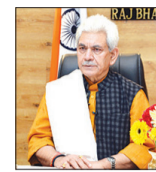


# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Manoj Sinha @manoj\_sinha\_



On the auspicious occasion of the commencement of the sacred Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra today, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji has sent a heartfelt message to the pilgrims. While praying for a spiritually enriching and auspicious pilgrimage for all yatris, he has also shared five inspiring resolutions for the devotees of Baba Barfani.

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## Amarnath Yatra 12,168 Pilgrims Pay Obeisance At Holy Cave On First Day

Second Batch Of 3,865 Devotees Arrives In Kashmir Under Tight Security



UMAISAR GULL

**SRINAGAR:** A total of 12,168 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine on the opening day of the annual Amarnath Yatra on Friday, as the pilgrimage commenced from the twin base camps of Baltal and Nunwan (Pahalgam), while the second batch of 3,865 pilgrims left

Jammu for Kashmir under elaborate security arrangements.

Officials said that the pilgrimage began in the early hours from both the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route and the shorter 14-km Baltal route despite intermittent rainfall.

They said pilgrims, including men, women •P-06

## Not Fully Satisfied Kashmir Mutton Dealers Call Off Strike After Punjab Govt Order

REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association (KMDA) on Friday

called off its strike after the Punjab government issued a communication addressing concerns over the movement of •P-06

## PM Urges Amarnath Yatris To Spend On Local Products

Admin Distributes PM's Message Pamphlets At Nunwan, Baltal Base Camps

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged devotees undertaking the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra to observe five pledges centred on cleanliness, safety, environmental protection, support for local livelihoods and nation-building, describing the pilgrimage as a symbol of India's spiritual heritage, cultural unity and selfless service.

The Prime Minister's special message was distributed among pilgrims by the Jammu and Kashmir administration through pamphlets at the Nunwan and Baltal base camps on the opening day of the pilgrimage.

In his message, Modi extended his greetings and best wishes to all pilgrims, saying participation in the Shri Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir is a matter of great fortune and a deeply spiritual experience.

He noted that the annual pilgrimage, which begins with the first worship on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima,



attracts devotees from every corner of the country who undertake the difficult journey with unwavering faith to seek the blessings of Baba Barfani.

"The yatra has, over the years, emerged as a living expression of India's unity in diversity, bringing together people from different regions, languages and traditions with a shared resolve to worship Lord Mahadev," the PM said, adding that the pilgrimage reflects the enduring strength of Sanatan culture and

reinforces the country's spiritual and cultural bonds.

Modi commended the efforts of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) and the Jammu and Kashmir government for the management of the annual pilgrimage. He acknowledged the contribution of the Indian Army, Central Armed Police Forces, Jammu and Kashmir Police, disaster response agencies, healthcare professionals, administrative officials, sanitation workers and •P-06

**THE YATRA HAS, OVER THE YEARS, EMERGED AS A LIVING expression of India's unity in diversity, bringing together people from different regions, languages and traditions with a shared resolve to worship Lord Mahadev,"**

## Amarnath Yatra Northern Railway Makes Elaborate Arrangements To Facilitate Pilgrims

NAVEED UL HAQ

**JAMMU:** With the annual Amarnath Yatra underway, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway has made elaborate arrangements at Jammu Tawi Railway Station to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims arriving from across the country.

According to a statement issued, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal, along with commercial and operating officials, inspected the railway station to review facilities and assess preparedness for the yatra.

"The railway authorities have established a fully covered passenger holding area equipped with seating, lighting, fans, coolers and drinking water facilities. Round-the-clock housekeeping services have also been deployed to maintain cleanliness, while additional staff have been stationed to ensure timely water supply to trains," the statement said.

It said a 24x7 help desk has been set up at the station where railway personnel, along •P-06

## Sgr Records 31.7°C Rain, Thunderstorms Likely Across J&K Till July 5



SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday forecast light to moderate rain and thundershowers across many parts of Jammu and Kashmir over the next three days, with the possibility of heavy rainfall at a few places that could trigger •P-06

## Foul Smell From Achan Dumping Site Sickens Patients At SKIMS Soura

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**SRINAGAR:** The persistent foul smell emanating from the Achan dumping site has once again become a major source of concern for patients, attendants and healthcare workers at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, with the problem intensifying during the ongoing summer season.

Patients and attendants, expressed frustration over the continued neglect of the issue, •P-06

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AMARNATHJI YATRA

# PM's special message pamphlets handed to pilgrims at Nunwan, Baltal Base camps

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Administration Friday handed over the pamphlets carrying the special message of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) from both Nunwan and Baltal base camps.

In the message, the Prime Minister has extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all devotees undertaking the sacred Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, describing the pilgrimage as an eternal symbol of India's rich spiritual heritage, cultural unity and the spirit of selfless service.

In the message to the pilgrims, the Prime Minister said that participation in the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in Jammu & Kashmir is a matter of great fortune and a deeply spiritual experience. Shri Narendra Modi noted that the annual pilgrimage, which commences with the first worship on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima, draws devotees from every corner of the country who undertake the sacred journey with unwavering faith to seek the blessings of Baba Barfani.

The Prime Minister



observed that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has, over the years, emerged as a living expression of India's unity in diversity, bringing together devotees from different regions, languages and traditions with a shared resolve to worship Lord Mahadev. Shri Narendra Modi said that the Yatra reflects the enduring strength of Sanatan culture and reinforces the nation's spiritual and cultural bonds.

The Prime Minister commended the dedicated efforts of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for the efficient management of the annual pilgrimage. Shri Narendra Modi also acknowledged the invaluable contribution of the Indian Army,

Central Armed Police Forces, Jammu & Kashmir Police, disaster response agencies, healthcare professionals, administrative officials, sanitation workers and thousands of personnel who work tirelessly to ensure the safety, security and smooth conduct of the Yatra.

The Prime Minister expressed special appreciation for the hospitality extended by the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the spirit of voluntary service demonstrated by local residents and numerous organisations that establish community kitchens (langars) and service camps for pilgrims along the Yatra routes. Shri Narendra Modi described this tradition of selfless service as a true reflection of India's civilizational values and the timeless ideal of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah".

Calling upon devotees to make the pilgrimage a model of responsible citizenship and national service, the Prime Minister urged every pilgrim to undertake the five pledges during this year's Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra:

**Maintain Cleanliness:** Adhere to all cleanliness norms and actively contribute towards keeping the pilgrimage routes clean and free from litter.

**Ensure Safety:** Strictly follow all directions issued by the administration, comply with traffic regulations and safety advisories, remain vigilant during adverse weather conditions, and take necessary precautions against slippery terrain and cold weather.

**Support Local Livelihoods:** Inspired by the spirit of Vocal for Local, devote at least ten per cent of pilgrimage expenditure towards purchasing locally made products, thereby strengthening the livelihoods of local families and youth in Jammu & Kashmir.

**Promote Environmental Conservation:** On the concluding day of the Yatra, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan, present a sapling

to one's brother or sister and actively support the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign.

**Strengthen Nation Building:** Uphold the spirit of Nation First by performing one's duties with sincerity throughout the year and contributing actively towards the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Expressing confidence that the 2026 Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra would serve as a grand celebration of faith, national unity and selfless service, the Prime Minister prayed for the blessings of Baba Amarnath upon all devotees. Shri Narendra Modi wished every pilgrim a safe, peaceful and spiritually enriching journey and expressed hope that the pilgrimage would inspire renewed energy, devotion and commitment towards national development.

The Prime Minister also conveyed his heartfelt wishes for a safe, successful and blessed Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra to all devotees.

Pilgrims warmly welcomed the Prime Minister's message and described it as thoughtful gesture that further strengthened their spiritual resolve and enthusiasm for undertaking the holy pilgrimage.

# First batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims flagged-off from Baltal Base Camp

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 commenced Friday with the ceremonial flagging-off of the first batch of pilgrims from the Baltal Base Camp in Ganderbal district amid an atmosphere of devotion and enthusiasm.

The flag-off ceremony was led by Rahul Yadav, Managing Director, J&K Power Development Corporation and Nodal Officer for the Baltal Axis, along with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Deputy Inspector General



of Police (Armed) Kashmir, Maqsood-ul-Zaman; Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Sudhanshu Dhama, besides officers from the Civil and Police Administration.

On the occasion, the officers extended their best wishes to the pilgrims and prayed for a safe, peaceful

and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage.

The Baltal Base Camp resonated with chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and "Har Har Mahadev" as devotees including men, women, elderly pilgrims and sadhus, began their onward journey to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnath Ji.

# DC, SSP Anantnag flag off Amarnath Yatra along Pahalgam Axis from Nunwan Base Camp

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** Amid jubilation and devotional fervor, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag (Yatra Officer), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat and Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure, jointly flagged off the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 along the Pahalgam Axis in the wee hours Friday from the Nunwan Base Camp, Pahalgam.

Camp Director Atul Kumar, SDM Pahalgam, Additional Camp Directors, and senior officers from the police and line departments were present during the flag-off ceremony.



Following their departure from the Nunwan Base Camp, the pilgrims were ferried in vehicles to Chandanwari via a special shuttle service provided by the Motor Vehicles (MV) Department.

To ensure a blissful and enriching spiritual experience for the Yatriis, adequate arrangements have been put in place at various

camps, stations and places of importance enroute the Holy Cave. All essential facilities will be provided to the pilgrims during the pilgrimage period so that it is conducted in a smooth, and successful manner. Besides, service augmentation and other necessary safety and security measures along the track were planned and executed in advance.

# Commissioner SMC holds high-level review to Fast-Track CAPEX Works



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move to accelerate infrastructure development and ensure the timely execution of public works, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to comprehensively assess the tendering status of Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) works across the city.

The meeting was attended by the Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts Officer, Executive Engineers, and officials responsible for uploading Notices Inviting Tenders (NITs) on the e-Procurement Portal from all Engineering Divisions. A detailed division-wise review was undertaken, during which officers presented the progress achieved in the tendering process and the status of ongoing and proposed CAPEX works.

The Commissioner carried out a comprehensive assessment of works already tendered, projects awaiting tendering, tenders opened, and newly sanctioned works requiring immediate initiation of the tendering process. He critically reviewed the reasons for pendency and directed the concerned

officers to remove procedural bottlenecks, streamline the tendering process, and adhere to clearly defined timelines to ensure that all pending works are tendered without delay.

Emphasizing that timely tendering is fundamental to the successful execution of developmental projects, Haseeb, instructed all Engineering Divisions to undertake daily monitoring of the tendering process and ensure strict adherence to Government guidelines and established procedures while framing and issuing NITs. He stressed that efficient and transparent tendering is essential for the timely delivery of quality civic infrastructure and public services.

The Commissioner further directed all Executive Engineers to closely monitor the progress of works within their respective jurisdictions and ensure that all tender documents, records, and e-Procurement processes remain updated, transparent, and fully compliant with the prescribed norms. He called upon the Engineering Divisions to maintain close coordination and adopt a proactive approach to achieve the developmental targets within the stipulated timelines.

# RNAG, MLA Devyani Rana Join Hands To Develop Women's Skill Centre in Nagrota

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Continuing her unwavering commitment towards women empowerment and inclusive development, MLA Nagrota Constituency, Devyani Rana, Friday took another significant step towards making women economically independent by collaborating with internationally acclaimed artist, social activist, and educator Rouble Nagi whose world renowned Rouble Nagi Art Foundation announced the development of a Skill Development Centre in Nagrota Constituency.

Rouble Nagi, a celebrated Indian educator, is the Founder of the Rouble Nagi Art Foundation and Rouble Nagi Design Studio. She is a member of the India Design Council (IDC) and is widely acknowledged as one of the key pioneers of the Mumbai Beautification Movement. Through her innovative and heartfelt social initiatives like Misaal India, she has transformed underprivileged communities into vibrant learning spaces and has established hundreds of community learning centres dedicated to reducing school dropouts and empowering marginalized sections of society. Recently she was awarded the Global Teacher Prize 2026



in UAE as worlds best educator by the crown Prince.

As part of this initiative, Rouble Nagi visited Panchayat Ghaink in Nagrota Constituency with MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana, where they held an interactive session with local women and listened to their aspirations and challenges. During the interaction, it was announced that a Skill Development Centre will soon be established by the Rouble Nagi Art Foundation to provide vocational and livelihood-oriented training to the women of Nagrota Constituency, enabling them to become financially independent and self-reliant.

The centre will focus on imparting market-oriented skills, promoting entrepreneurship, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for women from rural areas. The initiative is aimed at enhancing their confidence, strengthening household

transform communities. I have always believed that when a woman becomes economically independent, she not only changes her own life but also strengthens her family and contributes to the progress of society.

We are here with a clear purpose: to help you learn and earn. Our responsibility is to provide you with quality training, guidance, and opportunities. However, the real success of this initiative will depend on your sincerity, dedication, and willingness to work hard. The more effort you put into learning these skills, the greater your opportunities to build a secure and independent future.

Every woman has immense talent and potential. This Skill Development Centre is not just a place to learn a craft; it is a platform to build confidence, discover your strengths, and become financially self-reliant. I am delighted to partner with Devyani Rana, whose vision for grassroots development and women empowerment is truly inspiring. Together, we are committed to creating opportunities that will enable the women of Nagrota Constituency to become confident entrepreneurs, skilled professionals, and role models for future generations."

Rouble Nagi while addressing the gathering, said "Empowering women through skill development is one of the most sustainable ways to

# DC Budgam chairs DLIC meeting, approves 450 Youth Entrepreneurship cases



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC), meeting was conducted, Friday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan. The DLIC was convened to review, scrutinize, and accord approval to applications of young aspiring entrepreneurs submitted through the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) Budgam.

The Committee, after detailed examination of cases accorded approval to all 450 cases placed before it. These include services, manufacturing, retail, allied activities, and IT-enabled services.

At the onset, the DC underscored the impor-

tance of youth-led enterprises as key drivers of entrepreneurship, self-reliance, and inclusive socio-economic development. He directed LDM Budgam to ensure hassle-free and time-bound processing of sanctioned cases.

The DC further instructed SBDU to maintain a real-time tracking dashboard of approved cases and share weekly progress of the approved cases.

The meeting was attended by General Manager DIC Budgam, Deputy Director Employment Budgam, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, Lead District Manager (LDM) Budgam, DDM NABARD, representatives from sponsoring departments, and members of SBDU/BHD team Budgam.

# DC Kulgam visits Eklavya Model Residential School; Reviews developmental works



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam who is also the Chairperson of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Friday visited the EMRS campus and reviewed the progress of various infrastructure and developmental works being undertaken at the institution.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the facilities available at the school and took stock of the ongoing works aimed at strengthening residential and educational infrastructure.

He directed the concerned departments to complete all pending necessities in the Boys Hostel within ten days to facilitate the shifting of students, staff and mess facilities.

He also reviewed the provision of furniture for the Boys Hostel and the Principal's quarters and instructed the concerned authorities to ensure its timely availability.

Emphasising the need for timely completion of projects, he directed that the construction work on the Girls Hostel be completed by October 2026.

He further stressed the need for early completion of landscaping and development of the school playground.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the proposal for installation of a hybrid solar power system at the institution and directed the concerned department to expedite the process. He further instructed the concerned authorities to issue and install a dedicated electricity meter for the school.

# JKSCST Corporation organizes Awareness camp in Gurez

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** The JK Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes Development Corporation Ltd., organised an Awareness Camp at Dawar, Gurez, in collaboration with the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi.

The event witnessed large participation from diverse communities, with large presence of individuals belonging to Scheduled Tribes. The primary aim of the event was to raise awareness about the

self-employment schemes undertaken by Corporation.

Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, MLA attended the event as Chief Guest and appreciated the officials of Corporation for organising the event and encouraged the gathering to avail benefits of Schemes.

Ashok Kumar Thukaan, Financial Advisor of the corporation highlighted various low interest loans schemes offered by the Corporation implemented to support marginalised section of society, particularly those designed for Scheduled tribe categories with special emphasis on education loan Schemes.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER KULGAM**  
 Email ID; dshok-ash@jk.gov.in

Subject: Invitation for short term quotations fur supply of Machinery & Equipments/Lab items for the year 2026-27.

## NOTICE

On behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir short term quotations are invited from interested/registered Companies/dealers for supply of following Machinery & equipments/Lab items during the current financial year. The interested companies/dealers shall submit the quotations mentioning the rates/cost to this office by or before 10-07-2026 4pm. The quotations will be opened on the next working day (11-07-2026) by the constituted committee.

- ▶ Mouth Gag for Small Ruminants.
- ▶ Teat Instrument Set for Small Ruminants.
- ▶ Electric De-Horner
- ▶ Stomach Tube
- ▶ Post Mortem Examination Set.
- ▶ RBPT Antigen

### Terms and Conditions:

1. The quotation must be submitted in properly sealed envelope.
2. The rates should be written legible without any cutting, overwriting

The department reserves the right to reject the quotation of any company without assigning any reason thereof.

No. DSHQK/Stores/2026-27/796-802  
 Dated: 03/07/2026.

DIPK-2836-26  
 DT: 03/07/2026

District Sheep Husbandry Officer  
 Kulgam

# CM Omar meets MLAs, trade, tourism stakeholders; reviews Dev, business, tourism issues



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Several public representatives and delegations and various stakeholders Friday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita, during which a wide range of issues relating to development, public welfare, trade, tourism and business were discussed.

MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia, MLA Habba Kadal Shamima Firdous and MLA Doda Mehraj Malik, called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of the developmental priorities and public welfare concerns of their respective constituencies.

The legislators highlighted various issues requiring the govern-

ment's attention, including infrastructure development, delivery of public services, implementation of ongoing development projects and other constituency-specific matters aimed at improving the quality of life of the people.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to their concerns and assured them that all genuine issues would be examined for appropriate action.

A delegation led by President Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF), Mohammad Yaseen Khan, met the chief minister and raised issues concerning the trade and business community.

Another delegation led by Chairman of the Tourist Trade Interest Guild, Zahoor

Ahmed Karnai, also met the Chief Minister.

The delegation discussed measures for the promotion of tourism in Kashmir. Various initiatives aimed at boosting tourist inflow, expanding outreach and strengthening the tourism sector were also deliberated upon.

The Chief Minister appreciated the constructive suggestions put forward during the meetings and reiterated the government's commitment to maintaining regular engagement with public representatives, trade organisations and other stakeholders to ensure responsive governance, inclusive development and sustained economic progress across Jammu and Kashmir.

# Satish Sharma hears Public Grievances, Assures Time-Bound Redressal

PIE, Fair Price Shop Association, Kerosene Dealers, Other Delegations Call on Minister

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Friday met several public delegations from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and patiently heard their grievances and developmental concerns, reaffirming the government's commitment to responsive, transparent and people-centric governance.

A core group of the Brick & Tile Factory Industrial Estate, Pampore, led a delegation of 118 lessees and apprised the Minister of the prolonged delay in the handing over of possession of industrial land. The delegation informed the Minister that despite completing the required formalities, the matter has remained unresolved for nearly four years causing immense hardship to entrepreneurs and adversely affecting industrial growth and employment



generation in the region.

Giving a patient hearing to the delegation, Satish Sharma assured the members that the issue would be taken up at the highest level and that every possible effort would be made to settle the issue. He said that the government is committed to promoting entrepreneurship, creating employment opportunities and ensuring that genuine investors and industrial stakeholders are not made to suffer because of procedural delays.

The Minister observed that industrial development plays a crucial role in strengthening the economy of Jammu and Kashmir and emphasized that genuine concerns of entrepreneurs deserve timely attention. He assured the delegation that the government would work in close coordination with the concerned departments to facilitate an expeditious settlement of the issue within the framework of rules.

The Minister also met a delegation of the Fair Price Shop Association, which raised issues pertaining to the functioning of ration depots, timely release of commissions and other operational matters concerning the Public Distribution System. Satish Sharma assured the association

that their genuine demands would be examined sympathetically and appropriate steps would be taken to further strengthen the delivery mechanism of essential commodities across the Union Territory.

A delegation of the Kerosene Dealers Association also called on the Minister and highlighted various issues affecting dealers and consumers. The Minister assured them that the concerns raised would be discussed with the concerned authorities to arrive at practical solutions in the larger public interest.

Representatives of the NYCs also met the Minister and submitted a memorandum regarding issues concerning their welfare and functioning. Satish Sharma assured them that the government remains committed to constructive engagement with youth and would examine their demands on merit.

Besides these, several other delegations and individuals from different districts of Jammu and Kash-

mir met the Minister and projected issues relating to public infrastructure, civic amenities, sports facilities, consumer affairs, road connectivity, drinking water, electricity and other developmental matters.

Interacting with the delegations, Satish Sharma reiterated that the Omar Abdullah-led Government is committed to ensuring responsive governance by maintaining direct engagement with the people. He said that public grievances are being addressed on priority and every effort is being made to ensure timely redressal through coordinated action among departments.

The Minister assured all the delegations that each issue brought to his notice would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action. He reiterated that the government remains dedicated to safeguarding public welfare, promoting inclusive development and ensuring that the benefits of governance reach every section of society.

# Altaf Bukhari blames the NC govt for reducing employment opportunities by outsourcing jobs

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Friday blamed the government for "further increasing unemployment" by outsourcing jobs and "undermining democracy and democratic institutions by centralising power in the hands of one man at the helm of the government."

He made these remarks while addressing workers' conventions at Khanabal and Achabal in south Kashmir today.

During his address at the events, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "On the one hand, the government promised the youth employment opportunities, but on the other hand, they snatched away those very opportunities through the outsourcing of jobs. Instead of reducing unemployment, they have only made it worse."

He further alleged that the government had failed to launch any employment-generating projects even after being in power for more than twenty months. "They have not initiated a single project so far to generate employment opportunities for the youth," he said.

Syed Mohammad Altaf



Bukhari also accused the ruling National Conference of undermining democratic institutions by centralising authority after assuming office.

"In a democracy, elections are meant to empower the people. However, after coming to power, the National Conference concentrated authority in the hands of a single individual. This has weakened grassroots democracy and democratic institutions," he said.

He further alleged that democratic values had been replaced by a culture of flattery. "Today, we have the rule of flatterers rather than the rule of democratic principles. Apni Party will continue its struggle against such undemocratic practices and work to ensure that the benefits of democracy reach the people. We remain committed to strengthening grassroots democratic institutions and restoring power to the people," Mr Bukhari added.

He strongly criticised the government over what he described as its failure to provide effective governance and its inability to fulfil the promises it made during the election campaign.

He said, "the government has failed to deliver on the commitments it made to the people, who had given it a massive mandate after believing its assurances and election promises."

He said, "One of the promises the ruling NC made to the people during the 2024 election campaign was that it would restore the abrogated Article 370. Among its other promises was to provide one lakh jobs for unemployed youth, with an assurance that these jobs would be given soon after it assumes office."

# Div Com Kashmir visits Nunwan Base Camp

Inspects facilities, interacts with pilgrims

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**ANANTNAG:** In order to take the stock of facilities along Pahalgam Axis of Yatra, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Friday visited various facilities including the Frisking Point, Nunwan Base Camp, and RFID registration counters, and reviewed the overall pilgrim facilitation system. He also interacted with yatrins to obtain first-hand feedback on the facilities and services being provided.

Directing officers to maintain seamless coordination, the Divisional Commissioner emphasised the need to ensure efficient, hassle-free arrangements and the availability of all essential facilities for pilgrims, with special focus on their safety, comfort and convenience throughout the Yatra.

Taking note of the heavy influx of unregistered pilgrims, Garg instructed the concerned officers to streamline the on-the-spot registration process to minimise waiting time and facilitate quicker registration. He also directed officials to provide proper guidance and assistance to pilgrims requiring on-the-spot registration.



# CDS Concludes Two-Day Career Seminar in Leh, Kargil



**BILAL DAR**

**LEH:** A transformative two-day career seminar, aimed at guiding students from the Union Territory of Ladakh towards premier institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the National Defence Academy (NDA), concluded successfully on Friday.

The event, held across two separate towns in Leh and Kargil, drew a large and enthusiastic turnout of students from across the UT.

Organized by the Career Defence School, the seminar was spearheaded by founder and CEO Er. Vinay Rai, alongside Administrative Officer Er. Gagan Wadhwa. The program was coordinated by Khan Jahangeer, Amir Suhail ensuring the sessions resonated with the unique aspirations of Ladakh's youth.

The Leh segment of the seminar was graced by ADC to Lieutenant Governor, Shiekh Adil, alongside the District Planning Officer, DIET Principal S.D. Namgail, and Anchay Yagdol HOD DIET. In Kargil, the event saw the participation of President of the Private Schools Association,

Murtaza Khaleli, and In-charge Chief Education Officer, Dr. Sarwar Shahzad (KAS) who attended as esteemed guests.

Addressing the students in Leh, Shiekh Adil delivered an inspiring address, stating, "Failures are not the end; after every hardship, there is success. If hardships become your excuse, the first casualty will be your goal." He emphasized the growing importance of competitive education and advised students to build confidence, improve communication skills, and remain consistent in their efforts.

DIET Principal S.D. Namgail lauded the initiative, calling it a "meaningful program" that would equip students with the necessary awareness to compete on national platforms and seize career opportunities they might not have otherwise considered.

In Kargil, Murtaza Khaleli stressed the need for dedication, hard work, and moral values in student life. He highlighted the importance of education, discipline, and critical thinking, urging students to channel their energy toward constructive goals and stay

away from negativity.

Speaking to the media, Er. Vinay Rai expressed his confidence in the potential of Ladakhi students. "Students from Leh and Kargil possess immense talent. They only require proper guidance, discipline, and exposure to shine on the national stage," he said. "Career Defence School is fully committed to preparing students for competitive exams like JEE Mains, NEET, RIMC, and NDA, while simultaneously focusing on personality development, leadership, and nation-building."

The seminar featured detailed question-and-answer sessions in both locations, during which students actively raised queries regarding NDA eligibility, IIT entrance preparation, hostel facilities, scholarships, physical fitness requirements, and the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence in modern career paths.

The career awareness sessions were conducted in close collaboration with the Education Department of the Union Territory, underscoring a collective effort to empower the youth of Ladakh.

# Shaleen Kabra reviews water supply infrastructure along Pahalgam Axis

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**PAHALGAM:** Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra conducted an extensive tour of the Pahalgam Axis of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra to review the water supply infrastructure and flood mitigation measures for the ongoing Holy Yatra.

During the visit, the ACS inspected key transit and base camps, including Chandanwari, Pissu Top, Zojibal, Sheshnag, Mahagunas Top, Poshpathri, Panjtarni, Holy Cave and Baltal, to assess the operational readiness of the Jal Shakti Department's installations and progress of works.

He reviewed several permanent infrastructure works completed to strengthen water supply arrangements, including nine service reservoirs (one SR of 1.0 lakh gallon

capacity at Holy Cave, one SR of 0.10 lakh gallon capacity at MG Top and seven SR's of 0.30 lakh gallons capacity at other stations), five store sheds-cum-staff accommodations and a lift station at Mahagunas Top at an altitude of about 14,500 feet.

Shaleen Kabra also reviewed the projects aimed at augmenting future capacity, including safety storage tanks for

fire and emergency purposes, a service reservoir at Panjtarni, a dedicated raw/supply main for Nunwan Base Camp, and store shed-cum-operator quarters at Panjtarni and Chandanwari.

The Additional Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction over the installation of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants and the provision of water supply connections to all toilet units along the Yatra route, in

accordance with the directions of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

Shaleen Kabra directed the engineering wing to ensure all pipelines, pumping installations and distribution networks remain fully functional and capable of withstanding adverse weather conditions so that uninterrupted drinking water supply is maintained throughout the Yatra period.

# Secy RDD visits Baltal Base Camp, Takes First-Hand Feedback from Yatrins

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**BALTAL:** Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Friday visited the Baltal Base Camp to undertake a comprehensive review of sanitation and solid waste management arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026. During the visit, he took first-hand feedback from Yatrins on sanitation, cleanliness and other civic facilities while inspecting the preparedness of key sanitation infrastructure, including the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Plant, sanitation assets and the Tent City.

The visit coincided with the commencement of the annual

pilgrimage, with the first batch of devotees proceeding from the Baltal and Nunwan Base Camps to the Holy Cave Shrine.

Interacting with Yatrins at various locations across the base camp, the Secretary welcomed the pilgrims and sought their feedback on the facilities being provided. He also interacted with Langarwallas and sought their suggestions for further improving sanitation and civic arrangements. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to ensuring a clean, safe and seamless pilgrimage experience.

Reviewing the functioning of the SWM Plant, Aijaz Asad assessed the systems for waste collection, segregation, processing and scientific disposal. He

also inspected sanitation assets deployed across the Yatra route to ensure their operational readiness and the uninterrupted delivery of sanitation services throughout the pilgrimage.

While interacting with sanitation workers and field functionaries, the Secretary appreciated their dedicated efforts and directed the concerned officers to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene, stressing that efficient sanitation and waste management are critical to the safety, convenience and well-being of pilgrims.

Aijaz Asad also visited the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Exhibition Centre, where he reviewed several environmentally sustainable ini-

tiatives introduced for this year's Yatra. These included the Barton Bank, promoting the use of reusable utensils to reduce single-use plastic; the Akhand Jyot, powered by biogas generated from mule dung; and the SANJY Tableau, showcasing the Department's model for sustainable pilgrimage management.

At the Tent City, the Secretary inspected sanitation arrangements and reviewed the availability and operational status of sanitation machinery, equipment and consumables. He directed officials to ensure adequate deployment and optimum functioning of all sanitation assets throughout the pilgrimage to maintain the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness.

Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION BARAMULLA

Email: amitabhman.721013@jk.gov.in

**This office e-NIT No: 12 of 2026-27 Dated: 23-06-2026 Tender ID No. 2026\_IFC\_313369\_1 Corrigendum No. 01.**

### CORRIGENDUM

**Sub:- Extension of dates.**

In view of inadequate response, to this Office e-NIT No. 12 of 2026-27 ("Mechanical and Electrical work to be carried out at lift irrigation scheme Ijara Phase II."), the time extension is being given to ensure healthy competition competitive bidding as under: -

1.	Tender Submission date Ends	= 07/07/2026 upto 06.55 pm
2.	Date of Opening	= 08/07/2026 at 01:00 pm, in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

All other terms/conditions and stipulation as contained in the eNIT shall remain unaltered/unmodified.

No: MIDB/CC-02/1556-62  
Dated: 03-07-2026

Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Irrigation Division  
Baramulla

DIPK-2820-26  
DT: 03/07/2026

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

## The Time for Action Has Arrived

The recent meetings chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita, bringing together lawmakers, local business owners, and tourism leaders, are a welcome sign that the government wants to stay connected with the people it serves. In a healthy democracy, these kinds of conversations aren't optional; they are the bare minimum. A government needs to stay approachable, listen to the everyday struggles of different communities, and work alongside the people representing them. But good governance doesn't end with a listening tour. It starts there. The real test is whether the problems brought up in those rooms actually get fixed with quick, decisive action. The lawmakers who sat down with the Chief Minister didn't bring abstract ideas; they brought the real, daily struggles of people in their districts. They talked about broken roads, half-finished infrastructure, struggling public services, and forgotten local priorities. These aren't demands for special treatment. They are the basic, legitimate expectations of everyday citizens who just want a decent standard of living. People expect roads that work, healthcare they can rely on, quality schools for their kids, steady electricity and water, and a fair shot at a better life. Providing these is the fundamental job of any administration. Over the years, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have sat through countless high-level meetings, major announcements, and grand assurances from one government after another. And while the conversations usually sound promising, the follow-through almost always falls short. Too many vital development projects are stuck in slow motion, massive infrastructure gaps are still plain to see, and public services are desperately lagging. This is exactly why the promises made in these latest meetings cannot just be written down and forgotten. They must be backed by concrete decisions, clear deadlines, and strict accountability for the officials in charge. You don't build public trust with smooth talking; you earn it when people can look outside their windows and actually see progress happening. The challenges brought to the table by the Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation also need urgent attention. Local business owners are the backbone of the region's economy—they create jobs, support families, and keep communities afloat. Right now, however, they are drowning in rising costs, unpredictable markets, and red tape. What they need isn't more talk, but a business environment that actually encourages innovation, cuts through bureaucratic hurdles, and offers steady, predictable policies. True economic progress is impossible when the very people driving the economy are weighed down by obstacles that shouldn't be there in the first place. Listening was a great first step. Now, it's time to get to work.

## Twelve Years Of Transformation

# Assessing India's Journey Towards Viksit Bharat



DR. RIZWAN RUMI

On June 9, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the oath of office for a third consecutive term, marking a significant milestone in India's democratic journey. By mid-2026, the Union Government had completed twelve years in office—a period that has witnessed sweeping policy reforms, unprecedented investments in infrastructure, rapid digital transformation, expanding welfare initiatives, and an increasingly assertive global presence. These years have also been marked by extraordinary challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical instability, inflationary pressures, and climate-related disasters. Yet, India has continued to position itself among the world's fastest-growing major economies while pursuing the long-term vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The concept of "Viksit Bharat" is far more than a political slogan. It embodies the aspiration of transforming India into an economically prosperous, tech-

administrative leakages while improving service delivery.

Perhaps the most visible symbol of this transformation is the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Today, billions of digital transactions take place every month, making India one of the world's leading digital payment economies. Small vendors, street merchants, farmers, entrepreneurs, and consumers across rural and urban India increasingly rely upon digital payments. This financial revolution has strengthened financial inclusion while promoting transparency in economic transactions.

India's entrepreneurial landscape has experienced a remarkable transformation over the last decade. The Startup India initiative, easier business registration processes, digital infrastructure, innovation hubs, and improved access to finance have encouraged thousands of young entrepreneurs to establish technology-driven enterprises. India now possesses the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, with more than two lakh officially recognised startups generating millions of direct jobs across sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, financial technology, clean energy, education, and manufacturing.

Manufacturing has emerged as another strategic priority. Through Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, policy reforms, and improved logistics, India has sought to strengthen domestic manufac-

agriculture continues to occupy a central place in India's developmental framework. Income support schemes, irrigation expansion, crop insurance, digital agriculture, farmer credit, warehouse infrastructure, and rural road connectivity have attempted to improve agricultural productivity and farmer welfare. Nevertheless, agriculture remains vulnerable to climate variability, fragmented landholdings, fluctuating market prices, and water scarcity, requiring continuous policy innovation.

Women's empowerment has increasingly been integrated into development policy. Financial inclusion, entrepreneurship support, educational opportunities, maternity benefits, self-help groups, sanitation initiatives, and legislative measures promoting greater political representation have expanded opportunities for women across sectors. Women's participation in governance, business, science, education, and entrepreneurship continues to grow, though further efforts are needed to bridge gender disparities in employment and leadership.

India's global profile has strengthened considerably during this period. The country's successful presidency of the G20, expanding strategic partnerships, active participation in multilateral institutions, humanitarian diplomacy, defence cooperation, and leadership in climate initiatives have enhanced its international stature. India's space pro-

democratic governance.

As India moves towards 2047, demographic strength will remain one of its greatest advantages. With one of the world's youngest populations, the country possesses enormous potential to become a global hub of innovation, manufacturing, research, entrepreneurship, and skilled human capital. Realizing this demographic dividend, however, will depend upon sustained investment in education, healthcare, vocational training, research, digital literacy, and employment generation.

The vision of Viksit Bharat cannot be achieved through government initiatives alone. It demands active participation from industry, academia, civil society, entrepreneurs, scientists, farmers, workers, and every citizen. Development is ultimately a collective national endeavour built upon trust, innovation, accountability, and shared responsibility.

After twelve years, India's development story reflects both remarkable achievements and unfinished tasks. Modern highways, digital governance, financial inclusion, improved welfare delivery, entrepreneurial growth, manufacturing expansion, stronger global



nologically advanced, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and globally influential nation. Achieving this ambitious goal requires not merely economic growth but structural reforms that improve governance, strengthen institutions, enhance human capital, and ensure that development reaches every citizen.

One of the most striking features of the past twelve years has been India's economic resilience. Even amid unprecedented global uncertainty, India has maintained robust growth. According to the 2025-26 Economic Survey, India's real GDP growth was estimated at around 7.4 percent, reaffirming its position as the fastest-growing major economy for the fourth consecutive year. Public investment, private consumption, manufacturing expansion, digital innovation, and infrastructure spending have emerged as major drivers of this growth.

Infrastructure has undoubtedly become the defining pillar of India's development strategy. Roads, expressways, railways, airports, inland waterways, logistics parks, and urban transport systems have expanded at an unprecedented pace. Massive programmes such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Dedicated Freight Corridors, PM Gati Shakti, and high-speed rail initiatives have sought to improve connectivity while reducing transportation costs and boosting competitiveness. Between 2014 and 2026, India's national highway network expanded by more than sixty percent, making it one of the largest highway systems in the world.

The modernization of Indian Railways has also accelerated significantly. Railway station redevelopment, electrification of tracks, semi-high-speed trains, freight corridors, and investments in safety have transformed one of the world's largest transportation systems. Simultaneously, the number of operational airports has expanded substantially under the regional connectivity scheme, enabling previously underserved regions to join the mainstream economy.

Equally transformative has been India's digital revolution. Few countries have witnessed such rapid digital inclusion within such a short period. The Digital India initiative has fundamentally altered governance by making public services faster, more transparent, and more accessible. Aadhaar-enabled authentication, Direct Benefit Transfers, online governance platforms, and digital identity systems have reduced

turing while integrating more effectively into global supply chains. Electronics manufacturing, particularly mobile phone production, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy equipment, defence manufacturing, and semiconductor development have witnessed substantial policy attention. These initiatives aim not only to increase exports but also to reduce import dependence and generate large-scale employment opportunities.

Financial inclusion has undergone a silent revolution. Millions of previously unbanked citizens have been brought into the formal financial system through widespread bank account opening, digital banking, insurance coverage, pension schemes, and micro-credit programmes. Direct Benefit Transfers have significantly improved transparency by ensuring that welfare benefits reach intended beneficiaries without unnecessary intermediaries.

Social welfare has remained a central component of governance. Housing initiatives have enabled millions of economically weaker households to obtain permanent homes. Rural electrification has reached remote villages, while clean cooking fuel schemes have reduced dependence on traditional fuels, improving health outcomes for women. Tap water connectivity has expanded considerably under rural drinking water programmes, reducing the burden on women and improving public health.

Healthcare reforms gained renewed momentum following the COVID-19 pandemic. Expansion of health insurance coverage, establishment of wellness centres, investment in medical colleges, digital health infrastructure, telemedicine, and pharmaceutical manufacturing have strengthened India's healthcare ecosystem. India's successful vaccination programme demonstrated its scientific capability, manufacturing capacity, and administrative coordination on an unprecedented scale.

Education has witnessed important policy reforms through the National Education Policy 2020, which seeks to transform teaching, learning, research, vocational education, multilingualism, and skill development. Greater emphasis has been placed on digital education, foundational literacy, multidisciplinary learning, and innovation. However, improving learning outcomes, teacher quality, research productivity, and equitable educational access remain significant challenges.

gramme has continued to achieve global recognition through cost-effective missions, technological innovation, and scientific excellence.

Climate change and environmental sustainability have simultaneously emerged as critical national priorities. India has significantly expanded renewable energy capacity through investments in solar, wind, green hydrogen, and electric mobility. International initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance underscore India's commitment to global climate action. Yet balancing rapid industrialization with ecological conservation remains one of the country's greatest long-term challenges.

Despite undeniable progress, several structural challenges continue to demand serious attention. Employment generation remains among the most important priorities. While economic expansion has created opportunities, ensuring adequate high-quality employment for India's large youth population requires faster growth in labour-intensive manufacturing, services, tourism, agriculture-based industries, and innovation-driven sectors.

Income inequality and regional disparities also remain areas of concern. While metropolitan regions have experienced rapid economic expansion, several rural and geographically remote areas continue to face developmental gaps. Balanced regional development, stronger local governance, and greater investment in health, education, digital infrastructure, and livelihoods are essential for ensuring truly inclusive growth.

Urbanization presents another complex challenge. India's cities continue to attract millions seeking better economic opportunities. However, rapid urban growth has intensified pressures on housing, transportation, waste management, water resources, pollution control, and public services. Sustainable urban planning will therefore determine the quality of life for future generations.

Governance itself has undergone significant transformation. Greater use of technology, online service delivery, digital documentation, public grievance mechanisms, and data-driven policymaking has improved administrative efficiency in many areas. However, continuous institutional reforms, greater transparency, judicial efficiency, decentralization, and citizen participation remain equally important for deepening

The concept of "Viksit Bharat" is far more than a political slogan. It embodies the aspiration of transforming India into an economically prosperous, technologically advanced, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and globally influential nation.

diplomacy, and technological advancement have reshaped many aspects of national life. Simultaneously, employment, education quality, healthcare access, environmental sustainability, regional inequalities, and institutional strengthening require sustained commitment in the years ahead.

History often judges governments not merely by the promises they make but by the institutions they strengthen, the opportunities they create, and the lives they improve. India's journey over the past twelve years demonstrates that transformative change is possible when long-term vision is accompanied by consistent implementation. Yet the next phase of development must focus equally on quality, inclusiveness, sustainability, and social equity.

The dream of a developed India by 2047 is both ambitious and attainable. If economic reforms continue alongside investments in human development, environmental stewardship, scientific innovation, social justice, and democratic governance, India can emerge not merely as one of the world's largest economies but as one of its most inclusive and resilient societies. The road ahead remains challenging, but the foundations laid during the past twelve years provide an important platform upon which the next generation of India's development story will be written.

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# Tuberculosis: Why Haven't We Eliminated TB Yet?

DR TARA SINGH BAM

Over the past several decades, TB control programmes have made significant progress in expanding diagnosis and treatment services. Success has traditionally been measured by programme indicators, such as detecting 70% of estimated TB cases and successfully treating 85% of those diagnosed. Achieving these targets has rightly saved millions of lives.

However, a fundamental question remains: If we have continued to meet these programme targets, why is TB still the deadliest infectious disease in the world? The answer is that scaling up diagnosis and treatment alone is not enough to end TB. We have become better at treating disease, but not at preventing it, as millions continue developing TB every year.

## Untapped local leadership and political will

Local leaders, particularly mayors, are critical to accelerating TB elimination. While national governments set policies, local governments drive implementation. By prioritizing TB in local development plans, strengthening prevention (including tobacco control and nutrition), expanding early screening, mobilizing local resources, coordinating across sectors, and ensuring equitable access to TB services, local leaders can significantly accelerate progress towards ending TB.

## The root causes of TB are not being addressed

Most new TB cases are driven by tobacco smoking, harmful alcohol use, undernutrition, diabetes, and HIV infection. These risk factors are well established through scientific evidence and are recognized by global and national TB control strategies as critical areas for intervention. Collectively, they account for millions of new TB cases each year, making them essential targets for comprehensive TB prevention and control. Globally in 2024, an estimated 0.97 million incident cases of TB were attributable to undernutrition, 0.93 million to diabetes, 0.74 million to alcohol use disorders, 0.70 million to smoking and 0.57 million to HIV infection.

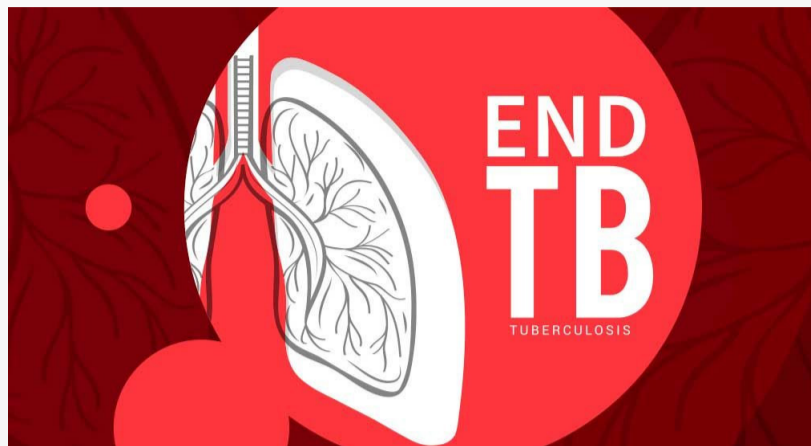
Example: A person with diabetes who smokes has a much higher risk of developing TB. If the health system only treats TB after it develops but

*The answer is that scaling up diagnosis and treatment alone is not enough to end TB. We have become better at treating disease, but not at preventing it, as millions continue developing TB every year.*

does not support smoking cessation or diabetes management that individual remains at high risk of recurrent disease, while many others continue to develop TB for the same reasons.

## Health systems remain reactive rather than preventive

Most TB programmes begin once someone becomes sick. By then, the individual may have already transmitted TB to family members, co-workers, or the wider community. Example: A patient who develops a persistent cough may wait several months before seeking care. During that time, they may unknowingly infect several



household members. Earlier detection through proactive screening could have prevented additional cases.

## Screening strategies remain too limited

Many countries continue to rely on passive case finding or targeted screening among selected high-risk populations such as HIV infected, refugees, prisoners. While these approaches are important, they are unlikely to identify all infectious cases. As countries move towards TB elimination, broader and more systematic mass screening approaches particularly in high-burden communities may be required alongside strengthened contact investigation and preventive treatment.

## Social and economic barriers continue to fuel TB

TB is closely linked with poverty, overcrowded housing, poor nutrition, and limited access to healthcare. Even when diagnosis and treatment are provided free of charge, patients often face indirect costs such as transportation, lost income, and food insecurity. Example: A daily wage worker may delay seeking diagnosis because attending a clinic means losing a day's income. This delay increases both disease severity and community transmission.

## Universal health coverage is still incomplete

Many countries have not fully incorporated TB prevention and care into universal health coverage. Financial constraint remains a major barrier to early diagnosis, treatment completion, and preventive care. Ending TB requires ensuring that no individual faces financial barriers to accessing diagnosis, treatment, pre-

ventive therapy, nutrition support, or management of associated conditions such as smoking, diabetes and HIV.

## Prevention remains underinvested and fractured

TB programmes continue to devote most resources to diagnosing and treating disease, while comparatively less investment is directed towards preventing new infections and reducing risk factors. Effective prevention includes tobacco control and cessation services, reducing harmful alcohol use, diabetes prevention and management, HIV prevention and treatment, nutritional support, TB preventive treatment for eligible populations. These interventions not only reduce TB but also improve overall population health.

## Funding is often viewed too narrowly

Limited funding is frequently cited as the primary constraint to TB control. While additional investment is important, the issue is also how countries mobilize and allocate resources. Domestic financing opportunities are often underutilized. Health taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverages can generate substantial revenue while simultaneously reducing major TB risk factors. Example: Increasing tobacco excise taxes reduces smoking prevalence, a major driver of TB while generating additional government revenue that can be reinvested in TB prevention, primary healthcare, and universal health coverage. This creates a "double dividend" for public health.

**Progress is not fast enough**  
Despite improvements in diagnosis and treatment, the decline in global TB

incidence remains too slow to achieve the goals of the End TB Strategy. Without stronger prevention efforts, countries will continue treating millions of new cases each year instead of reducing the number of people who develop TB. Ending TB requires a fundamental shift from a treatment-centred model to a prevention-oriented, people-centred, and multisectoral approach. While high-quality diagnosis and treatment remain essential, they must be complemented by coordinated action across sectors that address the underlying drivers of TB.

This means strengthening programme coordination and integrated service delivery between TB programmes and tobacco and alcohol control, diabetes and HIV services, nutrition programmes, universal health coverage, social protection, and initiatives that address housing, poverty, and other social determinants of health.

In simple terms: Treating TB saves lives today. Preventing TB saves lives today and protects future generations. Ending TB requires more than high-quality diagnosis and treatment. Countries must ensure equitable access to TB prevention, systematic screening, early diagnosis, prompt treatment, and integrated services that address the major risk factors and social determinants driving the epidemic. The path to TB elimination is clear: Prevent All TB, Find All TB, and Treat All TB. Prevention must become the first line of defence, every person with TB should be identified early, and everyone diagnosed should receive timely, high-quality care and support.

Achieving this goal requires strong political leadership beyond the health sector. Local leaders, particularly mayors, are uniquely positioned to mobilize resources, coordinate multisectoral action, and create healthier communities that prevent TB, improve early detection, and ensure quality care for all.

*Author is Global Health Editorial Advisor for CNS and Honorary Principal Advisor for Prevent-Find-Treat ALL TB to end TB campaign. He leads Vital Strategies as Asia Pacific Director (Tobacco Control). He is also the Board Director of Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT) and former Asia Pacific Director of International Union Against TB and Lung Disease - The Union*

# Renaissance And Revolution In The Canvas Of Florence



BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

Florence is known as the "Cradle of the Renaissance," and the Uffizi Gallery continues to keep the legacy of the Renaissance alive through its masterpieces of Renaissance art. Set against the naturally beautiful green canvas of this Tuscan city, art, history, and architecture draw visitors and tourists from around the world. The terracotta dome of the Cathedral Duomo, the Palazzo Pitti, and the marble Galleria dell'Accademia are not merely landmarks of the city—they embody its art, history, and architectural grandeur. The Arno River flows like a necklace through the city, while the medieval stone bridge, Ponte Vecchio, adds to its natural charm.

There is something about this lively city that defies definition. The people are friendly, yet there is a sense of distance and dignity about them. Culturally, the city feels European in spirit but with an American orientation with little Italian flavour. In the world of fashion, Florence holds its own against Milan. When it comes to food, this city stands apart from the rest of Italy. There is something sharp and rustic about Tuscan flavours that defines the culinary delicacies here—from the bread and Ribollita soup to sandwiches and fruit juice, everything tastes distinct, much like the unique Florentine dialect itself.

This Roman garrison city was established in 59 BC. Historically, it was a flourishing and blossoming town, hence its name—Florence—which became a centre of trade and finance. It was one of the richest cities of medieval Europe. The Medici trading and banking family ruled the city, their power consolidated by the wealth of the textile business and Medici



bank. The economic influence of this family expanded further through their political control over the city during the 15th century. This family produced four popes of the Catholic Church and controlled the city's religious life as well until the late 17th century. The alliance between medieval feudal political and economic power has always moved in step with religious power. Religion and capital move together to forge formidable political authority—a pattern that continues to echo in modern times, not only in the city and Italy, but across the world.

Such an alliance between the feudal political and economic power of the Medici family and the Catholic Church gave rise to numerous republican and religious struggles for the emancipation of working people,

whose lives were suffocated in the city, across the Tuscan region, and beyond. The Florentine bankers were the financiers of the English kings, who managed to sustain the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) with France. This was not a people's war, but a war for the expansion of political power, trade, and business. These wars are often named after countries to lend them a nationalistic and religious flavour, mobilising people to fight for their rulers. But these European wars were fundamentally bourgeois wars, in which religion played a key role in rallying working people to fight for kings. These were not people's struggles for emancipation.

The Albizzi family also ruled Florence during the second half of the 14th century. The wool trade of the Albizzi

family led to the rise of conflict with the Medici family. This oligarchical control of wealth by these two families, and the conflict between them and their dominance over everyday lives of working people, gave rise to mass discontent—for their wealth was a direct result of the exploitation of artisans, labourers, and craftsmen. The four-year Ciompi Revolt, from 1378 to 1382, was led by these unorganised working classes, primarily composed of textile and wool workers, who managed to form a workers' government in the city and took over government buildings, monasteries, and many palazzi.

However, the Ciompi Revolt failed to sustain itself due to factionalism among the leadership and a lack of organisational power. Yet this failed revolution has become a source of

inspiration for workers and lower classes in their struggles against low wages, exploitation, and lack of political representation. People's struggles for emancipation and their revolutionary activities never go to the dustbin of history. Revolution—whether small or large, failed or successful—does not matter; it always shines and guides society on the path of progress. The popular Ciompi Revolution may have failed, but it provided a revolutionary foundation to Florence as a city, which later contributed to its liberation from Nazi-Fascist occupation in 1944. The anti-fascist foundation of Florence continues to be a source of contemporary anti-fascist movements across Italy.

The growth of art, science, and humanism in 15th-century Florence was funded by business families and banking dynasties such as the Albizzi and the Medici. Thus, the bourgeois Renaissance was designed to undermine working-class consciousness by crafting a benevolent image of these ruthless oligarchical families in Florence. However, the Florentine revolutionaries adopted science and humanism to serve the working people of the city. Therefore, Florence continues to exist as a city caught between renaissance and revolution on the political canvas of Italy and Europe. Many working-class, anti-fascist, and anti-Nazi struggles in Italy continue to draw inspiration from the revolutionary textile and wool workers of Florence. The Ciompi Revolution provided much-needed hope to the working people of the region in a hopeless world dominated by oligarchical families that controlled the city and its surroundings.

The natural beauty of Florence shines even brighter due to the radical and revolutionary spirit of the city, which continues to pursue centre-left politics in its governance. Florence maintains its reputation as a long-standing supporter of left-wing, radical, democratic, and progressive politics. The history of the city lives on in its present-day politics.

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## 12,168 Pilgrims Pay

and sadhus, started their journey towards the 3,880-metre-high Holy Cave Shrine amid chants of "Bum Bum Bhole" after being flagged off by the respective Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police from the two base camps.

According to officials, 12,168 persons performed darshan at the Holy Cave till 7:00 pm on Friday. The figure includes 9,354 male pilgrims, 2,250 female pilgrims, 219 children, 71 sadhus, nine transgender devotees and 265 security personnel.

Meanwhile, the second batch of pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu in two escorted convoys.

According to official figures, 1,735 pilgrims bound for the Baltal route departed at 3:13 am, while 2,130 pilgrims heading towards the Pahalgam route left at 3:38 am, taking the total strength of the second batch to 3,865.

Officials said the batch comprised of 2,965 male pilgrims, 618 women, 230 sadhus, 48 sadhvis and four children.

The pilgrims were travelling in 201 vehicles, including 83 buses, 14 medium motor vehicles (MMVs) and 104 light motor vehicles (LMVs). Of these, 115 vehicles were part of the Baltal-bound convoy, while 86 vehicles are heading towards the Pahalgam base camp, officials said. "With the departure of the second batch on Friday, a total of 8,687 pilgrims have left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu for the Kashmir Valley over the past two days to undertake the annual Amarnath Yatra."

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir administration issued an advisory urging devotees to undertake the pilgrimage only after completing advance registration and to strictly adhere to their allotted travel dates.

The administration said that in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court, a daily ceiling has been fixed on the number of pilgrims permitted on the Yatra routes to ensure the safety of devotees and the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

Officials said advance registration had been made available well before the commencement of the Yatra through designated bank branches across the country and online platforms, with a majority of pilgrims already availing the facility.

The administration clarified that the Tatkal or on-the-spot registration facility has only limited slots and cannot accommodate thousands of unregistered pilgrims arriving in Jammu and Kashmir. Devotees without prior registration have been requested to wait for their allotted date and travel only as per the schedule issued by the authorities.

The advisory further noted that several registered pilgrims have been reaching Jammu and Kashmir before their scheduled travel dates. Authorities reiterated that no pilgrim would be allowed to proceed on the Yatra before the date mentioned on the registration slip.

The administration assured that every registered devotee would get an opportunity to undertake the Yatra in accordance with the prescribed procedure and the daily carrying capacity. Pilgrims have been urged to maintain discipline, cooperate with the authorities and follow all guidelines for the safe and orderly conduct of the pilgrimage.

Authorities have put in place multi-tier security arrangements, with personnel from the J&K Police, CRPF and other security agencies deployed along both routes to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The 57-day pilgrimage is scheduled to conclude on August 28—(KNO)

## Kashmir Mutton Dealers

livestock vehicles through the state. However, the association said the order does not fully meet its demand.

KMDA General Secretary Mehraj-ud-Din said the association received a letter from the Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat, Punjab, following intervention by the Jammu and Kashmir government.

However, he said the communication was not the specific order the association had been seeking, as it does not explicitly exempt livestock vehicles transiting through Punjab from the cattle fair levy.

"We had requested the Punjab government to issue clear orders that cattle fair charges should not be imposed on livestock vehicles merely passing through Punjab. The letter does not categorically state that. Instead, it focuses on grievance redressal, proper documentation and appointment of nodal officers," Mehraj-ud-Din said.

He added that despite its reservations, the association decided to withdraw the strike after being informed that the Punjab government had directed authorities not to unnecessarily stop livestock vehicles at checkpoints.

"We were initially reluctant to accept the communication because it was not what we had expected. However, we have called off the strike for now and will closely monitor the situation on the ground. The real picture will become clear only after these directions are implemented," he said.

The letter, issued by the Punjab government and accessed, states that the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir forwarded a representation regarding the transportation of livestock from different states to Jammu and Kashmir. It has been alleged that while livestock-carrying vehicles pass through Punjab as a transit corridor, contractors operating cattle fair checkpoints collect fees from them.

The letter states that if livestock is purchased or sold within Punjab, the prescribed fee should be paid and the necessary documents obtained to avoid inconvenience during transportation. For vehicles transporting livestock from other states through Punjab, district authorities have been directed to verify documents relating to the purchase and sale of livestock and to address complaints regarding cattle fair fees through designated grievance officers.

District Development and Panchayat Officers have been instructed to appoint two nodal officers at the BDPO/Panchayat Officer level in border districts and one nodal officer in other districts. Boards displaying the name, designation, block, mobile number, and email address of the designated Grievance Officer for Cattle Fair purposes shall be installed at all cattle fair checkpoints.

The letter also states that provisions contained in Chapter IV of the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978, relating to the transportation of animals from other states to Jammu and Kashmir, must be complied with. In case of any violation, legal action may be taken against the concerned vehicle driver.

The strike, which lasted for ten days, had disrupted the transportation of sheep from Punjab to Jammu and Kashmir, triggering concerns over a possible mutton shortage in the Valley, particularly during the ongoing marriage season—(KNO)

## PM Urges Amarnath

thousands of personnel engaged in ensuring the safety, security and smooth conduct of the yatra.

The Prime Minister also praised the hospitality extended by the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the voluntary service rendered by local residents and organisations running community kitchens (langars) and service camps for pilgrims along the routes.

Describing the tradition of selfless service as a reflection of India's civilizational values and the ideal of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah", Modi called upon devotees to make this year's pilgrimage a model of responsible citizenship and national service.

He urged every pilgrim to undertake five pledges during the yatra.

Under the first pledge, he asked devotees to maintain cleanliness by adhering to sanitation norms and helping keep the pilgrimage routes free of litter.

The second pledge called upon pilgrims to strictly follow all directions issued by the administration, comply with traffic regulations and safety advisories, remain vigilant during adverse weather conditions and take precautions against slippery terrain and cold weather.

As part of the third pledge, the Prime Minister appealed to pilgrims to support local livelihoods by spending at least 10 per cent of their pilgrimage expenditure on locally made products under the "Vocal for Local" initiative to strengthen the livelihoods of families and youth in Jammu and Kashmir.

The fourth pledge focused on environmental conservation, urging devotees to present a sapling to their brother or sister on Raksha Bandhan, the concluding day of the yatra, in support of the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign.

The fifth pledge called on pilgrims to uphold the spirit of "Nation First" by performing their duties with sincerity throughout the year and contributing towards the vision of a "Viksit Bharat".

Expressing confidence that the 2026 Shri Amarnath Yatra would become a celebration of faith, national unity and selfless service, PM Modi prayed for the blessings of Baba Amarnath upon all devotees.

He wished every pilgrim a safe, peaceful and spiritually enriching journey and expressed hope that the pilgrimage would inspire renewed devo-

tion, energy and commitment towards national development.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration distributed the Prime Minister's message in the form of pamphlets to pilgrims at both the Nunwan and Baltal base camps.

The pilgrims welcomed the Prime Minister's message and described it as a thoughtful gesture that strengthened their spiritual resolve and enthusiasm for undertaking the pilgrimage—(KNO)

## Northern Railway

with Scouts and Guides, are assisting pilgrims with train schedules, platform information, medical aid and other services.

To ensure security and effective crowd management, additional ticket checking staff, commercial officials and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel have been deployed, while CCTV surveillance and continuous monitoring from the railway war room have also been put in place.

Meanwhile, Platform Nos. 4 and 5 at Jammu Tawi Railway Station have been commissioned for train operations, with Train No. 13152 becoming the first train to operate from the newly commissioned platform on Friday, the statement said.

The railway administration has appealed to pilgrims to undertake the journey only after completing registration, purchase tickets from authorised counters, avoid accepting food or beverages from strangers, refrain from unnecessary crowding on platforms, and contact the Rail Madad Helpline 139 or the station help desk for assistance—(KNO)

## Rain, Thunderstorms

localised flash floods and landslides. According to the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thunder-showers are likely at many places from July 4 to 5, mainly during the late afternoon, evening, and late night or early morning hours. Heavy rainfall or brief intense showers accompanied by thunderstorms are expected at a few locations.

According to the forecast, from July 6 to 9, the weather is expected to remain generally hot and humid, although many places may continue to witness brief spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers, with isolated intense showers.

The MeT department advised people to stay away from nallas, streams, and landslide or mudslide-prone areas, warning that heavy rainfall at vulnerable locations could lead to localised flash floods and landslides.

During the past 24 hours, Udhampur recorded the highest rainfall at 85 mm, followed by Kathua ARG with 41.5 mm and Rajpura ARG with 27 mm, while light to moderate rain was reported from several other stations.

Despite the rain forecast, temperatures remained above normal in most parts of the Valley and Jammu region. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 31.7 degrees Celsius, which was 2.1 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 19.3 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded 30.6 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 25.1 degrees Celsius, Kupwara 30.7 degrees Celsius, Koker-nag 29.9 degrees Celsius, and Gulmarg 20.2 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum of 37.3 degrees Celsius, Banihal 31.7 degrees Celsius, Katra 33.7 degrees Celsius, Batote 28.2 degrees Celsius, and Bhaderwah 29.6 degrees Celsius.

The MeT department said humidity levels remained high across the region, adding to the prevailing hot and humid conditions, particularly in the Jammu division—(KNO)

## Foul Smell From

saying the smell becomes unbearable during the afternoon and evening hours.

"My father has been admitted here for over a week. During the daytime, especially when the temperature rises, the smell becomes so strong that it makes us nauseous. A hospital should provide a healing atmosphere, but this foul odour only adds to our stress," said an attendant from north Kashmir.

Another attendant from south Kashmir said, "We are already going through emotional and financial hardship while caring for our patient. The unbearable smell makes it difficult to even sit outside the wards for a few minutes. Authorities must resolve this issue without further delay."

A patient undergoing treatment at

SKIMS said the persistent stench often causes discomfort and loss of appetite. "The smell is overwhelming at times. It affects our peace of mind and makes recovery even more difficult," he said.

Hospital staff also voiced concern, saying they have been facing the problem for years. "The foul smell is more intense during the summer months. Doctors, nurses, support staff and even those living in the residential quarters have to endure it almost every day. It is not only unpleasant but also affects the overall working environment," a staff member said on condition of anonymity.

Medical Superintendent, SKIMS, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Jan, has written to the Commissioner of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), urging immediate intervention to address the issue, stating that the foul odour continues to cause immense inconvenience and poses a potential health risk to critically ill patients admitted to the premier tertiary care hospital.

According to the letter accessed through an RTI by activist M M Shuja, SKIMS had earlier raised the issue with the SMC. However, despite repeated representations, the problem has persisted. In another communication issued this year, the Medical Superintendent reminded the civic body that the unbearable stench continues to affect patients, attendants and hospital staff, particularly during the summer months when rising temperatures intensify the smell from the dumping site.

The hospital administration said numerous complaints have been received from attendants who spend days and nights with their loved ones undergoing treatment. The unpleasant odour, it noted, not only causes discomfort but also creates an unhealthy environment for patients battling serious illnesses. Staff members residing in the nearby residential quarters are also facing the same problem on a daily basis.

"We have repeatedly requested the Srinagar Municipal Corporation to take urgent and effective remedial measures to mitigate the foul smell from the Achan dumping site but no action has been taken as of now," an official said.

The issue is directly impacting patient welfare, attendants and hospital staff. Early intervention is essential in the larger public interest.

The SKIMS administration has urged the Srinagar Municipal Corporation to take concrete and lasting measures to control the odour and improve waste management practices at the Achan dumping site, stressing that safeguarding the health and dignity of patients should remain a top priority—(KNO)



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# Dr. Bhargav Mallappa's Cybercrime Case Reaches Prime Minister's Office

Seeks PMO's intervention for fair investigation into alleged organised Telegram phishing network

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** Dr. Bhargav Mallappa, National President (Youth), Akhil Bharatiya Gau Raksha Mahasangh, has approached Prime Minister's Office (PMO) over an organised cybercrime targeting him. In a detailed representation submitted to the PMO, he has sought a fair, time-bound, and comprehensive investigation into an alleged targeted phishing attack carried out through the Telegram messaging platform.



In his representation, Dr. Mallappa stated that he had already lodged a complaint on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, which has been acknowledged by the Cyber Police Station, New Delhi District, under Acknowledgement No. 22904260036238.

According to the representation, on 11 April 2026, Dr. Mallappa received a suspicious Telegram link bearing the identifier "RAGINBHARGAVBHARGAV." He further claimed that the identical link was simultaneously sent to the

mobile phones of his wife and his brother-in-law. Dr. Mallappa alleged that this was not an ordinary case of online fraud but a well-planned and targeted phishing attack aimed at compromising his personal information, digital devices, and financial credentials.

In the representation, Dr. Mallappa has alleged that a person identified as Suresh BP, has emerged in connection with the matter. He stated that all relevant digital evidence, including phishing links, screenshots of Telegram

conversations, and identity-related documents concerning the suspect, has already been uploaded to the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

In his letter to the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Mallappa stated that the growing incidence of organised cybercrime through digital platforms poses a serious threat to citizens' privacy, financial security, and public confidence in India's digital ecosystem. He stressed that such cases require better coordination among law enforcement agencies and prompt

action to curb organised cyber fraud.

He has requested the Prime Minister's Office to take cognisance of the matter and direct the concerned authorities to ensure a fair, impartial, and time-bound investigation. He has also sought strict legal action against those responsible under the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and other applicable laws.

Additionally, Dr. Mallappa has urged the government to strengthen India's cyber security framework, enhance public awareness against phishing attacks, and improve coordination among investigative agencies to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Dr. Mallappa expressed confidence in the Government of India's commitment to protecting citizens from cybercrime and strengthening the country's cybersecurity ecosystem. He said he hopes the Prime Minister's Office will take appropriate steps to ensure justice and safeguard public interest.

# SKUAST-K conducts Animal Healthcare Programs in Gurez

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** Reinforcing its commitment to sustainable livestock development and conservation of indigenous animal wealth, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) organized a series of Awareness-cum-Input Distribution and Animal Healthcare Programs at Gurez.



The programs were organized by the Division of Animal Genetics & Breeding, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Shuhama, under the ICAR-NBAGR Network Project on Animal Genetic Resources, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Gurez, and the Department of Animal Husbandry. The initiative aimed to promote conservation of indigenous animal genetic resources, improve livestock productivity, and strengthen the livelihoods of tribal farming communities in the region.

Under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Nazir Ahmad Ganai, the outreach program brought together scientists, veterinary experts, extension professionals, and livestock farmers to promote scientific livestock management and climate-resilient farming practices.

Dr. Ravinder Kumar, Principal Scientist at ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cattle, attended as chief guest and highlighted the immense value of indigenous livestock genetic resources in ensuring sustainable livestock production, climate resilience, and nutritional

security. He emphasised the need to adopt scientific and innovative livestock technologies to improve productivity and contribute to the vision of a "Viksit Gurez".

Guest of Honour, Dr. Mahesh Dige, Senior Scientist at ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, stressed the importance of conserving local animal genetic resources and appreciated SKUAST-K's sustained efforts in strengthening the livestock sector through scientific interventions, farmer awareness, and capacity-building initiatives in remote tribal areas.

Earlier, Prof. (Dr.) Syed Shanaz Shafi, Professor & Head, Division of Animal Genetics & Breeding, underscored the urgent need for scientific conservation and sustainable management of indigenous animal genetic resources. She noted that native livestock and poultry breeds are invaluable genetic assets naturally adapted to the harsh agro-climatic conditions of the Kashmir Himalayas and are critical for sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and climate-resilient farm-

ing systems.

A major highlight of the program was the distribution of livestock inputs to beneficiaries. A total of 100 indigenous Kashmiri poultry birds were distributed under the ICAR-NBAGR Network Project to promote the conservation and multiplication of indigenous poultry germplasm.

Additionally, 300 Keystone Golden birds were distributed under the ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Poultry under the guidance of Dr. Azmat Alam, Principal Investigator, to encourage backyard poultry farming, particularly among women's Self-Help Groups, thereby improving livelihood opportunities and household nutritional security.

Further strengthening animal health interventions, around 50 livestock farmers received deworming medicines and mineral mixtures free of cost to improve animal health and productivity.

During the technical session, Dr. Shahid Ahmad Shergoijr, Associate Professor, Division of Animal Genetics & Breeding, sensitized farmers on the

importance of conserving indigenous poultry breeds, scientific breeding strategies, genetic improvement, and sustainable livestock management. He highlighted the significant role of native poultry in improving household nutrition, strengthening rural livelihoods, and generating supplementary income for tribal farming families.

Scientists also conducted practical demonstrations and provided expert guidance on scientific feeding, breeding, healthcare, disease prevention, and climate-resilient livestock production practices. Farmers actively participated in interactive discussions, sharing their experiences and seeking scientific solutions to challenges affecting livestock production.

The program was attended by Dr. Izhar Ahmad, BVO Gurez; Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, VAS; Dr. Jauhar Rafeeq; Dr. Shahada; scientists and officials from KVK Gurez; officers from the Department of Animal Husbandry; and a large number of progressive livestock farmers and women beneficiaries from across Gurez Valley.

# DC Budgam reviews implementation of PM-SGBY

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner, Superintendent Engineer KPDC, Executive Engineer, Electric Division Budgam, Lead District Manager (LDM), Deputy CEO JAKEDA and empanelled regional vendors.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under the scheme besides assessing consumer registrations, rooftop solar installations, disbursement of Central Financial Assistance (CFA), status of government building solarisation, cases sanctioning and installation progress.

The DC was apprised that the district has registered encouraging progress under the scheme across all subdivisions of the District. He was further informed that the

scheme has witnessed significant public response, resulting in substantial clean energy generation and direct CFA benefits to eligible consumers.

The DC was also informed that identified government buildings have been solarised.

Taking stock of the implementation, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure early installation of smart meters at all solarised government buildings and expedite completion of the remaining pending sites.

Reviewing the banking component of the scheme, the DC instructed the Lead District Manager to facilitate prompt disposal of pending applications and resolve rejected cases in coordination with the concerned banks to ensure hassle-free consumer onboarding.

The DC further directed the empanelled vendors to clear all pending installations within the stipulated timeline. He stressed coordination among KPDC, JAKEDA, banks and vendors to remove bottlenecks, expedite implementation and achieve targets within this financial year.

# Dosti Discussion' held at Nadihal under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan and on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, the District Administration Bandipora on Friday organised a "Dosti Discussion" interactive awareness session at Boys Higher Secondary School, Nadihal, to educate students about the ill effects of drug abuse and encourage informed life choices.

District Information Officer, Aadil Manzoor Wani, attended the programme as the Chief Guest and administered the anti-drug pledge to the students at the outset, reaffirming their commitment to stay away from narcotics and contribute towards a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, the District Information Officer urged students to carefully examine their choices before making decisions and to embrace whatever is beneficial while rejecting what is harmful. He said that developing the habit of evaluating one's decisions at the very beginning and

remaining steadfast on the right path helps build sound judgement and character among young people.

Highlighting the importance of self-improvement, he emphasized that skills are developed through consistent practice and perseverance. He encouraged students to make productive use of their time, strengthen their abilities and remain focused on achieving their goals.

He also called upon the youth to actively support the administration's efforts against drug abuse by staying vigilant within their communities, spreading awareness and collectively resisting the menace of narcotics.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and school staff and concluded with an interactive discussion, reflecting the District Administration's continued commitment to creating a drug-free Bandipora through sustained awareness, community participation and youth engagement under the 100-Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan.

# B'pora strengthens Anti-Drug Drive through 'Dosti Discussion'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Bandipora on Friday organised a series of "Dosti Discussion" programmes across educational institutions to raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage them to lead healthy and responsible lives.

The programmes were conducted in accordance with the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Nadihal, Government Boys Higher Secondary School Dawar, Government Higher Secondary School Naidkhai, Government Higher Secondary School Quilmuqam and Government Higher



Secondary School Nowgam, with officers interacting with students.

At Government Boys Higher Secondary School Nadihal, District Information Officer, Aadil Manzoor Wani, administered the anti-drug pledge and urged students to make informed choices, stay focused on education, develop their skills and actively support the campaign against substance abuse.

At Government Higher Secondary School Quilmuqam, Principal, HKM


GDC Bandipora, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, Faculty members highlighted the importance of a drug-free society, the role of family and friendship in preventing substance abuse and motivated students to adopt healthy and responsible lifestyles through an interactive discussion.

At Government Higher Secondary School Nowgam, the Functional Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Bandipora, interacted with students and stressed the

importance of discipline, awareness and collective responsibility in building a drug-free society.

At Government Higher Secondary School Naidkhai, Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Rafiq Mir, attended the programme as the Chief Guest and sensitised students about the harmful consequences of drug abuse. He urged them to remain committed to education, uphold moral values, make informed life choices and contribute actively towards building a drug-free society.

Similar awareness programme was also held at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Dawar where the officers sensitised students about the ill effects of drug abuse and encouraged them to become ambassadors of the anti-drug movement in their schools and communities.



**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY**  
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**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS**  
**e-NITNo: 07 of R&B/MDSK/2026-27 Dated: 02/07/2026**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir, Khanabal, Anantnag invites e-tenders in two (02) cover system, from the registered experienced firms.

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (in Lakh)	Tender Fee	Earnest Money @ 2% of Adv. Cost (in Rs)	Time of Completion
1.	Off Beat Destination Upgradation of Aharbal b.w.o Upgradation of Departmental Hut, Construction of 4 Units Toilet Complex with Tuck Shop, Providing and Installation of Signages, Solid Waste Management along with Providing of Dust Bins, Construction of Selfie Points, Lighting/Illumination, Development of Hiking Trails b.w.o Signages, Benches, Installation of Zipline, Installation of Children Recreation Zone. (Sub-Work: Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning (SITC) of a 200-meter commercial Zip Line system)	20.88	800/-	41760/-	60 Days

**Intending Authority:** Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir.  
**Administrative Approval:** Accorded vide Order No: 16-DTK/PLN OF 2025-26. Dated: 02-07-2025.  
**Technical Sanction:** Accorded by Executive Engineer, R&B Mechanical Division South Kashmir vide order No EE/Mech/R&B/TS/02 of 2026-2027 Dated: 30-06-2026

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02/07/2026 13:00
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02/07/2026 13:00
3.	Date & Time of pre-bid meeting.	04/07/2026 13:00 (11:30Hrs) in the office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir, Khanabal Anantnag
4.	Bid submission Start Date & Time	02/07/2026 13:00
5.	Bid Submission End Date & Time	15/07/2026 12:00
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	16/07/2026 12:00 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir Khanabal, Anantnag
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.
8.	Tender document fee to be deposited in	Upload a Copy of Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH.
9.	Earnest Money Deposit	Upload a copy of Earnest money deposit @2% amounting to Rs 41760/- of the estimated cost, to be deposited in Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH. In case of unsuccessful bidder(s), a system enabled provision for automatic triggering of EMD refunds shall be implemented and in case of the successful bidder the Bid security amount shall upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HOD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security (Performance Security @5%) shall be furnished by the Bidder in cash to the designated Authority. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security/Additional Performance Security shall render the L1 as nonresponsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities. EMD shall be valid for a period of 45 days after bid validity.

**Note:** The bidder must get registered on JKPWDOMS, as no payments shall be made unless the bill is processed on JKPWDOMS. In view of circular issued by Finance Department of JK UT, no payment shall be released until and unless bill is processed through JKPWDOMS application and routed through JKPaaS. However, for those bidders who are not yet registered on JKPWDOMS, they shall submit an undertaking that JKPWDOMS registration will be done well on time before release of payment.

No. (R&B)/MDSK/920-25  
 Dated: 02-07-2026.  
 DIPK-2827-26  
 DT: 03/07/2026

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 PW(R&B) Mechanical Division  
 South Kashmir Anantnag

# Nuzhat Gul Reviews Sports Infrastructure, Development Works at Gindun Rajbagh

GMK SPORTS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, Friday conducted an extensive inspection of the Sports Complex at Gindun, Rajbagh, to assess the existing sports infrastructure and review the progress of ongoing developmental works at the venue.

During the visit, the Secretary inspected facilities catering to multiple sporting disciplines, including volleyball, basketball, skating and handball, besides other sports activities regularly conducted at the complex. She reviewed the functioning and utilisation of the available infrastructure and interacted with officials regarding measures required to further enhance the sporting environment for athletes and aspiring sports persons.

Gul also reviewed the Gymnastics Hall and directed that all necessary arrangements be expedited for its early operationalisation. She emphasised that the facility should be made functional at the earliest to provide a dedicated and professionally equipped training space for gymnasts and emerging talent.



The Secretary further inspected the proposed facilities for archery and shooting and reviewed the preparations underway for establishing dedicated training centres for both disciplines. She directed the concerned officials to fast-track the preparatory works and ensure that the centres are developed in accordance with the technical and training requirements of the respective sports.

Ms. Gul also inspected the newly completed swimming pool complex, with special focus on the dedicated facilities developed for children and beginners. The swimming infrastructure has been completed and is ready for further augmentation and operationalisation. Once fully functional,

the facility is expected to significantly strengthen aquatic sports infrastructure in Srinagar and provide structured training opportunities to young and emerging swimmers.

Emphasising timely completion of the remaining works, the Secretary directed the concerned officials to maintain high standards of upkeep and ensure optimum utilisation of every sporting facility. She observed that Gindun Rajbagh, owing to its strategic and central location in Srinagar, has tremendous potential to emerge as a vibrant multi-sports training hub catering to athletes and youth from across the city and adjoining areas.

The Secretary underlined that modern and accessible sports infra-

structure is central to broadening the sporting base, promoting healthy lifestyles and creating meaningful avenues for constructive youth engagement. She reiterated the commitment of the J&K Sports Council towards developing quality sports facilities, strengthening grassroots sporting systems and expanding opportunities for young talent across Jammu and Kashmir.

The visit forms part of the Sports Council's continued focus on infrastructure consolidation, effective utilisation of sporting assets and creation of an athlete-centric ecosystem capable of identifying, nurturing and advancing sporting talent to higher competitive levels.

# Boating facility inaugurated at Tawi River Front to welcome Amarnath Yatra Pilgrims



GMK SPORTS DESK

**JAMMU:** As the annual Amarnath Yatra 2026 gathers momentum with thousands of pilgrims arriving in Jammu every day, Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) inaugurated the much-awaited boating facility at the Tawi River Front, adding a new recreational attraction for devotees, tourists and local residents.

The boating service was formally inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer Jammu Smart City Limited and Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr Devansh Yadav in presence of senior officers of JSCL, officials from the district administration, representatives of various departments and members of the public.

The launch marks another milestone in the transformation of the Tawi River Front into a vibrant urban destination under the Smart Cities Mission,

offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience the scenic beauty of the Tawi River.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Devansh Yadav said Jammu serves as the gateway to the holy Amarnath Cave Shrine and welcomes lakhs of pilgrims every year. He said the introduction of the boating facility is aimed at enriching the overall experience of pilgrims visiting the city by providing them with a safe, enjoyable and memorable recreational activity during their stay.

Dr Devansh Yadav said the initiative reflects Jammu Smart City's vision of creating world-class public spaces that combine tourism, recreation, environmental sustainability and quality urban infrastructure.

He added that the Tawi River Front has rapidly emerged as one of the city's most popular destinations, and the boating facility will further

strengthen its appeal among visitors.

Following the inauguration, the first batch of pilgrims, tourists and locals enjoyed boating on the Tawi River amid picturesque surroundings. The launch generated enthusiastic response from visitors, many of whom described the experience as a refreshing addition to Jammu's tourism landscape.

The boating facility will be open to visitors daily from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM from July 3 onwards. Each boating session will last 15 minutes and is priced at Rs 100 per person. Visitors can choose from Paddle Boats, Rafts, Motor Boats and Shikaras.

Jammu Smart City has also introduced an online booking system, allowing pilgrims, tourists and local residents to reserve their boating slots in advance through the portal tawiboating.myjammu.in.

Officials said comprehensive safety arrangements have been put in place to ensure secure boating operations. All passengers are provided with life jackets, while trained boat operators and rescue personnel have been deployed.

Standard operating procedures, emergency response mechanisms and continuous monitoring have also been implemented to ensure a safe and comfortable experience for every visitor.

Developed under the Smart Cities Mission, the Tawi River Front has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years with landscaped promenades, cycling and walking tracks, musical fountains, open-air recreational spaces, modern lighting, seating areas and public amenities.

The addition of boating is expected to further enhance the riverfront's status as one of Jammu's premier tourism and leisure destinations.

# Wimbledon: Pegula cruises into fourth round with straight-sets win

IAN S

**LONDON:** Jessica Pegula continued her impressive grass-court campaign with a commanding 6-1, 6-3 victory over Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro to reach the fourth round at Wimbledon without dropping a set.

The fourth seed needed just 53 minutes to defeat the world No. 52, showing a polished performance that improved her record on grass this season to 7-1.

Pegula took control from the start, jumping to a 4-0 lead before easily winning the opening set 6-1. Bouzas Maneiro had little chance to settle into the match.

The American faced her only real test early in the second set. After saving a break point in the first game, she lost her serve in the third and fell behind briefly. However, the 2024 US Open runner-up responded quickly. She broke back in consecutive return games and won four straight games to regain complete control before finishing with another straight-sets victory.

Aside from that brief moment of distraction, Pegula delivered an almost perfect performance, winning 79 percent of points on her first serve and hitting 12 winners.

The win continues her



strong form on grass after Pegula finished as runner-up in Berlin before arriving at the All England Club.

Despite her success, Pegula recently shared that she has developed a different attitude about playing on grass. In the past, she often came to Wimbledon with high expectations but faced early exits. "I've kind of taken on this new mindset that I actually don't think I like it as much as everyone tries to tell me I should," Pegula said after her opening-round win over Darja Vidmanova.

The American explained that convincing herself she should do well on grass had

become unhelpful. "The last few years, I've always thought, 'Yeah, I should be good on grass,' but I don't necessarily love it."

Although she acknowledged her run to the Berlin final, Pegula mentioned she is no longer putting extra pressure on herself to perform on this surface. "I made the final in Berlin, and I'm embracing that, but I'm not obsessed with it. That's all I'm trying to say."

She then lightened the mood with a bit of humour. "No, that's what I'm saying. I'm just like, 'Whatever. Actually, I'm terrible on grass. I don't know what the problem is.'"

# 'It's been a mad 15 years': Ben Stokes bids emotional farewell after retiring from international cricket

IAN S

**LONDON:** Days after announcing his retirement from international cricket during the England vs New Zealand third test, former captain Ben Stokes has shared an emotional farewell message, thanking fans, teammates and everyone who supported him during his remarkable 15-year career.

Stokes, regarded as one of England's greatest all-rounders and match-winners, reflected on the highs and lows of his journey in a heartfelt post on X, saying the decision to retire was

one only he could make.

"It's been a mad 15 years. It's had everything thrown in there, from the highest highs to the lowest lows (on and off the field). My time was up, and no one was going to be able to make that decision other than me. But in the meantime, I just want to say I love every single England fan and every single cricket fan who's supported me over the years," Stokes wrote.

The 35-year-old also expressed gratitude to his teammates and everyone associated with his career. "I love every single



person I've walked out onto the field with representing England. I could go on and on, but I hope you get the gist of how much I loved doing what I did for 15

years. I'm looking forward to being a fan and supporting the team, and the odd day in hospitality won't go amiss. Family, friends, teammates, fans... I love

yas all. Stokesy," he added. Stokes brought the curtain down on an illustrious international career after England's defeat to New Zealand in the third Test, his final appearance in England colours.

He leaves the game as one of the defining cricketers of his generation and among England's greatest match-winners. His unbeaten 84 in the unforgettable 2019 ODI World Cup final against New Zealand helped England lift the trophy for the first time in history after a dramatic Super Over finish.

# 'If Portugal doesn't improve, we could see Ronaldo's last WC match against Spain': Bhutia

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia believes Portugal will have to significantly raise their level if they are to overcome neighbours Spain in a blockbuster Round of 16 clash in the FIFA World Cup 2026 on Tuesday, warning that another disjointed display could bring an end to Cristiano Ronaldo's illustrious World Cup career.

Portugal booked their place in the Round of 16 after edging Croatia 2-1 in a dramatic contest, while Spain sealed a convincing 3-1 victory over Austria to set up one of the most anticipated knockout ties of the tournament.

Despite Portugal's progress, Bhutia was unconvinced by

Roberto Martinez's side, saying the team's star-studded squad has struggled to function collectively.

"I think the way Portugal is playing, if they continue playing what they played today as well, I don't see them progressing. They are not playing as a unit; they are not playing as a team. I think there are a lot of superstars there, but they have not been able to perform as a team," Bhutia, who is part of the expert panel for ZEE5's FIFA World Cup 2026 coverage, told IANS in an exclusive conversation.

"So if the performance continues as it has been playing right now, we might see the last of Ronaldo in that case," he added.

Spain and Portugal share one of international football's oldest rivalries, stretching back more than

a century. Although they have met only twice previously at the FIFA World Cup, this will be their third meeting on the tournament stage in the last five editions.

Spain defeated Portugal 1-0 in the Round of 16 at the 2010 FIFA World Cup on their way to lifting the trophy, while their memorable group-stage meeting at the 2018 edition ended in a thrilling 3-3 draw, highlighted by Ronaldo's stunning hat-trick.

Overall, the neighbouring nations have been evenly matched over the years. Across 41 meetings in all competitions, both Spain and Portugal have registered 12 victories each, while 12 encounters have ended in draws, underlining the fine margins that have defined the rivalry.

★

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**SATURDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**INOX SRINAGAR**

<p><b>WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE</b> (HINDI) (U/A 16+)</p> <p><b>02:20 PM, 06:20 PM</b></p>	
<p><b>ALPHA</b> (U/A 16+) HINDI ATMOS -</p> <p><b>10:45 AM, 01:35 PM, 04:25 PM, 07:15 PM</b></p> <p>HINDI - <b>08:15 PM</b></p>	
<p><b>MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA</b> (HINDI) (U/A 16+)</p> <p><b>01:00 PM</b></p>	
<p><b>COCKTAIL</b> (HINDI) (A)</p> <p><b>11:20 AM</b></p>	
<p><b>MINIONS AND MONSTERS</b> (U/A 7+) ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES -</p> <p><b>04:20 PM</b></p> <p>HINDI - <b>11:00 AM</b></p>	
<p><b>BABY DO DIE DO</b> (HINDI) (A)</p> <p><b>05:35 PM</b></p>	

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