a firm response, the Jordanian army said.

Kuwait's armed forces said they were responding to "hostile aerial targets" on Monday.

"The Armed Forces are currently intercepting hostile aerial targets within Kuwaiti airspace," the head of Kuwait's army said in a statement published by the state-run news agency KUNA.

Bahrain meanwhile sounded its missile alert sirens for a second time as air raid sirens went off earlier on Monday, the interior ministry said, instructing residents to take shelter following attacks on the island nation. "The siren has been sounded... citizens and residents are urged to remain calm and head to the nearest safe place,"

the Ministry of Interior posted on X.

Iran said Sunday it was closing the Strait of Hormuz and launched missiles and drones at Gulf neighbors after the US carried out a new round of strikes as their conflict escalated.

The latest exchange of fire was sparked by another Iranian attack on a commercial ship in the strait, whose crew were forced to abandon the vessel after it went up in flames. The escalation is the latest to undermine an interim agreement between Washington and Tehran aimed at ending their war, which broke out in late February with US-Israeli strikes that killed Iran's supreme leader.

Mediators have been trying to salvage a diplomatic solution after President Donald Trump this week declared a ceasefire over.

Trump says US will charge ships for safe passage in Strait of Hormuz

AP

Dubai, Jul 13: US President Donald Trump said Monday that the United States is "reinstat-ing" a blockade on Iran in the Strait of Hormuz and will charge ships for safe passage, after another heavy exchange of fire threatened negotiations aimed at ending the war.

He said on social media that Iranian ships will no longer be able to travel through the strait and America would charge a 20 per cent toll on eligible cargo, as the conflict with Iran has intensified after peace talks failed to deliver meaningful progress.

"We are reinstating the THE IRANIAN BLOCKADE, so named because it is only stopping Iran's ships or customers from entering or leaving," Trump said online. "All other countries will have fair and open use of the Strait."

The president said the toll would help cover "any and all costs necessary to do the job of providing safety and security to this very volatile section of the World."

A fifth of the world's oil and gas passed through the strait before Iran asserted control over it after the start of the war.

The latest exchange of fire was sparked by an Iranian attack on a container ship on Sunday in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has asserted control over the critical waterway for international oil and gas since the United States and Israel started the war on Feb. 28. Iran says it has



the right to manage traffic through the strait and potentially charge fees in accordance with an interim peace deal reached last month. The US and others dispute that, citing international law on freedom of navigation, and the American military has tried to es-tablish an alternative route outside of Iranian control.

Iran and the US are nearly half-way through the 60-day period in which they were supposed to negotiate a permanent end to the war and an agreement on Iran's disputed nuclear pro-gram. Instead, a series of attacks over the strait have raised fears of a return to all-out war and further disruption to the global economy.

Oil prices jumped nearly 5 per cent on Monday before falling back. US benchmark crude, which had risen to nearly USD 120 a barrel at the height of the war, was trading at around USD 72.92. Markets were mixed.

Virat, Rohit remain very integral part of our ODI team: Shubman Gill



PTI

Birmingham, Jul 13: Skipper Shubman Gill on Monday asserted that star batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma remain an "integral part" of India's ODI team, considering the experience and skill level of the two veterans in the 50-over format.

India will bank on Kohli and Rohit to revive India's fortunes in the three-match ODI series against England, beginning here on Tuesday.

In the preceding T20I leg, India were drubbed 0-2 and 0-4 by Ireland and England respectively.

"I think Virat Bhai and Rohit Bhai...they have been the backbone of the Indian batting lineup for the past decade and they remain a very integral part of our team," Gill said during the pre-match press conference.

"The experience and the skill that they bring to the team is obviously very valuable. We have seen what they have done over the past decade in different conditions, repetitively, consist-ently, in a number of matches, different tournaments, different occasions," he added.

To emphasise his point, Gill said experience will come handy when a team goes through a crunch situation.

"If there is an experienced lineup, I think you get a lot of experience in pressure situations be-cause you have been in that situation many times and you have done good and bad.

"So, I think you get a sense of calmness when you are under pressure. So experience is very important in any lineup," he said.

Gill said he already held a discussion with Kohli, a veteran in South African conditions, about a workable combination of players for the 50-over World Cup to be held in the Rainbow nation in 2027.

International Physics Olympiad

PM congratulates Indian team for winning gold medals



PTI

New Delhi, Jul 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated the Indian contingent for winning gold medals at

the International Physics Olympiad in Colombia, and said their feat reflects limitless potential of the 'Yuva Shakti' and their passion towards science and research.

Modi also said that equally commendable is the fact that in the last decade, Indian students have performed exceptionally well in various editions of this platform.

"An outstanding performance by our youngsters! Congratulations to the Indian contingent of Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Anant Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shresth Suraiya and Svarit Joshi for winning Gold Medals at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 held in Bucaramanga, Colombia," he said in a post on X.

