



Community participation key to reintegrating drug abuse victims: LG Manoj Sinha

Reviews proposed 'Rehabilitation, Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme'

Says sustained recovery, social inclusion, livelihood must be ensured

Asks officers to work with dedication towards rehabilitation of victims

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Jul 14: Terming community participation crucial for successful reintegration of drug abuse victims into mainstream, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that volunteers and interested Government employees must be encouraged to actively participate in the rehabilitation process.

Chairing a meeting to review the proposed Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026 here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) appreciated the comprehensive and collaborative approach adopted by the Task Force in formulating the Scheme.



He emphasized the need for a coordinated, humane and outcome-oriented rehabilitation framework that ensures sustained recovery, social inclusion and livelihood opportunities for individuals affected by drug abuse.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that community participation, family support, skill

development and continuous monitoring must remain the cornerstone of the rehabilitation process.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination for successful implementation of the Scheme.

The Lieutenant Governor underscored the importance

of leveraging technology for transparent monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.

He directed that the pilot implementation of the scheme should be initiated in two most affected districts—one from the Kashmir Division and one from the Jammu Division—to assess its effectiveness and ensure a focused approach towards rehabilitation of drug abuse victims.

"The pilot implementation should be closely monitored so that the learnings can be incorporated before scaling up the Scheme across the Union Territory," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor instructed that committed officers be identified to work with dedication and vigour towards the rehabilitation of drug victims.

He further | [More on P6](#)

Amarnath Yatra sets new record, crosses 3 lakh pilgrims in 12 days

Witnesses 37% surge in footfall; LG Sinha lauds stakeholders as pilgrimage gains momentum

Umair Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Jul 14: The annual Amarnath Yatra has scripted history this year, with the pilgrimage crossing the three-lakh pilgrim mark within just 12 days, registering a nearly 37 per cent increase in footfall compared to the previous year.

Official figures available with the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that 26,308 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Tuesday, taking the total number of devotees since the commencement of the Yatra on July 3 to 3,01,926 (three lakh one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six).

During the same period in 2025, a total of 2,20,511 (two lakh twenty thousand five hundred and eleven) pilgrims had undertaken the



pilgrimage. The latest figures indicate an increase of 81,415 pilgrims, translating into a 36.92 per cent (approximately 37%) rise this year.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha commended all the officials, service providers and volunteers for their valuable contribution to the holy Amarnath pilgrimage.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said:

"Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has set a historic new record, crossing the 3 lakh mark in just 12 days. I commend all the officials, service providers and volunteers. Their dedication and hard work have made this holy pilgrimage smooth and memorable for every devotee of Baba Barfani. Har Har Mahadev!"

Meanwhile, the 13th batch of pilgrims undertaking the annual | [More on P6](#)

J&K records flurry of cloudbursts – 15 in 14 days

Trail of damage left in multiple districts; scientists call for stronger monitoring, early warning systems

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 14: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded at least 15 cloudburst incidents in this month so far, with the events triggering flash floods, mudslides and landslides across several districts.

The incidents have damaged roads, houses, agricultural land and public infrastructure while disrupting connectivity in several parts of the Union Territory.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), one of the recent incidents was reported from the Bhalasa area of Doda district,

where flash floods carried mud and debris onto roads, cutting off access to several interior villages.

North Kashmir's Tulail Valley and Gurez were also hit by several cloudbursts earlier this month, causing damage to roads and other infrastructure.

On July 7, a cloudburst struck the upper reaches of Thathri in Doda district, sending floodwaters and debris into the town. Several vehicles and shops were damaged, while traffic on the Doda-Kishtwar National Highway was disrupted before restoration work was taken up.

Earlier this | [More on P6](#)

Veteran NC leader Mustafa Kamal passes away

LG Sinha, political leaders condole demise

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 14: Veteran National Conference leader and brother of party president Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, passed away on Monday at a private hospital in Srinagar.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the 87-year-old leader, who was serving as NC's Additional General Secretary, breathed his last at 5:00 PM at Paras Hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment.

Kamal had been unwell for several months, and his condition deteriorated further over the past four days.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced the news of his death in a post on X.



"My father's younger brother Dr. Mustafa Kamal passed away earlier this evening at Paras Hospital in Srinagar. Uncle Mustafa had been unwell for some months but took a turn for the worse four days ago. He put up a brave fight, holding on against the odds. The doctors

and staff treating him were amazing, but Allah called him for his final journey. May Allah grant Uncle Mustafa the highest place in Jannat," Omar posted.

Hundreds of people from different walks of life including Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister | [More on P6](#)

J&K govt notifies Parking Rules-2026

Municipal bodies to prepare plans within 6 months

Cashless digital transactions mandatory for fees, penalties

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Jul 14: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has unveiled parking rules, which will be applicable to all municipal bodies in the Union Territory.

The Housing & Urban Development Department has introduced the Jammu & Kashmir Parking Rules, 2026, which mandate that Municipal Corporations, Councils, and Committees shall be responsible for managing parking within their respective jurisdictions.

As per the Rules, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer(KNO), municipal bodies must prepare and implement local, area-specific, integrated Parking Management Plans (PMAPs) in line with the Master Plan and the overall parking policy. These plans must be prepared within six months, in coordination with agencies that own land parcels where public parking takes place, such as universities, hospitals, malls, cinema halls, and airports.

The Rules further provide that Municipal Corporations may, in the public interest, allow private companies to manage parking areas under the PMAP. Authorities may also construct parking lots (surface or multi-level) through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models by inviting open bids.

As per Rules, parking contractors are empowered to penalize violators by immobilizing, towing, or imposing | [More on P6](#)

Choose hygiene over taste: Health experts

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 14: Amid soaring temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir, health experts on Monday cautioned the public against consuming unhygienically prepared street food, saying the summer season significantly increases the risk of food poisoning and several water- and food-borne diseases.

A public health advisory in possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) issued by Dr. S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, high temperatures provide ideal conditions for bacteria and other harmful microorganisms to multiply



rapidly in improperly stored or exposed food, increasing the likelihood of infections.

The advisory states that while street food remains popular because of its taste and affordability, food prepared or sold under unhygienic conditions can pose serious health hazards, particularly

during the summer months.

It highlights that poor personal hygiene among food vendors is one of the major causes of contamination. Vendors wearing unclean clothes, not using head covers or aprons, maintaining long and dirty nails, handling money and food | [More on P6](#)

Only 2,300 apply for Haj-2027 against 8,000-seat quota

Haj Committee urges eligible aspirants to submit forms before Jul 20 last date

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 14: With less than a week left before the application window closes, the Jammu & Kashmir Haj Committee has appealed to eligible pilgrims to apply for Haj-2027, saying only around 2,300 applications have been received so far against the Union Territory's quota of 8,000 seats.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the J&K Haj Committee, Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the

response has remained much below expectations, with only around 2,300 applications received so far.

He said the last date for submission of Haj application forms is July 20, 2026 and urged all eligible aspirants possessing valid passports to complete the application process without waiting for the deadline.

Qureshi appealed to people to spread awareness among relatives, friends and other intending pilgrims so that no eligible applicant misses the opportunity to perform Haj pilgrimage. | [More on P6](#)

13-day summer break for J&K colleges

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Jul 14: The government Tuesday announced summer vacation for Government Degree Colleges falling in Kashmir Division and winter zone of Jammu Division from July-21 to August-02.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Commissioner Secretary Higher Education Department in an order said, "All the Government Degree Colleges falling in Kashmir Division and Winter Zone of Jammu Division shall observe the Summer Vacations with effect from 21st of July, 2026 to 2nd of August, 2026." (KNO)

Hospital entrances in Kashmir severely congested; vendors, vehicles block gates

Patients, doctors seek regulation, say traffic chaos delays ambulances, inconveniences visitors

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 14: The main entrances of several major hospitals in Kashmir, particularly tertiary care institutions - SMHS Hospital, SKIMS Soura, Lal Ded (LD) Hospital and Bone and Joint Hospital - have become severely congested due to the unchecked presence of roadside vendors, e-rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and other vehicles, raising serious concerns over patient safety and emergency healthcare access.

Patients, attendants, doctors and ambulance drivers told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the lack of regulation outside hospital gates has resulted in daily traffic bottlenecks, making it difficult for ambulances, emergency vehicles and even healthcare workers to enter or exit the hospital premises without delay.

According to them, hospital entrances remain crowded throughout the day as vendors occupy portions of the roadside

while e-rickshaws and auto-rickshaws are parked haphazardly, reducing the available space for smooth traffic movement.

Shahnaza Bano, a patient from Baramulla undergoing treatment at SMHS Hospital, said the entrance to the hospital resembles a busy marketplace rather than a healthcare facility.

"The gate remains heavily congested from morning till evening. E-rickshaws are parked in multiple rows, auto



drivers continuously call out to passengers and

roadside food vendors occupy parts of the road. It

becomes extremely difficult for patients to reach the hospital comfortably," she said.

Ambulance drivers said the situation becomes particularly alarming during medical emergencies, as precious time is lost while attempting to clear the way through the congested entrance.

"We often spend several minutes requesting vendors and vehicle operators to move aside before an ambulance can enter the hospital. In emergencies such as cardiac

arrests, strokes or serious accidents, every minute is crucial and these delays can directly affect patient outcomes," said Fayaz Ahmad, an ambulance driver at SMHS Hospital.

Doctors also expressed concern, saying the persistent congestion affects not only patients but also medical professionals who need to reach hospitals without delay.

A senior surgeon at SMHS Hospital said there have been several occasions when doctors themselves | [More on P6](#)

PMGSY-IV to construct 646 new roads across J&K at an investment of Rs 7,790 Cr

Chief Secretary reviews progress in J&K
KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 14: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works being executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) across the Union Territory.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by senior officers including the ACS, Public Works (R&B) Department; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Chief Engineer, PMGSY, Jammu/Kashmir and field functionaries connected with the implementation of the flagship rural road connectivity programme.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive stock of the physical and financial progress achieved under PMGSY Phases I, II and III, besides examining the implementation strategy and future roadmap for PMGSY-IV, which is the largest rural connectivity programme undertaken in Jammu & Kashmir so far.

While reviewing the implementation of PMGSY-IV, the Chief Secretary described the scale of investment envisaged under the programme as phenomenal, observing that it reflects the Government's unwavering commitment towards strengthening rural infrastructure and ensuring equitable development across Jammu & Kashmir.

He said the unprecedented investment in rural road connectivity would not only provide all-weather access to far-flung habitations but also serve as a catalyst for socio-economic transformation by improving access to education, healthcare, markets, tourism and employment opportunities.



Expressing satisfaction over the substantial progress achieved under the PMGSY, the Chief Secretary, however, stressed that the handful of projects still pending under the earlier phases must be completed without any further delay. He directed the Public Works (R&B) Department to fix responsibility for inordinate delays wherever warranted and ensure greater accountability in project execution.

The Chief Secretary further impressed upon the Department to adopt a coordinated approach with the Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and the Forest Department for expeditious resolution of all pending bottlenecks, particularly those relating to forest clearances, land-related issues, utility shifting and other statutory approvals that have impeded the timely completion of certain projects.

Emphasising the need for close field-level monitoring, the Chief

Secretary directed all Deputy Commissioners to personally review the progress of PMGSY projects in their respective districts at regular intervals and facilitate inter-departmental coordination to remove obstacles hindering execution.

He instructed that every effort should be made to ensure completion of all balance works well before the stipulated sunset dates of the respective PMGSY phases, while simultaneously maintaining the momentum of implementation under PMGSY-IV so that the pace of progress remains steady, timely and outcome-oriented.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, Anil Kumar Singh, reiterated the Department's firm commitment towards the timely completion of all pending works sanctioned under the earlier phases of PMGSY. He made out that the focused efforts are underway to fast-track forest and statutory clearances, expedite the tendering and award of

newly sanctioned works, and ensure early commencement of projects on the ground.

The ACS further stated that the Department is vigorously pursuing fresh sanctions from the Ministry of Rural Development for the remaining eligible unconnected habitations so that the objective of providing all-weather rural connectivity to every eligible rural settlement in Jammu & Kashmir is achieved within the shortest possible time.

The Chief Secretary was informed that out of 3,437 roads sanctioned under PMGSY-I, II and III, as many as 3,332 roads have already been completed, representing an overall achievement of 96.9 percent. Against a sanctioned road length of 20,801.43 kilometres, a total of 19,865.36 kilometres has been completed, providing all-weather connectivity to remote and underserved rural areas across the Union Territory. Similarly, 260 Long Span Bridges (LSBs) have been completed out of 305 sanctioned under these phases.

Sakeena Itoo expresses profound grief over demise of 2 School Education Department Lecturers

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 14: Minister for Education, Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic demise of two lecturers of the School Education Department who lost their lives in a road accident at Magam.

The deceased, identified as Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Lecturer in Physics, and Shabir Ahmad Dar, Lecturer in Chemistry, belonged to the Gulmarg area of Baramulla district.

Expressing heartfelt condolences, the Minister, as per an official statement, described the untimely demise of the two dedicated educators as an irreparable loss to the School Education Department and the teaching fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir.



"My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families during this hour of immense grief. I pray that Almighty Allah grants the departed souls the highest place in Jannat and bestows strength and patience upon their loved ones to bear this irreparable loss," the Minister said.

The Minister prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and extended her deepest sympathies to the families, colleagues and all those affected by the unfortunate tragedy.

Ensuring 100% Screening Mobile TB Diagnostic Van reaches LOC villages in Kupwara

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, JULY 14: A special TB screening camp was held on Tuesday at Budnaml village in Medical Block Kralpora, Kupwara, to improve TB detection and care in the area.

In light of the objective to ensure 100% screening in vibrant villages in the district, mobile TB screening van has been deployed in vibrant villages. It is an initiative by District Administration Kupwara and Supported by IREDA under its CSR program. Project being implemented by TYCIA

under overall supervision of District TB Center Kupwara.

The mobile unit delivers doorstep screening and diagnostic services to underserved, hard-to-reach communities, helping ensure early detection, prompt diagnosis, and timely treatment under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Since its flag-off by the Lieutenant Governor Jammu & Kashmir, the DTC-Mobile Medical Unit, as per an official statement, has conducted similar camps in Tangdhar, Keran, and Machil before reaching Budnaml.

DC Srinagar conducts onsite inspection of ongoing road upgradation works along Dr Ali Jan Road

Directs executing agencies to complete works expeditiously



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR JULY 14:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday conducted an onsite inspection of the ongoing road upgradation works along Dr Ali Jan Road to assess the progress of the project aimed at improving traffic flow on the busy stretch leading to SKIMS Soura.

The DC, as per an official statement, was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B North Circle, Shabir Ahmad, Executive Engineer R&B, Arif Hazari, Executive Engineer UEED, Shabir Ahmad, Tehsildar Eidgah, Mohammad Iqbal and other concerned Officers.

On the occasion, the DC took stock of the ongoing road upgradation measures along the 425-meter road stretch adjacent from Aali Masjid including augmentation of drainage network system. He also took stock of the possible traffic decongestion measures on the road connecting Eidgah-SKIMS Soura corridor aimed at decongesting

the area and improving connectivity to ensure smooth vehicular movement, particularly for ambulances in and around the hospital.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of the ongoing upgradation works on the 425-metre road stretch adjacent to Aali Masjid, Eidgah, where civil works are underway to decongest the key Eidgah-SKIMS Soura corridor and improve connectivity, ensuring smoother vehicular movement, particularly for ambulances and other emergency services. He also inspected the augmentation of the drainage network being developed alongside the road to facilitate efficient drainage and prevent waterlogging on the stretch, especially during heavy rainfall.

On the occasion, the DC was informed about the status of the work, the execution timeline and the measures being taken to minimise inconvenience to commuters during the construction phase. He emphasised the importance of maintaining the quality of work while ensuring that the project progresses within the stipulated timeframe. The DC directed the concerned executing agencies to ensure close coordination among all Departments for the timely completion of the project. He stressed that all works, including road upgradation, drainage improvement and allied infrastructure development, should be carried out in a synchronised manner to avoid delays and repeated excavation without hampering traffic movement on the road.

DC Kulgam presides over DLC meeting on PMAY-U 2.0 Beneficiary Scrutiny

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JULY 14: A meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) for scrutiny and verification of beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 was held Tuesday, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, in his office chamber.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Altaf Ahmad Khan, Additional District Development Commissioner, Kulgam; Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Kulgam; District Social Welfare Officer, Kulgam; Tehsildar Kulgam; Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Kulgam; Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Devsar; and Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Yaripora.

During the meeting, the District Level Committee reviewed the status of applications received under PMAY-U 2.0 and examined the eligible cases placed before it in accordance with the scheme guidelines. After detailed scrutiny and deliberation, the Committee approved 10 Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC) cases for further processing under PMAY-U 2.0. Of these, seven cases pertain to Municipal Committee Yaripora and three cases pertain to Municipal Committee Devsar.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: [Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in](mailto:rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in)
NO:T-1/EEA/3130-35
Dated: 14 /07/2026
Extension Notice

Subject: - Construction Of School Building at PS Gulabbagh(S.No 279) Reference: - This office e-NIT No. 43/EEA/RNB of 2026-27/2579-89

Dated 01-07- 2026

The critical dates for the above noted Work is hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	20-07- 2026 up to 4. 00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21-07-2026 up to 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

DIPK-3266/26
Dated: 14-07-2026

Sd/-
Technical officer
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY KASHMIR

(GAWKADAL SRINAGAR-190001)

File No.PF-333/ DAHK-Estb0PFS/286/2023-2-1/747223/2026 ;Dated:13-07-2026

Ph.No. 0191-2155091 email: EstPjkanimalhusbandry.net Fax: 0191-2170518

Sub: Unauthorized absence of Anil Ramotra, MTS-termination thereof

Office Order No. 402-DAHK of 2026

Dated: 13-07-2026

WHEREAS , on the recommendations of Chairman District Level Selection Committee Anantnag , vide this office order No. 371-DAHK of 2015 dated: 24-02-2015 Anil Ramotra S/o Girdhari Lal R/o Rangarh Samba Jammu was appointed as Class IV (Attendant) in District cadre Anantnag ;

WHEREAS CAHO Anantnag vide his office No. 4203 dated: 24-11-2023 submitted application Anil Ramotra MTS, whereunder he sought permission to travel abroad for a period of one year;

WHEREAS in his application Anil Ramotra MTS cited reason for permission/leave to accompany his spouse who reportedly got admission for higher studies in BPP University in London;

WHEREAS accordingly the permission case of Anil Ramotra MTS was submitted to Administrative Department vide this office No. DAHK- Estb0PFS/286/2023-22-1341108/2024 dated: 29-01-2024 for seeking of permission in his favour;

WHEREAS vide Govt order No. 81-JK(APD) of 2024 dated: 21-02- 2024 Administrative Department considered the case and granted for permission in favour of Anil Ramotra MTS for a period of 120 days only to visit outside the country (United Kingdom) on private affairs w.e.f. 15-02-2024;

WHEREAS pursuant to the Govt order referred to above, 120 days of earned leave was accordingly sanctioned in favour of Anil Ramotra MTS w.e.f. 15-02-2024 vide this office vide order No. 250-DAHK of 2024 dated: 13-03-2024 ;

WHEREAS after the expiry of the sanctioned leave, the MTS under reference was supposed to resume his duties on 15-06-2024 but instead of joining back, he again applied for extension of leave by 240 days through an email dated: 01-07-2024 to his DDO (BVO Anantnag);

WHEREAS subsequently the leave extension case of Anil Ramotra MTS was also submitted to the Administrative Department vide this office No. DAHK-Estb0PFS/286/2023-2- 1/448688/2024 dated: 22-08-2024;

WHEREAS in response to this office letter dated 22-08-2024 Administrative Department vide communication No. ASHF-AHOGAZ/04/2024 (C.No. 7403140) dated: 10-10-2024 desired to serve notice to the concerned MTS for joining back his duties immediately;

WHEREAS, instructions received from Administrative Department were subsequently conveyed to CAHO Anantnag who vide his office letter no:-CAHOA/Estt/3658-60 dt:-07-08- 2024 directed Anil Ramotra MTS to resume his duties immediately failing which disciplinary action as warranted under rules shall be initiated;

WHEREAS, subsequently another notice was served also upon Anil Ramotra MTS by his Drawing & Disbursing Officer (BVO Anantnag) vide his office No:-724-25 dt:-09-11-2024 to resume his duties immediately failing which disciplinary action as warranted under rules shall be initiated;

WHEREAS Anil Ramotra MTS responded to the show cause notice issued by CAHO Anantnag through BVO Anantnag with the plea that he in his initial application has sought leave for one year to accompany his spouse along with his 04 year old daughter to United Kingdom and conveyed his inability to report his dutes immediately ;

WHEREAS the reply tendered by Anil Ramotra MTS was taken up with Administrative vide this office letter No:-494738/2024 dt:-20/12/2024 with request to favour this Department with further instructions;

WHEREAS in response to this office letter dated:-20-12-2024, Administrative Department vide communication No. ASHF- AHON-GAZ/4/2024 (C.No. 7403140) dated 03-02-2025 conveyed that the MTS had already availed 120 days of earned leave and further extension of earned leave is not admissible under rules, however half pay leave and extra ordinary leave can be considered in favour of the incumbent;

WHEREAS pursuant to the ibid communication of Adm Department, 180 days Half pay leave w.e.f. 15-06-2024 to 11-12-2024 and 60 days Extra Ordinary leave w.e.f. 12-12-2024 to 19-02-2025 was subsequently sanctioned in favour of Anil Ramotra MTS vide this office order No. 282-DAHK of 2025 dated: 13-05-2025 ;

WHEREAS after expiry of the extension of leave, CAHO Anantnag vide his office No. 943-45 dated: 10-06-2025 had reported that Anil Ramotra MTS had not resumed his duties and sought instructions from this Directorate;

WHEREAS CAHO Anantnag vide this office No. DAHK/Estb0PFS/286/2023-2- 1/571512/2025 dated: 04-07-2025 was directed to issue a showcause notice to the absconding MTS with the instructions to direct him to resume his duties immediately, failing which action under rules shall be initiated against him as unauthorized absence involves loss of appointment in terms of Article 128 of JKCSR;

WHEREAS both CAHO Anantnag & BVO Anantnag issued notice to Anil Ramotra vide his office NoCAHOA/Estt/1328-30 dt:-15-07-2025 & No:-BV0/A/Estt/299 dt:-16-07-2025 respectively with instructions to resume his duties immediately;

WHEREAS responding to the Showcause notice Anil Ramotra MTS again submitted application to BVO Anantnag stating therein that his wife is getting 02 year extension to study abroad and requested that his case may be considered leniently to avail the leave whatsoever due including leave without pay till he joins back;

WHEREAS the detailed report of the absence case of Anil Ramotra MTS was submitted to Administrative Department vide this office No. DAHK-Estb0PFS/286/2023-2-1/670131/2026; dated: 29-01-2026 with request to favour this Department with further necessary instructions in the case ;

WHEREAS the Administrative Department finally vide communication No. ASHF-AHONGAZ/4/2024 (C.No. 7403140) dated: 03-06-2026 desired to issue Speaking termination order in favour of Mr. Anil Ramotra, MTS, in terms of Article 128 of JKCSR in view of his continuous un-authorized absence from duty ;

Now therefore in view of above statement of facts and also as provided under Article-128 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, 1956 , services of Mr. Anil Ramotra MTS (District Cadre Anantnag) under continuous absence shall deemed to have been terminated w.e.f 20-02-2025.

DIPK-3243/26
Dated: 14-07-2026

Director
Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir

CM Omar Abdullah meets delegations

Assures examination of public, industry-related issues



KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday met several public delegations at the Civil Secretariat here and gave a patient hearing to their issues and demands, assuring them that all genuine concerns would be examined for appropriate action.

A delegation led by President Bat Manufacturers Association Kashmir, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, called on the Chief Minister and sought government support for the cricket bat manufacturing industry in Kashmir. The

delegation highlighted various issues concerning the sector and requested measures for its promotion and sustained growth.

Another delegation headed by President Srinagar International Airport Taxi Stand Drivers Union, Riyaz Thakur, apprised the Chief Minister of the concerns of taxi operators at Srinagar International Airport.

Later, a delegation led by Hot Mix Plant Owners Association, Kashmir, Bashir Ahmad Khan, met the Chief Minister and discussed the challenges being faced by the association.

Another delegation of Industrial Estate Pampore

also called on the Chief Minister and appraised him of the issues concerning the industrial estate.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured them that their genuine grievances and demands would be examined sympathetically in consultation with the concerned departments for appropriate resolution.

A delegation of ICICI Bank called on the Chief Minister today and discussed ways to strengthen Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and expand financial inclusion across Jammu & Kashmir.

CS chairs review meeting of IFAD Supervision Mission

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 14: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting with the visiting International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Supervision Mission, led by its Country Coordinator, Meera Mishra, to assess the progress achieved under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP), a flagship initiative jointly financed by IFAD, the Government of India and Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

The IFAD Supervision Mission, presently on a two-week visit to the Union Territory from 2nd to 14th July, 2026, is undertaking an extensive field appraisal across Jammu and Kashmir to obtain a first-hand assessment of the implementation, quality and impact of interventions executed under the project.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Agriculture Production Department including ACS, APD; MD, HADP; Project Management Unit (JKCIP), and other stakeholders associated with the implementation of the project.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was presented with a comprehensive overview of the project's progress, achievements and future roadmap through a detailed presentation highlighting physical and financial accomplishments, implementation status, digital governance initiatives and the Annual Work Plan and Budget for the coming financial year.

While appreciating the progress



achieved, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the project should now focus on translating approvals into tangible assets and sustainable livelihoods on the ground. He directed all implementing agencies to further expedite field execution and ensure that benefits reach eligible beneficiaries within stipulated timelines.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the status of credit linkage under the project. He observed that although over 2,550 applications have been forwarded to financial institutions, the pace of loan disbursement needs more focus to improve the outcomes. Stressing the critical role of institutional finance in promoting rural enterprises, he called for close coordination with banks and financial institutions to remove

procedural bottlenecks and ensure timely sanction and release of credit to beneficiaries.

The meeting was apprised by the ACS, APD, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma that farmer registrations on the portal have increased to 58,307, while applications received have crossed 64,750. More than 39,900 applications have already been approved and 7,406 livelihood units established across the Union Territory, registering substantial growth over the previous review period.

The presentation made by the MD, HADP highlighted that the Climate Smart and Market-Led Production component continues to account for the largest share of project interventions, followed by significant progress under support to vulnerable communities and

gradual expansion of the agribusiness ecosystem.

The mission was further informed that the project has already recorded notable achievements across diverse sectors. These include large-scale expansion of niche and high-value crops such as vegetables, Bhaderwah Rajmash, Mushkbudji, Basmati, saffron and other specialty crops, establishment of water management infrastructure, promotion of protected cultivation, mushroom and honey production units, development of seed villages and expansion of high-density horticulture orchards.

The meeting was further informed that the project has facilitated establishment of grading and post-harvest infrastructure, incubation of innovative agri-startups, entrepreneurship promotion, buyer-seller interactions and participation in national trade fairs to strengthen agricultural value chains and improve market access for producers.

Special emphasis has also been laid on livelihood enhancement of pastoralists and vulnerable communities through establishment of income-generating sheep units, distribution of ice boxes to fisherfolk, support for diversified enterprises, creation of milk collection centres and promotion of improved livestock breeding initiatives.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the Annual Work Plan and Budget and appreciated the strategic planning undertaken for the forthcoming financial year.

Continued on
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Lightning kills over 60 sheep in Poonch



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 14: A lightning strike killed over 60 sheep, a buffalo and a dog in Poonch district on Tuesday as the Meteorological Department forecast another spell of heavy rain and warned of flash floods and landslides later this week.

Officials said that the lightning struck a grazing area in Surankote, killing more than 60 sheep belonging to a local shepherd. A buffalo and a dog also died in the incident. No human casualties were reported.

In Anantnag district, residents of Awoora village

continued to grapple with the aftermath of a cloudburst that triggered flash floods, damaging at least 18 houses besides orchards, agricultural land and village infrastructure. Several affected families have been left without shelter and sources of livelihood, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said weather across Jammu and Kashmir is likely to remain generally hot and humid from July 15 to 17, with brief spells of rain or thundershowers at scattered places.

A fresh spell of wet weather is expected from July 18,

Continued on
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Sanitation woes overshadow Baba Reshi's religious, tourism significance

Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Jul 14: Poor sanitation and inadequate civic infrastructure have cast a shadow over Baba Reshi's religious and tourism significance, with traders and local stakeholders alleging official neglect despite the revered shrine attracting thousands of devotees and tourists every day.

Stakeholders said that heaps of garbage have accumulated around the shrine complex and adjoining market, while poor maintenance has affected the overall experience of visitors.

They claimed that Baba Reshi receives nearly 20,000 visitors on busy days, but sanitation arrangements have failed to keep pace with the growing footfall.

"The authorities are paying no attention to this destination. While the Waqf chairperson has initiated developmental works at the shrine, the employees responsible for maintenance are not performing their duties. Garbage remains scattered across the area, causing inconvenience to devotees and tourists," they said.

The stakeholders said the deteriorating condition of the shrine surroundings is affecting Baba Reshi's reputation as one of Kashmir's prominent religious and tourist destinations.



"People are now reluctant to visit after seeing the unhygienic conditions. The drainage system is defunct and basic facilities are missing. The Waqf collects rent from shopkeepers, but sanitation, public washrooms and infrastructure continue to remain neglected," they alleged.

They also expressed concern over the disposal of waste from public washrooms, claiming that it flows into a nearby stream which serves several downstream localities.

President of the local market association, Bilal Ahmad, said repeated representations to the Waqf authorities have yielded little response. "We have requested the Waqf authorities several

times to improve sanitation and upgrade the infrastructure. We have been forced to highlight these issues through the media because action is taken only after public attention is drawn," he said.

Bilal said traders had also staged peaceful protests and observed a market shutdown to press for their demands.

"We suspended business to register our protest. It was only after police intervention and assurances that we resumed our activities. Despite that, our concerns remain unresolved," he said.

Meanwhile, repeated attempts
Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Off-roading in protected area costs bikers Rs 1.2 Lakh



Raja Syed Rather

Leh, Jul 14: In a first-of-its-kind action against motorcycle groups, the Ladakh Administration has fined 12 bikers with a penalty of Rs 1.20 lakh—Rs 10,000 each—for illegally venturing into protected ecologically-sensitive zones near Tso Moriri, while another tourist driving an SUV near Pangong Lake has been penalised with Rs 50,000 for violating the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The wildlife officials, on July 4, 2026, detected a group of 12 bikers, belonging to a Gurugram-based tour operator "Wanderon Experiences Pvt Ltd," illegally riding off-road in proximity to Tso Moriri, an ecologically sensitive wetland falling within the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary. The group was found to violate Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The offence was compounded under Section 54 upon payment of a total penalty of Rs 1.20 lakh.

Earlier, on June 30, 2026, during routine patrolling near Man Village along Pangong Lake, Wildlife Department officials intercepted a Mahindra XUV 3XO bearing Uttar Pradesh registration number UP12CA5111, which was found being driven illegally off-road close to the lake within the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary. The vehicle was seized under Section 50 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The driver, a resident of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, was imposed a penalty of Rs 50,000, and the impounded vehicle was released after payment was made.

Over the last few years, Ladakh has emerged as one of the country's most sought-after destinations for motorcycle enthusiasts. However, alongside

this growth in tourism, authorities have witnessed an alarming rise in instances of tourists venturing into protected wildlife areas, driving through fragile wetlands, lake shores, and sensitive habitats, causing irreversible damage to Ladakh's unique ecosystem and disturbing wildlife.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said that Ladakh's mountains, lakes, rivers, and wildlife were among its greatest treasures and belonged not only to its people but to the entire nation. "We wholeheartedly welcome every visitor who comes to experience the unparalleled beauty, culture, and hospitality of Ladakh. I urge all tourists to enjoy our breathtaking landscapes and unique wildlife responsibly and refrain from any activity that harms our fragile ecology or disturbs protected habitats," he said.

"The administration will continue to promote tourism, but equally, we shall enforce the law firmly against those who endanger Ladakh's priceless natural heritage," the LG added. The strict enforcement comes in the wake of directions from the Lieutenant Governor to curb illegal off-roading and protect Ladakh's environmentally fragile landscapes.

The initiative has gained further momentum following the recent deployment of the Ladakh Environment Protection Force (EPF), comprising 100 Ex-servicemen authorised to monitor ecologically sensitive areas and issue on-the-spot challans against violators.

Both violations were detected through vigilant patrolling by Wildlife Department personnel and wildlife informers, reflecting the Administration's strengthened surveillance mechanism across protected landscapes—(KNO)

13 Jaipur pilgrims undertake 950-km foot march for SANJY

Umair Gull Ganie

Qazigund, Jul 14: Having covered nearly 900-950 kilometres on foot from Jaipur, Rajasthan, a group of 13 devotees reached Qazigund on Tuesday enroute to the holy Amarnath Cave shrine.

The pilgrims, who have been walking for the past 33 days, said they would pray for the nation's peace, prosperity and development while urging people from across the country to undertake the sacred pilgrimage.

Arvind Singh, who is undertaking the Amarnath Yatra on foot for the 12th time said that he travels from Rajasthan to the shrine every year

despite the scorching summer heat.

"Outside temperatures are extremely high, and we are drenched in sweat from head to toe, but there is a divine attraction that keeps us walking. If you want to achieve victory, you have to set fear aside. Only then can you reach your destination," Singh said.

He added, "People should not hesitate to come for the Amarnath Yatra because there is nothing to worry about. This is my 12th pilgrimage on foot, and we are going to pray for the nation's peace and prosperity."

Another devotee, Mohan Meena, said the group has been on the road for 33 days and also

paid obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra before heading towards Kashmir.

He praised the arrangements made for the Yatra, saying the Army, CRPF and Jammu & Kashmir Police are present throughout the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway to guide and assist pilgrims.

"Security personnel are deployed at every stretch of the highway, so nobody should fear coming here. People from across the country should undertake this holy Yatra. Despite travelling on foot, we have not faced any difficulty. Nothing is difficult, it is only the mind that makes things seem difficult," Meena said—(KNO)



EDITORIAL

A Matter Of Dignity

The concerns raised by women patients over the absence of female staff in ECG rooms across government hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir are about dignity, privacy, and the fundamental right to access healthcare without discomfort or fear. When a woman hesitates to undergo a life-saving diagnostic test because she feels embarrassed or uncomfortable in the presence of a male technician, it is a failure of the healthcare system, not of the

patient. An ECG is often the first and most critical step in diagnosing cardiac emergencies. Every minute counts. Yet, women are forced to delay the procedure, hoping for a female staff member to become available — a hope that is often unmet. Some women, as the report highlights, even skip the test despite medical advice. Such decisions, born out of necessity rather than choice, can have grave consequences. A delayed diagnosis can mean the difference

between life and death. The argument that patient comfort and privacy are integral to quality healthcare is not an exaggerated demand; it is a basic standard that any functional health system must meet. Female staff are routinely deployed in gynaecology and maternity wards. Why should ECG rooms be any different? The procedure requires exposure of the chest area, which, for many women, is a deeply private matter. A male technician's

presence, however professional, can cause stress and hesitation. This is not about questioning the professionalism of male staff but about respecting the cultural and personal sensitivities of women patients. The solution is simple and administratively feasible: ensure that every district and sub-district hospital has at least one trained female technician or healthcare worker available to assist women during ECG examinations. Health and Medical

Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, as a woman leader, is uniquely positioned to understand and address this issue. A clear policy directive from her desk would go a long way in restoring confidence among women patients. The government must act now. No woman should have to choose between her dignity and her health. It is time to ensure that every ECG room in Jammu and Kashmir is equipped with female staff — not as a favour, but as a right.

Are The US And Iran Back To Square One? The ceasefire was always going to face challenges

Con Coughlin

For all the hard work invested in trying to negotiate a lasting peace settlement, the latest upsurge in violence between Iran and the US does not bode well for the survival of their 60-day ceasefire, implemented last month. A key factor in both the Trump administration and the Iranian regime agreeing to the truce was a profound sense of war weariness in the two camps. For different reasons, both want to see an end to the conflict, yet here it is, continuing.

US President Donald Trump's decision to attack Tehran at the end of February appears to have been predicated on the basis that the war would be a relatively brief affair that would ultimately result in the collapse of the regime. The continuation of the conflict in July is, therefore, hugely inconvenient, not least economically, following a sharp rise in American energy prices. This could reflect negatively at the polls in the upcoming mid-term elections. Trump's failure to bring the conflict to a speedy conclusion has prompted many to question his ability to deal effectively with global security threats, including from within his own Republican Party.

For Iran, further conflict only increases pressure on a leadership that, having suffered militarily, now needs to rebuild the country's devastated economy. There are signs that the war's domestic political fallout has deepened divisions between the more pragmatic politicians in Tehran, who want to defuse tensions with the West, and hard-line supporters of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, who are ideologically opposed to striking any deal.

There were pressing reasons why both sides agreed to a ceasefire, signing a 14-point memorandum of understanding setting out a framework for a permanent peace deal, but the arrangement was always going to face



At the NATO summit in Ankara this week, Trump said the ceasefire deal was “over.” (AFP/File Photo)

challenges, not least from the IRGC, which believes that by maintaining hostilities in the Gulf it is simply increasing the political pressure on Trump. The latest upsurge in military action, with Iran attacking Gulf states after the US conducted fresh strikes against IRGC targets, reflects the brittle nature of the original ceasefire deal.

At the NATO summit in Ankara this week,

Trump said the ceasefire deal was “over.” Is it? Or is this just another round of the tit-for-tat exchanges that have taken place sporadically since the truce was originally implemented last month?

Judging by the extreme rhetoric from both sides, it is hard to imagine progress being made toward a permanent peace deal in the coming weeks, even though US envoys want

to keep channels of communication open.

Trump has repeatedly said that he regards Iran's nuclear program and freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz as “red lines” for any deal, and that he will not sign anything that allows Tehran to continue its uranium enrichment, which experts believe is aimed at developing nuclear weapons. He also rejects Tehran's claimed control of

Hormuz and its plan to charge tolls for merchant shipping passing through one of the world's busiest waterways, as does China.

Achieving these goals will not be easy. Iran's hard-liners want to show their growing influence, having exploited nationwide events in recent days marking the funeral of the country's former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. They demonstrated their strength by organizing massive crowds of mourners, with the regime claiming as many as 20 million turned out. The events were marked by overt displays of anti-American, anti-Trump sentiment, with many calling for the US leader's assassination, while condemning Iranian negotiators as traitors.

Whether this anti-Trump sentiment persists remains to be seen, but it has certainly had an impact on the US president, who denounced Iran's leaders as “scum,” and insisted that he has little interest in maintaining a dialogue with Tehran. Yet with Iran attacking ships in the Strait of Hormuz, the White House may have no alternative but to pursue some form of diplomatic dialogue with the regime.

Even if Trump were to launch a new full-scale military offensive against Iran, there are no guarantees that it would achieve the desired result in terms of forcing the ayatollahs to accept his peace deal. While the US and Israel are estimated to have destroyed around 80 percent of Iran's military capability, the fact that the IRGC can still attack US military targets and neighboring Gulf states suggests the regime's resilience should not be underestimated.

Con Coughlin is one of Britain's leading journalists and an international best-selling author. His previous posts include Executive Defense and Foreign Affairs Editor with London's Daily Telegraph. He is a leading expert on global conflict, international security and the Middle East. This column first appeared in Al-Majalla.

Will AI Make Us More Rude? The way we talk to AI may be degrading our human interactions

Maryellen MacDonald

Most of us would probably say we're reasonably polite, but there's one exception: We are rude to our AI assistants. When we speak or type instructions to them, most of us don't include “please” or “thank you,” and we don't use indirect requests that are a common form of politeness in English, like “Could you send a message?” Instead, we use direct commands like “Send a message.” “Make an itinerary.” “Read this instruction file. Document all your work. Do not skip steps.”

This is not how we talk to each other, and if someone talked this way to their coworkers, they'd get voted Jerk of the Month.

The Importance of Politeness

We dislike rude people because they're cheaters, skipping the effort to be polite while the rest of us are putting in the work. Making some effort to be polite is essential to our functioning in society, where we're constantly needing to interact with people outside our core family and friend group. Being polite to these strangers signals that we will cooperate with them and that we merit their cooperation in return: holding the elevator, moving aside to let someone pass, calling an ambulance when someone is hurt. Politeness sustains the cooperation that holds society together.

Being Rude to AI

If politeness is so essential, then why skip it when talking to AI? Because we don't need it for AI, and we may even be better off without



it. The act of talking is cognitively demanding, and omitting the words and phrases that signal politeness could make talking easier. AI assistants are programmed to cooperate no matter how we ask, and sometimes being rude to them can actually yield better performance, compared to polite requests.

How Talking to AI Could Affect our Human Interactions

Despite these apparent upsides of being rude to AI assistants, we should also consider the potential downsides. I study talking, and

one likely downside is that all this rude talking to AI will lead us to speak more rudely to each other. As with almost everything AI these days, it's too soon to tell the scope of this problem. Nonetheless, the science of talking can let us make educated guesses about whether AI will undermine politeness in our society. The logic of this argument has three steps:

1. Our Past Talking Shapes Our Future Talking. When we turn our ideas into speech or writing, our brains tend to reuse words

and phrases that we've often said before. Reusing our favorite words and talking styles gives us well-practiced go-to expressions that we can access quickly, making talking more efficient. This recycling is so pervasive that it's plausible that the rude talking style for AI will get reused in future conversations with each other, kicking politeness to the curb.

2. Talking Styles Spread Across Groups. You might think I'm overly worried here; surely we can tell the difference between commands to AI assistants and talking to our friends? Well, not entirely. We can keep talking styles for different groups separate to some degree—for example, saying “tummy” to a toddler but “stomach” to adults. But the separation isn't complete, and people can start reusing a common talking style with another group in awkward ways. For example, when college students go back home for a visit, they often unconsciously reuse their now-familiar college talking style on their hometown families and friends, sometimes creating hurt feelings when they sound “different” or “snooty”. Examples of talking styles spilling over from one group to another suggest that our rude AI talk really could get reused during our human conversations.

3. AI Chatbot Companions Also Make Us Rude. Users of AI chatbots for companionship don't typically issue commands and aren't rude to the chatbots, but those interactions create problems for politeness too. Chatbot companions, developed by companies such as Replika, Character AI, and

others, encourage users to be emotionally engaged with the chatbot and to talk endlessly about themselves. Users then start reusing this egotistical talking style, including in their conversations with other humans. This self-centered conversation style is a clear violation of social norms for cooperating and letting everyone have a turn in conversations. Chatbot users even report that they've become less interested in talking with humans; they'd rather be egotistical and talk about themselves to a chatbot instead of having to cooperate in back-and-forth conversation with humans.

Politeness is a big deal

With AI being both praised and blamed for job loss, brain rot, and everything else these days, should we bother adding politeness to the pile of worries? Yes, because of the essential role politeness has in keeping us cooperating and keeping our society functioning. Politeness already faces many other assaults—political polarization, a reduction in face-to-face talking, inequality, and more. The rudeness-inducing effects of talking to AI may push us further away from the civility and cooperation that every society needs.

A very polite thank you to Ethan Seidenberg for useful discussion of these topics.

Maryellen MacDonald, Ph.D., is Professor Emerit at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is the author of *More Than Words: How Talking Sharpens the Mind and Shapes Our World*. Courtesy: Psychology Today

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

CS chairs maiden UTLSC on Vibrant Villages Programme

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 14: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired the maiden meeting of the Union Territory Level Screening Committee (UTLSC) under the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), convened by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD), to review and finalize the development roadmap for the identified border villages across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments and Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts.

Taking a comprehensive review of the district-wise proposals, the Chief Secretary undertook a first-hand appraisal of the projects envisaged under the programme across the identified border villages spread over eight districts of the Union Territory. He emphasized that all developmental interventions should be implemented in a mission mode,



ensuring optimum utilization of resources and coordinated execution by different departments for creating tangible improvements in the quality of life of the people residing in these remote border areas.

He observed that the Vibrant Villages Programme offers a unique opportunity to transform the socio-economic landscape of these strategically important villages through integrated planning and timely execution of projects. He called upon all departments and district administrations to ensure seamless coordination so that the benefits of various Central and UT schemes reach the targeted population in an effective and time-bound

manner.

Introducing the agenda of the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, R. Alice Vaz, highlighted the vision and objectives of the Vibrant Villages Programme. She informed that the programme envisages focused interventions in selected border villages aimed at creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through the promotion of tourism and cultural heritage, skill development, entrepreneurship, cooperative development, agriculture and horticulture, besides encouraging the cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs.

She further stated that the

programme also prioritizes strengthening basic infrastructure by improving road connectivity to unconnected habitations, providing quality housing and village infrastructure, enhancing energy access including renewable energy, and ensuring television and telecom connectivity. The overarching objective of these interventions, she said, is to generate adequate economic opportunities and improve living standards, thereby encouraging people to continue residing in these border villages.

Giving a detailed presentation, Nodal Officer, Vibrant Villages Programme in PD&MD, Owais Ahmad, informed the Committee that the district administrations have formulated a comprehensive portfolio of development projects aligned with the thematic focus areas of the programme.

He informed that the proposed interventions include 83 projects in Baramulla, 57 in Bandipora, 526 in Jammu, 117 in Kathua, 195 in Poonch, 92 in Rajouri and 121 in Samba district, covering a wide spectrum of infrastructure creation,

livelihood generation and public service delivery.

The meeting was further informed that, under PMGSY-IV, road connectivity is proposed to be extended to 24 presently uncovered villages under the programme. Additionally, 8,513 households are proposed to be provided on-grid electricity connections, while 16,702 households will be covered with Direct-to-Home (DTH) television connectivity through the provision of set-top boxes, significantly improving access to information, education and entertainment in these remote areas.

The meeting concluded with detailed deliberations on the proposed projects, with the Chief Secretary directing all the concerned departments and district administrations to ensure meticulous planning, inter-departmental coordination and timely implementation so that the objectives of the Vibrant Villages Programme are achieved in letter and spirit, making the border villages economically vibrant, socially resilient and better connected with the mainstream.

Commissioner Secretary IT reviews JaKeGA initiatives

Calls for stronger digital governance framework



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 14: Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology Department, Saurabh Bhagat, Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA) to review the progress of key digital governance initiatives and chart the roadmap for strengthening the Union Territory's digital infrastructure, cybersecurity and citizen-centric service delivery.

The meeting, as per an official statement, reviewed the modernization of the Jammu & Kashmir State Data Centre (JKSDC), eOffice implementation, State Wide Area Network (SWAN), cybersecurity initiatives, software development framework, Digital Village Centres, Artificial Intelligence initiatives, human resource issues and the rollout of the Chief Minister's Internship Programme.

Emphasizing the need for an integrated and secure digital ecosystem, the Commissioner Secretary directed JaKeGA to prepare a comprehensive policy framework for establishing the Jammu & Kashmir State Data Centre as the sole Government Data Centre of the Union Territory with world-class infrastructure and robust cybersecurity capabilities. He also called for phased consolidation of departmental data centres into the State Data Centre to improve efficiency, optimize resources and enhance security.

To strengthen governance of Government digital assets, Saurabh Bhagat directed formulation of a uniform Software Development Policy covering project approval, ownership, source code handover, maintenance and lifecycle management. He also stressed adoption of standardized technology frameworks to eliminate duplication and ensure long-term sustainability.

Commissioner Secretary

further directed JaKeGA to prepare roadmaps and DPRs for key initiatives, including an Integrated Command and Control Centre, Cyber Security Disaster Recovery framework, AI adoption across Government, expansion of Digital Village Centres, integration of Government services with WhatsApp, strengthening of SWAN connectivity and implementation of a resilient IP Telephony solution.

Reviewing eOffice implementation, Saurabh Bhagat appreciated JaKeGA for extending the platform up to the Tehsil and Block levels and directed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure its optimum utilization for transparent, efficient and paperless governance.

He also instructed JaKeGA to immediately develop the building allotted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau at Jammu into a Centre of Excellence for Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, innovation, startup incubation and internship programmes.

Commissioner Secretary reviewed the human resource issues of JaKeGA and directed that all genuine pending matters be resolved on priority. He also instructed JaKeGA to expedite the online registration process for the Chief Minister's Internship Programme to ensure maximum participation of eligible engineering students and fresh graduates across Jammu & Kashmir.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to technology-driven governance, the Commissioner Secretary directed all concerned officers to ensure time-bound implementation of the decisions taken during the meeting through close coordination and periodic review.

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA, Asha Chaudhary Malhotra, senior officers of the Information Technology Department and JaKeGA, while officers from outstation offices participated through virtual mode.

J&K Sports Council commences selection trials for Sub-Junior Girls Football Team

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 14: The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council on Monday commenced the selection trials for the formation of the J&K Under-14 Sub-Junior Girls Football Team that will represent the Union Territory in the forthcoming AIFF Sub-Junior Girls National Football Championship 2026.

The opening day of the trials, as per an official statement, witnessed around 75 footballers participating from across the Union Territory. Approximately 60 players from the Kashmir Division and 15 players from the Jammu Division showcased their skills in pursuit of a place in the J&K team. The selection process was conducted by a technical committee constituted by the J&K Sports Council, comprising experienced football experts and qualified coaches.

The committee evaluated the participants on various parameters, including technical ability, tactical awareness,

physical fitness and overall game understanding, to identify the most promising talent.

As per the notified schedule issued by the J&K Sports Council, the divisional selection trials are being held on July 13 and 14, 2026, at the Mini Stadium, Parade Ground, Jammu, and the Synthetic Turf Football Stadium, TRC, Srinagar. Shortlisted players from both divisions will participate in the final selection trials, scheduled to be held on July 16 and 17, 2026, at the Synthetic Turf Football Stadium, TRC, Srinagar.

The players selected through the trials will represent Jammu & Kashmir in the AIFF Sub-Junior Girls National Football Championship 2026.

The initiative is part of the Sports Council's sustained efforts to strengthen women's football in the Union Territory by providing equal opportunities to young athletes and creating a robust pathway for talented footballers to compete and excel at the national level.

KU, Sahitya Akademi hold seminar on Mirza Beg Arif's literary legacy

KT News Desk

Srinagar July 14: The Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organised a two-day Kashmiri seminar on "Mirza Ghulam Hassan Beg Arif", an eminent Kashmiri poet and writer which started here at the Main Campus KU on Tuesday.

The event, as per a statement, aims to revisit the literary contributions of Mirza Ghulam Hassan Beg Arif and provide a platform for scholarly discussions on his poetry, prose and lasting influence on Kashmiri language and literature. It also seeks to encourage critical engagement with Kashmir's literary heritage and introduce younger generations to the works of one of the region's distinguished literary figures.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that universities have a vital role in preserving and promoting regional languages and literary traditions.



"Our literary heritage is an invaluable cultural resource that deserves sustained academic attention. Seminars such as these help strengthen research on Kashmiri literature while inspiring students to engage with the rich intellectual legacy of our language," she said.

Convenor, Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Prof. Shad Ramzan, highlighted the importance of Mirza Beg Arif's contribution to Kashmiri literature and called for continued scholarly engagement with the works of classical and modern Kashmiri writers.

Dr. Satish Vimal, Professor of Practice, KU, spoke about

the relevance of revisiting the works of literary figures whose writings continue to shape Kashmir's cultural landscape and emphasized the need to make such literary traditions accessible to younger readers through academic and cultural initiatives.

Earlier, Head, Department of Kashmiri, KU, Prof. Aejez Mohammed Sheikh, welcomed the guests and said that the event has brought together scholars, writers and researchers to examine the life, literary contributions and lasting relevance of Mirza Ghulam Hassan Beg Arif through informed academic discussions.

Over 570 sports infrastructure projects underway across J&K Commissioner Secretary reviews first quarterly progress of YSS expansion programme

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 14: More than 570 sports and youth infrastructure projects with an estimated investment exceeding 650 crore are presently under various stages of planning and execution across Jammu & Kashmir during the current financial year, under the Department of Youth Services & Sports, marking one of the most comprehensive infrastructure development programmes undertaken by the Department in recent years.

The progress, as per an official statement, of this ambitious programme was reviewed Tuesday by Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, chairing the first quarterly review of the implementation roadmap initiated earlier this year.

The meeting was attended by Director General, Youth Services & Sports, Special Secretary YSS, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, FA/CAOs, JDP, senior officers of the Administrative Department, engineering agencies, Heads of Wings, District Youth Services & Sports Officers from all twenty districts and officers of the J&K Sports Council.

The review covered Capital Expenditure, Special Assistance to Capital Investment (SASCI), Centrally Sponsored Schemes including the Khelo India Mission, Revenue Expenditure, Budget Announcements and district-wise implementation of sports infrastructure projects. The Commissioner/Secretary

said that the Department's infrastructure strategy is fully aligned with the vision of the Khelo Bharat Niti, with emphasis on creating an equitable, accessible and future-ready sports ecosystem capable of serving every region and every section of society.

Dr. Choudhary observed that while significant investments have already transformed sports infrastructure over the past few years, the current phase represents a strategic shift from isolated project execution to a planned, data-driven expansion of sports infrastructure across urban centres, rural areas, border districts, tribal habitations, remote mountainous regions and other underserved locations. He said the objective is to ensure that every young person in Jammu & Kashmir has access to quality sports facilities within reasonable proximity, while simultaneously creating centres of excellence capable of nurturing national and international sporting talent.

The meeting reviewed the progress of 315 CapEx projects being implemented by the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports during 2026-27, including 167 ongoing works, 140 new projects and eight non-construction initiatives, in addition to projects under SASCI, Budget Announcements and other flagship programmes. The J&K Sports Council is simultaneously implementing 263 infrastructure projects, comprising 195 ongoing works, 57 new



works and 11 SASCI Disaster Component projects, reflecting an unprecedented scale of coordinated infrastructure development across the Union Territory.

A comprehensive district-wise review was undertaken of all major projects. The Commissioner/Secretary reviewed progress on development of Khel Gaon, Nagrota as a flagship multi-sport hub through establishment of a Lawn Tennis Academy, new Directorate headquarters, Strength & Conditioning Centre, Youth Hostel and remodeling of cricket infrastructure. Progress was also reviewed on major new projects including construction of Khel Bhawans and integrated residential sports facilities at Rajouri, Ramban, Samba, Srinagar, Anantnag, Kulgam, Poonch, Jammu, and Nagrota; two Border Sports Academies; the proposed

Centre for Mountaineering & Skiing at Sanasar; youth hostels at Nagrota, Wazir Bagh and Government College of Physical Education, Ganderbal; multi-purpose indoor halls; mini stadiums; sports academies; and playground development works across districts.

The review also covered major projects being executed by the J&K Sports Council, including synthetic football and hockey turfs at Bandhura, Jagti, Gassu Hazratbal, Azad Gunj Baramulla and Draggad Shopian; Olympic-standard swimming infrastructure and toddler swimming facilities at Gindun Rajbagh; athletic tracks at Khour, Mendhar and Tulibal; sports stadiums at Sogam, Birpur, Panthan Thathri, Rehal Bishnah, Budgam and Bhalwal; water sports facilities at Manasbal; Sports Complex at Nilandrus; Cricket Academies at Srinagar, Jammu, Udhampur

and Anantnag; Gymnastics, Archery and Shooting Centres; High Performance Taekwondo Centres; and Centre of Cricket Excellence projects presently under execution.

The meeting noted significant progress under the Playfield Development Programme, under which 108 playfields are being developed across Jammu & Kashmir this year at an estimated cost of over 39 crore, besides implementation of 118 additional sports infrastructure projects, including indoor stadiums, multipurpose halls, youth hostels, volleyball courts, badminton courts, pickleball courts, cricket practice facilities, sports office buildings and allied infrastructure aimed at strengthening grassroots participation and community engagement in sports.

Reviewing implementation under the Khelo India Mission,

the Commissioner Secretary also assessed progress relating to Khelo India Centres, procurement of sports equipment, strengthening of centres of excellence, cricket academies and athlete support infrastructure, directing that these initiatives should complement the rapidly expanding physical infrastructure to create a complete sporting ecosystem across the Union Territory.

In a significant policy direction, Dr. Choudhary reviewed the creation of the Department's first comprehensive geo-spatial inventory of sports infrastructure by geo-tagging every stadium, playfield, indoor hall, youth hostel, academy, sports complex and allied asset under both the Directorate and the J&K Sports Council. The integrated GIS-based platform will support scientific infrastructure planning, lifecycle maintenance, utilisation assessment, convergence with other development programmes and identification of infrastructure-deficit areas requiring future investment.

He further directed preparation of district-wise infrastructure gap analyses based on population, accessibility, sporting potential and regional requirements so that future investments are guided by objective assessment rather than incremental expansion. Particular emphasis, he said, should be placed on border areas, tribal regions, remote habitations, hilly districts and emerging urban settlements, ensuring

balanced regional development and equitable access to sports infrastructure.

Calling for strict adherence to timelines, the Commissioner/Secretary instructed all executing agencies to expedite DPR preparation, statutory approvals, tendering and execution while maintaining the highest standards of engineering quality, transparency and financial discipline. He also directed institution of digital project monitoring, periodic field inspections and outcome-based review mechanisms to ensure timely completion of every sanctioned project.

Dr. Choudhary said that investment in sports infrastructure is ultimately an investment in the aspirations of the youth of Jammu & Kashmir. He observed that the Department's vision extends beyond construction of physical assets to creation of vibrant community spaces that encourage participation, discover talent at the grassroots, promote healthy lifestyles and enable young sportspersons from every district to compete at national and international levels.

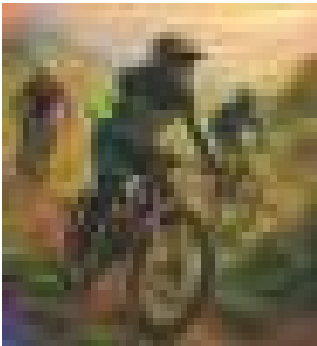
He expressed confidence that the ongoing infrastructure expansion, supported by the Khelo India Mission and the policy framework envisaged under the Khelo Bharat Niti, would lay a strong foundation for making Jammu & Kashmir a leading sporting destination while creating enduring opportunities for generations of young people.

Zabarvan Legends series returns with three new venues for 2026

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 14: Following the successful inaugural season in 2025, the Zabarvan Legends Series (ZLS), India's premier downhill mountain biking championship, will return this October with three new venues across Ladakh, Sikkim, and Pune (Maharashtra), while the Gulmarg round has been shelved due to delays in administrative coordination.

The championship made a strong debut last year with races in Gulmarg (Jammu & Kashmir), Shillong (Meghalaya), and Guwahati (Assam), attracting over 30 riders from India and abroad, including Australia's Samuel Hill, eight-time UCI Downhill World Champion, alongside competitors from Brazil, the Czech Republic, Iran, Nepal, Indonesia, and other nations.



Brazil's Douglas Vieira claimed the inaugural Zabarvan Legends Series championship after consistently strong performances across all three rounds. He was followed by Samuel Hill (Australia), Matej Charvat (Czech Republic), and Hossein Zanjanian (Iran). The Gulmarg round, staged on the slopes beneath the Gulmarg Gondola, was broadcast live to a global audience and

remains available on the official Zabarvan YouTube channel.

Building on the success of the inaugural event, organisers had intended to return to Gulmarg in 2026 and establish the destination as a permanent fixture on the championship calendar. However, despite extensive planning, the Gulmarg round will not take place this season. According to the organisers, delays in administrative coordination meant that the necessary approvals could not be completed before registrations for the 2026 championship opened, making it impractical to include the venue in this year's calendar.

The organisers expressed their disappointment, noting that the inaugural race demonstrated Gulmarg's exceptional potential as a summer and autumn mountain biking destination, complementing its

international reputation as one of Asia's premier winter sports destinations. They remain committed to returning the championship to Gulmarg in future editions once the required approvals can be secured in time.

The 2026 championship will instead introduce three new venues: Sikkim (October 8-11), Ladakh (October 14-18), and Pune, Maharashtra (October 22-25). The series continues its mission of bringing world-class downhill mountain biking to new regions while expanding India's presence on the international gravity racing calendar.

The event is under the aegis of the Cycling Federation of India (CFI) and is currently being supported by the Span Foundation and Beenest Media. Registration details, race dates, and the complete list of participating athletes will be announced in the coming weeks.

Dr Amit Wanchoo calls on LG Sinha, briefs on upcoming Chinara Book Festival

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 14: Dr Amit Wanchoo, Chief Convener, Chinara Book Festival called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday. He was accompanied by Shobha Kapoor from National Book Trust (NBT). Dr Wanchoo briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the upcoming Chinara Book Festival scheduled to be held from July 18 to 26, 2026 in Srinagar.

The nine-day Festival will feature participation from over 200 publishers and book exhibitors from across the country, displaying books in English, Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi, and several other Indian languages. Alongside the book exhibition, the festival will host literary discussions, author interactions, book launches, children's programmes, storytelling sessions, workshops, cultural performances, Mushairas, Sufiyana



music, and youth engagement activities.

Shilpa Dubey, former Member, District Development Council (DDC) from Vijaypur, also called on LG Sinha and projected various issues of public importance.

Vandana Kumari, former Sarpanch, Flora Nagbani, met the Lieutenant Governor and lauded the transformative

impact of Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan in creating awareness and protecting the youth from substance abuse.

Subsequently, Dr. Sheikh Jamsheed Ahmad, social activist from Handwara, also called on the Lieutenant Governor and put forth various welfare issues of different sections of society, with particular emphasis on specially-abled persons.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Community participation

directed that motivated and driven women volunteers/groups be identified, imparted appropriate training, and involved in counselling and rehabilitation efforts for the victims.

"Community participation is crucial for successful reintegration of victims into mainstream. Volunteers and interested Government employees must be encouraged to actively participate in the rehabilitation process.

"Training and capacity building programs for the concerned staff must begin at the earliest to equip teams with the specialized skills and enhance the delivery of rehabilitation services," the Lieutenant Governor told the officials.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department; Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department and other senior officials.

The Scheme is aimed at establishing a comprehensive, convergence-based framework for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of individuals recovering from substance use disorders across the Union Territory.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez gave a detailed presentation highlighting the salient features of the proposed Scheme.

The Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme envisages a structured three-year rehabilitation cycle comprising Phase I – Treatment and Stabilization, focusing on medical treatment, counselling and preparation of Individual Rehabilitation Plans (IRPs); Phase II – Reintegration and Livelihood Activation, aimed at facilitating education, skill development, employment and family reintegration; and Phase III – Sustained Monitoring and Social Inclusion, providing continued follow-up, relapse prevention, community support and long-term social reintegration through coordinated interventions of multiple departments.

The meeting was informed that a dedicated Rehabilitation Monitoring Portal (RMP) is being developed to facilitate digital case management, monitoring of Individual Rehabilitation Plans, inter-departmental convergence and real-time tracking of rehabilitation outcomes while ensuring confidentiality of beneficiaries.

The Scheme has been prepared by a Task Force constituted under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Home Department, pursuant to the directions of the Chief Secretary, with the Social Welfare Department as the Nodal Department. The Task Force, comprising representatives of all key stakeholder departments, was mandated to formulate a comprehensive framework for rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of drug abuse victims through a coordinated inter-departmental approach. (KNO)

Amarnath Yatra sets

pilgrimage left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu during the early hours of Tuesday under multi-layered security arrangements and reached Kashmir.

According to official figures, 5,335 pilgrims departed for the twin base camps, with 1,736 heading towards the Baltal route and 3,599 opting for the traditional Pahalgam route.

The Baltal convoy departed at 2:42 am, while the Pahalgam convoy rolled out at 3:10 am under the escort of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF and other security agencies.

The batch comprised 3,911 men, 1,288 women, 21 children, 90 sadhus, 24 sadhvis, and one transgender pilgrim.

A total of 232 vehicles, including 138 buses, 36 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 57 light motor vehicles (LMVs), and one two-wheeler, were deployed for the movement of the pilgrims. Of these, 99 vehicles proceeded towards Baltal, while 133 vehicles moved towards Pahalgam.

The 57-day Shri Amarnath Yatra will conclude on August 28, coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan.

Located at an altitude of 3,880 metres above sea level in the Himalayas, the Amarnath cave shrine is revered for its naturally formed ice stalagmite, believed by devotees to symbolise Lord Shiva. (KNO)

Govt schools stuck

private schools in Jammu and Kashmir, the

private sector is educating nearly fifty percent of the total student enrolment with 12.89 lakh out of 26.53 lakh total enrolled students.

As per the fresh figures revealed by the MoE, private schools in Jammu and Kashmir average 239 students per institution.

The government-run-schools on the contrary, despite having 18,852 infrastructures, the department is managing only 51.4 percent students with 13.63 lakh students—averaging a mere 72 students per school.

As already reported, in Jammu and Kashmir, 1,544 schools are being run by single teachers each wherein more than 33,537 students are enrolled.

The Union Territory is also functioning with 188 such schools that are having zero student enrolments. Interestingly, 87 teachers are still deployed to these empty institutions, drawing salaries while teaching no one.

These figures were recently released by the Department of School Education and Literacy for the Ministry of Education (MoE) wherein the ministry has said that 1544 schools in Jammu and Kashmir are functioning with single teachers.

It has learnt that there are 33,537 students enrolled in those 1544 schools that are functioning with single teachers.

Furthermore, MoE has said that 87 teachers are posted in such schools that are having zero enrolments and 188 schools are without any student enrolled.

Earlier this news agency reported that MoE in a meeting of Project Approval Board (PAB) for considering the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) 2026-27 has said that in Jammu and Kashmir at least 146 schools have reported functioning without any student enrolled and over 1355 other schools are functioning with single teachers.

"141 primary schools and five upper primary schools were reported with zero enrolment," MoE said. (KNO)

Veteran NC leader

Omar Abdullah, cabinet ministers, and MLAs attended the Namaz-e-Janaza (funeral prayers) of Kamal at the Nedous residence near MLA Hostel here. Later, he was buried at a graveyard in Sonawar area of the city.

Known for his candid views, Kamal, son of NC founder Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, served both as minister in J&K cabinet and legislator.

He was first inducted as a member of the Legislative Council in 1983, serving until 1987. In the 1987 Assembly election, he won from Tangmarg by defeating Gulam Hassan Mir with a margin of 8734 votes. He again won in 1996, this time by a margin of 1753 votes. He won the 2006 by-election from Pattan assembly segment.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed grief over the demise of Dr Mustafa Kamal.

In a post on X, formerly twitter, the LG said he was deeply saddened by the passing of the veteran leader and extended his heartfelt condolences to his family, well-wishers and admirers. "I am deeply saddened by the news of veteran leader Dr. Mustafa Kamal's passing away. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family, well-wishers, and admirers. Om Shanti!" he said.

A visionary & fearless leader: Speaker Assembly

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, has expressed profound grief and heartfelt sorrow over the demise of Dr. Mustafa Kamal, former Cabinet Minister, brother of former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah and uncle of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

In his condolence message, the Speaker described Dr. Mustafa Kamal as a towering political figure, a distinguished parliamentarian, an accomplished administrator and a compassionate leader who devoted his entire public life to the service of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that Dr. Kamal rendered exemplary services while heading several key departments in the erstwhile State and earned widespread respect and admiration for his integrity, humility, visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to public welfare.

The Speaker said that throughout his illustrious political career, Dr. Kamal remained steadfastly committed to the upliftment of the downtrodden, the poor, the underprivileged and other weaker sections of society. He

worked tirelessly for inclusive development, social justice and the overall progress and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir, leaving behind a lasting legacy of selfless public service and dedicated leadership.

Describing his demise as an irreparable loss, the Speaker said that Jammu and Kashmir has lost one of its most experienced, respected and farsighted leaders whose invaluable contribution to governance, development and public service will be remembered for generations.

Recalling his long association with the late leader, the Speaker said that Dr. Mustafa Kamal was not only a valued colleague in the Cabinet but also a close associate with whom he had the privilege of working for many years in public life. He said that they shared a warm personal rapport, mutual respect and a deep bond forged through their collective commitment to serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Speaker remarked that Dr. Kamal's wisdom, affable nature, sincerity and unwavering dedication to public service earned him the admiration of colleagues across the political spectrum and that his passing has left behind a profound personal and professional void.

Rather said that the vacuum created by his passing is difficult to fill and that his absence will be deeply felt not only by his family and colleagues but also by the people across Jammu and Kashmir, who held him in high esteem and affection.

The Speaker conveyed his deepest condolences to Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the entire bereaved family. He prayed to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul, place him in the highest ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bestow strength, courage and fortitude upon the bereaved family to bear this immense loss.

'A compassionate leader': Dy CM

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Dr. Mustafa Kamal, describing him as a seasoned political leader and a compassionate public figure.

He said that the late leader was a committed social worker whose invaluable contributions to public welfare and the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir will be remembered with deep respect and admiration.

The Deputy Chief Minister conveyed his deepest sympathies to former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, other members of the bereaved family and all those mourning the irreparable loss.

He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this immense loss with courage and fortitude.

He added that Dr. Kamal's rich legacy and selfless service would continue to inspire the generations to come.

The Deputy Chief Minister prayed that the departed soul may attain eternal peace and solace.

A pillar of democracy: Satish Sharma

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma on Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of veteran political leader Dr. Mustafa Kamal.

Describing Dr. Kamal as a distinguished public figure who dedicated decades of his life to public service and democratic values, the Minister said his demise marks the end of an important chapter in the political history of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Dr. Kamal earned respect across political and social spheres for his steadfast commitment to public welfare and unwavering engagement with the people.

Satish Sharma said that Dr. Mustafa Kamal's contribution to the political discourse of Jammu and Kashmir and his efforts towards strengthening the democratic institutions will be remembered for years to come. He added that his legacy of public service and dedication will continue to inspire future generations.

Expressing his heartfelt sympathies, the Minister conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved family, relatives, friends, colleagues, well-wishers and countless admirers of the departed leader. He prayed that the Almighty grant eternal peace to the departed soul and bestow strength and courage upon the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

"In this moment of profound grief, my thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family. May the Almighty grant Dr. Mustafa Kamal the highest place in his eternal abode

and give strength to all those mourning this huge loss," the Minister said.

J&K records flurry

month, authorities also recorded a cluster of 12 localized cloudburst incidents within nearly 12 hours across parts of the Chenab Valley and adjoining high-altitude areas, triggering flash floods and landslides at multiple locations.

On July 11, two cloudbursts were reported in the forest areas of Awoora and Dehwathu in Anantnag district. The sudden rise in the water level of the Overa stream inundated nearby areas, including hotels in the Pahalgam tourist resort.

Meteorologists said such events are becoming more common across the western Himalayan region as warmer atmospheric conditions allow more moisture to accumulate before being released over a limited area.

"Cloudbursts are highly localised events, but the pattern of intense rainfall over short durations is becoming more frequent in the Himalayan region," said Sonam Lotus, Director of the Meteorological Centre, Ladakh.

A recent study published in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, which analysed 68 cloudburst and heavy rainfall events across Jammu and Kashmir, identified the Shri Amarnath Ji basin and Tral tehsil in Pulwama district among the most vulnerable locations. The researchers said recurring extreme rainfall has increased the risk of flash floods, debris flows and landslides in these areas.

Another study examining infrastructure vulnerability in the north-western Himalayas found that rainfall events of around 40 mm in three hours and 60 to 140 mm in a day are capable of triggering flash floods and slope failures, particularly along transport corridors such as the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

The researchers said the findings underline the need for improved hazard mapping, weather monitoring, land-use planning and early warning systems in mountainous regions where short-duration rainfall events are becoming more frequent.

According to Meteorological data, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed an increase in localised extreme weather events over the past decade.

It attributes the trend to rising temperatures, changing atmospheric circulation and declining glacier cover, which are altering precipitation patterns across the western Himalayas.

Experts said strengthening forecasting systems, regulating construction in vulnerable areas and improving community-level disaster preparedness would be essential to reducing the impact of future extreme weather events. (KNO)

Choose hygiene over

simultaneously, or coughing and sneezing near food can easily contaminate food with disease-causing germs.

The advisory further notes that food exposed to dust, flies and prolonged heat, prepared using contaminated water, or sold after being kept for long periods is more likely to harbour harmful bacteria. The use of artificial colours and unsafe food additives also poses additional health risks.

Besides food handling practices, the surrounding environment of food stalls also plays a crucial role in food safety. Stalls located near open drains, garbage dumps or dusty roads, with poor waste disposal systems and the presence of flies, mosquitoes and stray animals, create favourable conditions for contamination, it states.

The advisory also warns consumers against unsafe eating habits such as consuming food without washing hands, using unclean utensils or sharing food and drinks, as these practices can facilitate the spread of infections.

Health experts have cautioned that consumption of contaminated food can lead to diarrhoea, vomiting, food poisoning, stomach infections, dehydration, typhoid, hepatitis A and cholera, with children, elderly persons and those with weak immunity being particularly vulnerable.

Dr. Khan advised people to wash their hands thoroughly with soap before meals, choose clean and hygienic food outlets, consume freshly prepared and hot food, drink boiled or safe bottled water, and dispose of waste properly instead of littering.

He stressed that maintaining good food hygiene is the most effective way to prevent food-borne illnesses, urging people

not to compromise their health for taste or convenience.

"Your health is precious. Safe food today means a healthier tomorrow," the advisory reads, appealing to the public to remain vigilant while purchasing food from roadside vendors, especially during the ongoing summer season. (KNO)

Only 2,300 apply

He reiterated that a valid passport is mandatory for submitting the application and advised applicants to avoid the last-minute rush.

A total of 4,351 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir performed Haj in 2025 against a quota of 4,200 after 6,862 applications were received. In comparison, the Haj Committee has received only around 2,300 applications so far for Haj-2027 against the UT's quota of 8,000 seats, prompting authorities to urge eligible pilgrims to apply before the July 20 deadline. (KNO)

J&K govt notifies

finest under the Municipal Acts.

The Rules state that penalties for not parking in designated spaces shall be determined by the Parking Committee constituted under the Municipal Corporation and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) from time to time.

As per the notification, violations such as parking on footpaths or cycle tracks, occupying more than one slot, or parking against the lane direction will attract penalties.

The Rules mandate digital payment of parking fees via apps or websites, with payments linked directly to vehicle registration numbers, enabling authorities to verify compliance. All collections of fees or violation charges must be through cashless transactions.

The Rules also require the development of a website and smartphone application to provide real-time information on occupancy at all on-street and off-street paid locations, as well as fee levels.

The enforcement of these Rules shall be carried out by the concerned Municipal Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner in their respective jurisdictions. (KNO)

Hospital entrances

struggled to enter the hospital because of blocked access roads.

"Hospital entrances should remain free for emergency movement. Congestion outside the gates hampers timely medical care and creates unnecessary stress for patients, attendants and healthcare workers," the doctor said.

Similar scenes are witnessed outside LD Hospital, where roadside food stalls attract large crowds while auto-rickshaws, e-rickshaws and private vehicles remain parked indiscriminately, leaving little room for ambulances and other vehicles.

Masrat Jan, a pregnant woman from Anantnag who recently visited LD Hospital, said she was forced to get out some distance away from the hospital gate because the vehicle could not move through the traffic. "I had to walk through a crowded entrance despite being in pain. It was a very difficult and uncomfortable experience," she said.

Patients and doctors clarified that they are not opposed to the livelihood of vendors or transport operators but stressed that proper regulation around hospital premises is essential to ensure unhindered access to healthcare facilities.

Health officials acknowledged the issue and said they have repeatedly taken up the matter with the concerned civic and traffic authorities.

"We have written several times requesting regulation of traffic, removal of unauthorised vendors and better management of the areas surrounding hospital gates. The present situation poses a serious challenge to emergency healthcare services," an official said.

Patients, attendants and healthcare workers urged the administration to declare hospital entrances as strict no-vending and no-parking zones, create designated parking spaces for public transport vehicles away from the gates, and ensure dedicated corridors for ambulances and emergency vehicles.

They said hospitals should remain easily accessible at all times as they cater to critically ill patients and medical emergencies round the clock.

"The authorities must act without further delay. Hospitals are meant to provide timely healthcare, and their entrances should never become obstacles to saving lives," they added. (KNO)

‘PM to inaugurate 4 modern railway stations in Punjab on Jul 17’



PTI

Chandigarh, Jul 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate four redeveloped railway stations in Punjab under the ambitious Amrit Bharat Station Scheme on July 17, state BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon said on Tuesday.

In a statement issued here, Dhillon said the prime minister will physically inaugurate the redeveloped Jalandhar Cantonment Railway Station, while he will virtually dedicate to the nation the redeveloped S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) Railway Station, Sri Muktsar Sahib Railway Station, and Sri Anandpur Sahib Railway Station. Describing the occasion as a landmark moment for Punjab's railway infrastructure, Dhillon said these stations have been transformed into modern, passenger-friendly transport hubs equipped with world-class amenities while preserving their local heritage and architectural identity.

The redevelopment includes improved passenger facilities, better accessibility, enhanced waiting areas, modern concourses, upgraded platforms, lifts, escalators, and other commuter-friendly infrastructure, he informed.

"Under the visionary leadership of PM Modi, Railways is undergoing an unprecedented transformation, with the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme aimed at redeveloping railway stations across the country into modern gateways that promote connectivity, tourism, trade, and economic growth," Dhillon said.

India will prioritise rule-based maritime order, including safety of seafarers, at UNSC: Jaishankar

PTI

United Nations, Jul 14: India will ensure that issues such as free, open and rule-based maritime order, including safety of seafarers, and countering terror financing get the "attention they deserve" at the UN Security Council, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

India launched its official campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2028-29 on Monday at an event at the world body's headquarters, attended by UN ambassadors, diplomats and officials.

Jaishankar said that India's approach to the UN is rooted in 'SHANTI: Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity', as he outlined in detail New Delhi's priorities for the UNSC term.

These are "a voice of the Global South; advancing reformed multilateralism; a future ready peacekeeping; addressing threats posed due to misuse of AI; securing maritime commons; and countering terror financing", he said.

"In an era where supply chains connect our economies, the world is also increasingly focused on securing the maritime commons," Jaishankar said.

He said the challenge begins with ensuring adherence to relevant international law, specifically the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"Our collective interest is in maintaining safe and unimpeded flow of maritime commerce," he said, adding that nations with requisite capabilities must also



cooperate to combat piracy.

"The safety of seafarers is another major concern thrown up by developments in the Gulf," he said.

Promoting search and rescue missions, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and encouraging capacity building while sharing best practices have all been facets where India has long been active, he said.

"We will endeavour to ensure that these issues get the attention they deserve in the Security Council," he said.

He said in maritime security, India makes wide-ranging and regular contributions, including in anti-piracy, counter-narcotics and anti-trafficking operations. "Our forces are protecting sea lanes across the Indo-Pacific, specifically in the northern and southern Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Malacca Straits and even in the Gulf of Guinea."

India's focus on securing maritime commons comes amid challenges unleashed by the US-Israel conflict against Iran, with closures and blockades of the critical chokepoint Strait of Hormuz adversely impacting

global fuel prices, critical supply chains and endangering the lives of seafarers.

Amid the West Asia conflict, 11 Indian nationals have lost their lives, and several seafarers have been rescued as ships and tankers have come under attack in the conflict.

Another key priority area for India for its UNSC campaign will be countering terror financing through effective and sustained efforts, the external affairs minister said.

"Even as the world strives to sustain growth and promote prosperity, some long-standing challenges continue to confront us. Significant among them is terrorism," Jaishankar said.

"For far too long, our efforts have concentrated on countering its symptoms, but that would only give us limited results unless we are focused on constricting its resource base. Our commitment is to concentrate on countering terror financing and encourage objective and evidence-based proposals for listing of terrorist groups," he said.

Elections for the 2028-29 term will be conducted in June next

Indian crew member killed in Iranian strike in Strait of Hormuz



PTI

Dubai, Jul 14: An Indian crew member was on Tuesday killed while eight others, including six Indians, sustained injuries in an Iranian strike on UAE shipping tankers in the Strait of Hormuz close to Oman, in a major escalation of the conflict in West Asia.

The UAE Ministry of Defence, in a statement, said its national tankers Mombasa and Al Bahiyah were targeted by two Iranian cruise missiles while transiting the southern shipping lane of the Strait of Hormuz, within Omani territorial waters.

One Indian crew member aboard the Mombasa tanker was killed, the ministry said, while eight others sustained injuries. Of the eight people injured, four are said to be serious.

The injured comprise six Indian nationals and two Ukrainian nationals, the ministry said.

"The attack also caused material damage to both tankers as a result of the fires that broke out on board, which have since been brought under

control," it added.

The UAE Ministry of Defence said it condemned the "blatant attack", which it considered a "serious violation and a clear breach of international law".

"The UAE reserves its full right to respond to this escalation and to take all necessary measures to protect its territory, its citizens and residents," it said.

The ministry further said it remains on the "highest level of readiness and preparedness" to address any threats.

The US launched strikes on Iran early on Tuesday after President Donald Trump said Washington is "reinstating" a blockade on Iran in the Strait of Hormuz, and suggested that it will charge other ships for a safe passage.

Iran responded with attacks targeting Bahrain, Jordan and the two tankers associated with the UAE.

Amid the West Asia conflict, 11 Indian nationals have lost their lives. Several seafarers have been rescued as ships and tankers have come under attack in the conflict.

Law changed to include victims suffering internal injuries due to forced acid ingestion: Govt to SC

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 14: The Centre told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it has made changes in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, to extend the benefits of the law to those acid-attack victims who suffer internal injuries due to forced ingestion.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared in the court for the Centre, that a notification regarding the change in the law was issued on May 22 and now, internal



acid injuries are also covered under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act.

The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) matter filed by Shaheen

Malik, an acid-attack survivor. Besides other reliefs, the plea has sought a direction to the Centre to amend the law to cover the cases of those who have forcibly

been made to consume acid or have suffered internal injuries, without any outer disfigurement.

The PIL has sought that such victims be categorised as persons with disabilities to ensure access to welfare schemes. The court had earlier asked the Centre to formally notify the necessary amendment.

The solicitor general said an amendment to the 2016 Act has been notified to clarify that the term "acid-attack victims" includes those who suffer internal injuries even without external disfigurement.

"The Union of India has issued a notification dated May 22, 2026, through the

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, amending the Schedule to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016," he said.

The bench said the amendment will be deemed to have been existing since the date on which the Act came into effect.

"Since the aforesaid amendment is clarificatory in nature, it shall be deemed to have been in existence with effect from the date on which the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, came into force. The necessary consequences shall follow," it said.

Mortal remains of 10 TN people killed in Vietnam boat tragedy arrive

PTI

Chennai, Jul 14: Flights carrying the mortal remains of 10 people hailing from Tamil Nadu killed in a boat tragedy in Vietnam reached Chennai and Coimbatore airports respectively on Tuesday morning.

The bodies were flown from Mumbai. Heart-wrenching scenes were witnessed at the Chennai airport as grieving relatives received the mortal remains of those who died in the boat tragedy.

Of the 15 victims, 10 hailed from Tamil Nadu, three from Andhra Pradesh and two from Kerala.

Prabhakaran, a relative of one of the victims, expressed profound grief over the sudden demise of his 49-year-old family member.

Speaking to PTI Videos, he stated that the family was struggling to recover from the tragedy but expressed gratitude that the body was brought home and handed

over to them without any procedural hardship.

Prabhakaran thanked the Tamil Nadu government, Chief Minister Joseph C Vijay, TVK's Vellore MLA Vinoth, DIG Santosh Kumar, and an Indian Embassy official in Vietnam for their seamless coordination.

The caskets initially arrived at the Mumbai international airport on a Vietnam Airlines flight from Ho Chi Minh City at 9.30 pm on July 13, before being dispatched to their respective native states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

Senior officials, including Tamil Nadu Police DIG Santosh Kumar and Regional Passport Officer Swapnil Thorat, were present at the international cargo area in Chennai to oversee the arrival.

Following the completion of customs clearance at the international import heavy cargo shed, the caskets were shifted to the domestic cargo facility.

Nirav Modi's extradition to happen after ongoing legal proceedings end: MEA

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 14: India on Tuesday said fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi will be extradited from the United Kingdom once ongoing legal proceedings are completed.

Modi is wanted in India to stand trial on fraud and money laundering charges in an estimated USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan scam case. India has been raising with the UK the issue of his extradition.

"The legal proceedings in the matter are on, and once those legal proceedings are completed, then he will be extradited to India," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a media briefing.

Jaiswal, however, did not elaborate on the ongoing legal proceedings in the case.

He was responding to a question on the issue.

Modi's extradition to India appeared imminent after the European Court of Human Rights rejected his appeal against the extradition.

Sensex falls over 550 pts in early trade, Nifty slips below 24,100 after crude oil surge

PTI

Mumbai, Jul 14: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Tuesday dragged by a sharp rally in crude oil prices due to the renewed flare-up in West Asia.

Fresh foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in global peers also put pressure on the markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 552.99 points to 77,063.41 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 160.45 points to 24,050.55.

From the Sensex pack, InterGlobe Aviation, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement and Larsen & Toubro were the biggest laggards. Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services, Adani Ports and Tata Steel were among the winners.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, quoted 1.63 per cent higher at USD 84.60 per barrel.

"There are some headwinds blowing again which might impact the Indian market in the near-term. The escalation of US-Iran conflict has pushed Brent crude to USD 84. If this spike continues it will again start impacting India's macros," VK Vijayakumar,



Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi traded 3.71 per cent lower. Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were also quoting lower.

US markets ended in negative territory on Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,062.27 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

On Monday, the Sensex went up by 47.01 points, or 0.06 per cent, to settle at 77,616.40. The Nifty eked out a marginal gain of 4.10 points, or 0.02 per cent, to end at 24,211.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL
AND HOSPITAL DIVISION ANANTNAG

E mail Id xenmhd-ang@jk.gov.in

GIST of short term e-NIT No MHDA/TS/2026-27/26 of DATED: 13-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two cover system on percentage basis from registered/reputed firms with J&K State Govt. Registered on JKPWDOMS

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Time of completion (Days)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Providing Facilities like Kitchen ware and allied items to operational and Supervisory staff involved in Yatra in 2026-27 along Pahalgam Axis.	24950.00	200.00	500.00	05

Position of Administrative Approval: Accorded vide No. DHSK/SANJY/Acctt/2026-27/976-83 dated:06-06-2026 by

Director Health Services Kashmir.

Position of Technical Sanction: Accorded

Position of Funds: Available with Intending Department.

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 13-07-2026 (16:00 Hrs)

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 13-07-2026 (17:00Hrs) to 20-07-2026 (14:00Hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 21-07-2026 (14:00Hrs) in Office of the undersigned.

No: MHDA/ TS-438/ 994-95

DIPK-3256/26

DATED: 14-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
M&H Division Anantnag

Countries tighten travel rules as Ebola risk rises

REUTERS

Geneva, Jul 14: The World Health Organization on May 17 declared an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and said there was a high risk it could spread to neighboring countries.

The decision has prompted governments to step up travel-related containment measures. Here is a list of screening steps and travel restrictions announced by different countries and measures by airlines.

TRAVEL BANS/RESTRICTIONS UNITED STATES

The US on July 13 said it was blocking American citizens in the DRC from returning to the United States on commercial flights, placing recent travelers on a "do-not-board" list until they have spent at least 21 days in a third country.

Washington has also banned non-citizens who had traveled to the DRC, Uganda or South Sudan from entering the country.

CANADA

The Canadian government said on May 26 that residents from the DRC, Uganda and South Sudan would be banned from entering Canada for 90 days starting May 27.

JORDAN

The Jordanian government on May 19 suspended the entry of travelers arriving from the DRC and Uganda, according to the Jordanian state agency.

BAHRAIN

Bahrain said on May 19 it was suspending for 30 days the entry of



A doctor provides care to a patient with Ebola virus disease at the Rwampara Ebola Treatment Center (ETC) in Bunia, Ituri, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo on July 13, 2026. (AFP)

foreign travelers arriving from South Sudan, the DRC and Uganda.

SCREENING AND QUARANTINE MEASURES

INDIA India has launched screening and surveillance measures at airports and other entry points, issued advisories on precautions, and urged citizens to avoid non-essential travel to the DRC, Uganda and South Sudan.

THAILAND

Thailand's Public Health Ministry said that from May 27 onwards passengers arriving from the DRC and Uganda would only be allowed to

enter the country through Suvarnabhumi Airport, where they will undergo screening.

Travelers from or through those countries will be required to quarantine for at least 21 days if they do not have symptoms, and will be referred to isolation for at least 21 days if they have symptoms compatible with Ebola virus disease.

KENYA

The Kenyan Ministry of Health said on May 25 it had enhanced screening of travelers at high-risk points of entry. ZAMBIA Zambia has stepped up

screening and surveillance for Ebola after authorities ruled out two suspected cases.

NATIONS RESISTING RESTRICTIONS EUROPEAN UNION

The EU's Health Security Committee said on May 22 that entry screenings were not necessary for passengers arriving from the DRC and Uganda, citing low risk to the population.

The US government on June 9 called on European nations to follow Washington's lead and impose travel restrictions on people who have recently been in Central African countries affected by the Ebola outbreak, in hopes of avoiding the spread of the virus during the soccer World Cup.

A European Commission spokesman said there was no evidence that additional border measures were needed.

AIRLINE RESPONSE

KLM canceled flights to and from Entebbe airport near the Ugandan capital Kampala due to restrictions linked to the Ebola outbreak in Central Africa, the Dutch airline said on May 29. The carrier said it could no longer operate planned routes due to some countries' travel and entry measures for people who recently traveled through Entebbe, including its crew.

Brussels Airlines said on June 1 the Ebola situation did not affect its flight schedule, but it had adapted the rosters of its long-haul crews because crew who had flown to the DRC or Uganda within the previous 21 days would be refused entry into the United States.

Warren Buffett ends donations to Gates Foundation after Epstein fallout



REUTERS

New York, Jul 14: Warren Buffett said on Tuesday he has stopped donating money to the Gates Foundation, following revelations about interactions between the Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates and the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Buffett said he is donating about \$6 billion of Berkshire Hathaway stock, comprising 12 million Class B shares, in his annual mid-year donation to four family foundations overseen by his daughter Susie and sons Howard and Peter.

The 95-year-old Berkshire chairman did not mention the Gates Foundation, which has received more than \$47 billion of the conglomerate's stock since Buffett in 2006 made what he called an irrevocable pledge to donate shares throughout his lifetime. Buffett's donation was more than \$4.5 billion last year.

"Of course, mortality is unpredictable, but my remaining shares will be donated to the four foundations one way or the other by December 31, 2034," Buffett said in a statement. The Gates Foundation did not immediately respond to requests

for comment. Berkshire did not immediately respond to requests for additional comment.

Gates regrets ties to Epstein

Bill Gates has seen his reputation tarnished following the US Department of Justice's release of files about Epstein in February.

These included photos of Gates posing with the financier, and with women whose faces were redacted. Emails also showed communications between Epstein and the foundation's staff. In June, Gates told Congress he "did not fully understand the extent" of Epstein's crimes when he associated with the financier, including in meetings focused on possible philanthropy.

Gates, 70, has not been accused of crimes. He has repeatedly expressed regret for having anything to do with Epstein, has denied spending time with victims of Epstein's sexual abuse, and has said he never witnessed criminal conduct by Epstein.

Donations to family charities

Buffett has donated well over half his Berkshire stock since he began giving away his fortune in 2006. He owned close to 14 per cent of Berkshire's stock before the latest donations, and was worth \$147 billion according to Forbes magazine.

Buffett is donating 9 million Class B shares of Berkshire to the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation; and 1 million shares to each of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, Sherwood Foundation and NoVo Foundation. He said his goal is for the grants to increase annually, and for grants to the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation to grow somewhat faster.

Nasa's Menon, two Russians blast off for ISS mission

PTI

Washington, Jul 14: Nasa astronaut Anil Menon and two Russian cosmonauts lifted off onboard a Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft from Kazakhstan on an eight-month mission to the International Space Station on Tuesday. The spacecraft carrying Menon and Russian cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina lifted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome at 8:17 p.m. IST.

After a two-orbit, three-hour trip to the station, the spacecraft will automatically dock at 11:56 p.m. IST to the Prichal module.

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-Sverchkov, Sergei Mikaev, and Andrey Fedyaev.

Manav-Manush combine climbs to world No. 2

Three Indian pairs in ITTF top-10 rankings

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 14: Indian table tennis reached a milestone on Tuesday as three doubles pairs across the men's, women's, and mixed doubles entered the top 10 of the latest ITTF World Rankings.

Leading the charge are Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah, who climbed to World No. 2 in the men's doubles rankings — the highest-ever ranking achieved by an Indian pair in any doubles discipline.

In women's doubles, Diya Chitale and Yashaswini Ghorpade broke into the top 10 by reaching World No. 10, while Diya Chitale and Shah rose to World No. 5 in

the mixed doubles rankings.

It is the first time that India have had three doubles pairs — one each in men's, women's and mixed doubles — simultaneously ranked inside the top 10.

The achievement highlights India's growing stature as one of the strongest doubles-playing nations with the country's partnerships consistently challenging traditional powerhouses such as China, Japan, South Korea and Chinese Taipei.

The milestone also comes at a significant juncture for the sport, with doubles set to return to the Olympic programme at the Los Angeles 2028 Games, increasing the importance of the event on the international circuit.



Ukraine downs 5 Russian ballistic missiles

AP

Kyiv, Jul 14: Ukraine's air force said Tuesday it intercepted five ballistic missiles launched by Russia in a raft of overnight attacks, although other missiles and drones got through and hit warehouses and a school in the capital of Kyiv. It was the first time in almost two weeks that Ukraine said it had downed Russian ballistic missiles, which are harder to stop than drones or cruise missiles and have pummeled the country in Moscow's 4-year-old full-scale invasion. Ukrainian air defences likely used the U.S.-made Patriot surface-to-air guided missile system, which is the most effective way of countering ballistic missiles, but ammunition for it has been in short supply amid the Iran war, despite European efforts to make up for the shortfall.

Paris cheers Ukraine along the Champs-Elysees

Along the cobblestoned Champs-Elysees in Paris, crowds cheered Ukrainian troops marching in the annual Bastille Day parade, and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy received an ovation from European leaders who showed solidarity with Kyiv. Ukrainian aviators trained in France flew aboard two Mirage 2000B fighter jets alongside French air force pilots.

Knight wants England women to play more red-ball cricket after India loss

AFP

London, Jul 14: England great Heather Knight bowed out of international cricket calling for more domestic red-ball games following her side's 270-run thrashing by India in the inaugural women's Test at Lord's.

The host was outplayed in all departments in a match that started just five days after England's defeat by Australia in the T20 World Cup final at the 'Home of Cricket'.

India had a several days more preparation, with Australia knocking the side out in the group stage of the World Cup, but, unlike England, they play domestic red-ball cricket as well.

And with a Test win worth four points in next year's multi-format series at home to Australia, Knight believes this an issue officials must address following England's 16-0 humiliation 'Down Under' in the last women's Ashes.

"I'd love to see some domestic red-ball cricket," said Knight, the first woman to score a hundred in all three international formats.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be a full part of the calendar, but I do think it would help us develop as better white-ball cricketers as well."

- 'Value your wicket' -

The 35-year-old former England captain, who led her country to a 2017 50-over World Cup final victory over India at Lord's added: "When I was a kid, it was hammered into me to value your wicket. "A lot of our younger



cricketers coming through are a lot better at T20 than they are 50-over, and they have to learn that side of it... being able to build an innings or shape a spell."

England women's coach Charlotte Edwards, Knight's predecessor as skipper, said she hoped to improve the team's Test cricket with the kind of training that had led to an upturn in their T20 form.

"A lot has been going on in my head over the last few days, and the one thing that I keep coming back to is, what we did so well last winter was we had this

preparation phase of T20 cricket and we saw the benefits of that this summer," Edwards told Sky Sports.

"I'm now excited to see what we do in terms of our four-day approach to this winter's training."

India needed just 95 minutes' play on Monday's fourth day to wrap up victory.

The match was a personal triumph for India's Kranti Gaud and Yastika Bhatia, the first women to take five wickets and score a century respectively in a women's Test at Lord's.

SHOW TIMINGS

	DHAMAAL 4 (HINDI ATMOS) U/A 13+	10:45 AM 01:40 PM 04:35 PM 07:30 PM
	EVIL DEAD BURN (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) A	11:35 AM 07:40 PM
	WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE (HINDI) U/A 16+	11:30 AM 02:00 PM
	ALPHA (HINDI) U/A 16+	02:45 PM
	MOANA (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) U	05:15 PM
	MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA (HINDI) U/A 16+	05:35 PM

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