The prime minister said the Indian team's feat reflects yet another example of the limitless potential of the country's 'Yuva Shakti' (youth power) and their passion towards science and research.

Nine European countries, Ukraine form anti-ballistic missile coalition

AFP

Paris, Jul 13: Nine European countries and Ukraine on Monday announced the formation of a coalition to develop "purely defensive" anti-ballistic capabilities in Europe, citing the growing threat of ballistic missiles.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was in Paris on Monday for a meeting of Kyiv's allies to reaffirm support for the country and step up pressure on Russia to end the war, now well into its fifth year.

"We believe that the protection of Europe requires a global solution of integrated missile defense architecture to



deter and defeat future missile threats," said the joint declaration by Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. "By bringing

together our defense industrial base, our research, and our operational experience, we aim to build a shared anti-ballistic missile capacity for Europe," it said.

EU raises €900 million aid for Gaza

AP

Brussels, Jul 13: The European Union coordinated efforts to raise 900 million euros (\$1 billion) in aid for Gaza, working with 65 governments and organizations including the White House and the United Nations, the bloc's top diplomat said Monday.

Kaja Kallas announced the fund after a meeting of the Palestine Donors Group in Brussels.

"The EU is the most credible supporter, for the Palestinian people. We are the largest donor and the strongest backer of the two-state solution," she said.

NASA astronaut Anil Menon set to travel to International Space Station today

PTI

Washington, Jul 13: Anil Menon, a NASA astronaut of Indian descent, is set to embark on an eight-month mission to the International Space Station on Tuesday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan along with two Russian cosmonauts.

The Roscosmos Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft is scheduled for lift-off from the Baikonur spaceport at 8:17 p.m. (IST) on Tuesday and is expected to dock at the orbital laboratory after a little over three hours.

Besides Menon, Russian cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina will be part of the 75th expedition to the ISS.

The Soyuz spacecraft will dock at the ISS at 11:56 p.m. IST on Tuesday, and the astronauts will be onboard the ISS at around 1:25 am IST early Wednesday.

Once aboard, the trio will join NASA astronauts Jessica Meir, Jack Hathaway, and Chris Williams, European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenot, and Roscosmos cosmonauts Sergey Kud-Sverchikov, Sergei Mikaev, and Andrey Fedyaev.

Born in Minneapolis to Ukrainian and Indian immigrants, Menon is an emergency medicine physician and a US Space Force colonel.

During his stint with the US Air Force, he served on the frontlines in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom and also worked for the Himalayan Rescue Association, caring for climbers



on Mount Everest.

Menon, 49, has also spent a year in India as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to study and support Polio vaccination initiatives.

He is scheduled to travel to space aboard the Roscosmos Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft along with cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina.

Menon began his career at NASA as a flight surgeon in 2014 and worked with astronauts living and working on the International Space Station.

He joined SpaceX in 2018, where he started the company's medical program, helped prepare for its first human space flights and worked closely in the development of Starship, the super

heavy rocket and spacecraft for undertaking missions to the moon, Mars and beyond.

He was selected as a NASA astronaut in December 2021 and joined the two-year training programme next month.

Menon's wife Anna Wilhelm is also an astronaut and travelled to space in September 2024 as part of Polaris Dawn, a private crewed spaceflight operated by SpaceX. The spaceflight lasted for nearly five days.

While on board the ISS, Menon will conduct a series of experiments to study the physiological toll of long-duration spaceflight and examine how microgravity affects blood flow, vein structure, and blood composition in astronauts.

He will also help test technologies for producing intravenous fluids using the station's potable water system. Such capabilities could become critical during deep-space missions where medical supplies are limited.

Menon will continue research to refine in-space production of semiconductor crystals to enable the large-scale manufacturing of components needed for high-performance computers, artificial intelligence, and improved medical devices.

He also will perform ultrasound investigations using augmented reality and artificial intelligence methods that could eliminate the need for medical support from Earth on future space missions.

MOVIES SCHEDULE



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(HINDI ATMOS)

U/A 13+

10:45 AM

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07:30 PM



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11:35 AM

07:40 PM



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

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02:00 PM



ALPHA

(HINDI)

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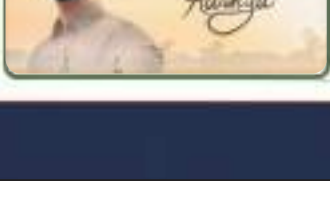


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CALL FOR TICKET ASSISTANCE

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TUESDAY

14 JULY

TICKETS AT

₹92

₹199

EXCLUDING DHAMAAL 4

 HINDI ATMOS SOUND

 PREMIUM COMFORT

 DELICIOUS SNACKS

 EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE