

# THE CHECKPOST

DISPATCH

Truth from the Last Mile.

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REGIONAL NATIONAL WORLD BUSINESS TECH SPORTS OPINION

WEEKLY EDITION



**REGIONAL**  
**Srinagar Airport Runway Closure Plan Rolled Back**

PAGE 2



**NATIONAL**  
**Cabinet Reviews Northeast Floods, Monsoon Rain Deficit**

PAGE 7



**INTERNATIONAL**  
**Iran Begins Days-Long State Funeral For Khamenei**

PAGE 13



**BUSINESS**  
**India's Forex Reserves Near \$700 Billion, Gold Holdings Rise**

PAGE 8

## IN BRIEF

### HEALTH

**Congo Ebola Toll Climbs Past 450 As WHO Tracks Spread**

The World Health Organization reported 1,460 confirmed Ebola cases and 452 deaths in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as...

### TECHNOLOGY

**Indian Entrepreneur Bets \$30 Million On AI Office Rival**

Serial entrepreneur Bhavin Turakhia has committed \$30 million of his own money to Neo, a Bengaluru-based AI-first work platform combining...

### SPORTS

**Leclerc Wins Chaotic British Grand Prix At Silverstone**

Charles Leclerc claimed his first British Grand Prix, leading home a race that finished behind the safety car after Max...

### NATIONAL

**Digital India Marks Eleven Years, Modi Hails Impact**

Marking eleven years of Digital India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the programme had transformed governance and empowered citizens, noting...

### BUSINESS

**GST Collections Rise 13.9% to ₹1.94 Lakh Crore in June**

India's gross GST mop-up climbed 13.9% year-on-year to ₹1,94,812 crore in June, the fastest pace in 13 months, though the...

## REGIONAL

# LG Sinha Flags Off First Amarnath Yatra Convoy

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched SANJY-2026 by flagging off the first convoy of pilgrims from Jammu, as roughly 4,800 devotees set off for the twin base camps amid a multi-layered security grid.

JAMMU, July 2: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first convoy of pilgrims for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here on Wednesday, formally launching SANJY-2026 amid unprecedented...

FULL REPORT CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ►

## NATIONAL

# 2 Assam Rifles Soldiers Martyred in Militant Ambush on NH-202, Ukhrul; Massive Combing Operations Launched

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUL, 2026



Two Assam Rifles personnel — Warrant Officer Balwant Singh and Rifleman C.M. Singh — were killed and several others injured on July 6 when suspected insurgents ambushed the 40 Assam Rifles convoy...

Two brave soldiers of the Assam Rifles were martyred and several others injured on Sunday, July 6, after suspected militants launched a deadly ambush on...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ►

## REGIONAL

# Amarnath Yatra Crosses One Lakh Pilgrims In Five Days



The number of pilgrims paying obeisance at the Himalayan cave shrine surged past the one lakh mark on Tuesday, just five days into



## REGIONAL

# Firing Near Samba Court Complex, Woman Abducted

A family alleged that armed assailants opened fire on their vehicle near the Samba court complex and abducted a woman in broad daylight, triggering a police hunt in the sensitive border district.

SAMBA, July 7: Tension gripped the Samba district headquarters after a family alleged that unidentified assailants opened fire on their vehicle near...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ►



## REGIONAL

# Forces Trap Two LeT Militants In Shopian Operation

A major cordon-and-search operation was launched in Shopian after security forces trapped two suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba militants, sealing off nearly seven villages as a gunfight broke out in dense apple orchards.

SHOPIAN, July 4: A major counter-terrorism operation was launched in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday after security forces trapped two suspected...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ►

## INSIDE TODAY

P2 · Srinagar Airport Runway Closure Plan Rolled Back

P7 · Cabinet Reviews Northeast Floods, Monsoon Rain Deficit

P13 · Iran Begins Days-Long State Funeral For Khamenei

P8 · India's Forex Reserves Near \$700 Billion, Gold Holdings Rise

P14 · Hiltz Stuns World Record Holder Kipyegon In Eugene Mile

P10 · Meta Plans Cloud Business To Sell Spare AI Compute

P12 · Early-Life Air Pollution Linked To Childhood Obesity Risk

P6 · Modi Opens CG Semi Chip Packaging Plant In Sanand

## REGIONAL

## Srinagar Airport Runway Closure Plan Rolled Back

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



A proposal to shut the Srinagar airport runway every Monday and Tuesday through the peak tourist season has been withdrawn after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's intervention, in wha...

SRINAGAR, July 4: A proposal to keep the Srinagar airport runway unavailable every Monday and Tuesday from July through September has been withdrawn, sparing the Valley's peak tourist season, officials confirmed. The plan had also envisaged a complete closure of runway operations between October 1 and 16 for maintenance, prompting alarm among airlines, hoteliers and tour operators who reported cancellations by visitors. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah thanked Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu for suspending the proposed order following a series of meetings and appeals

from stakeholders. He said the earlier proposal had created "a lot of difficulties" for regular travellers and forced tour groups to scrap planned visits. Under the revised arrangement, airport operations will continue on all days, with watch hours from 8 am to 5 pm. Night closures for runway maintenance will remain in effect until October, but the weekly daytime shutdowns stand cancelled. The travel and business community welcomed the reversal, saying it had averted a blow to the tourism economy during its busiest months. The Chief Minister separately assured trade delegations of a time-bound response to their concerns.

## REGIONAL

## Omar Orders Faster Power Sector Modernisation In J&K

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



SRINAGAR, July 6: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reviewed the progress of power sector reforms in Jammu and Kashmir and directed officials to speed up modernisation to ensure reliable, affordable electricity across the Union Territory. Officials told the meeting that projects worth more than Rs 5,700 crore were under execution through the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, aimed at cutting losses and strengthening the distribution network. Billing efficiency had improved from 56 per cent in 2021-22 to 77 per cent in 2025-26, while aggregate technical and commercial losses had fallen significantly, the review was informed. Abdullah pushed for wider deployment of insulated aerial cables and battery storage systems, and sought measures to offset the drop in hydropower generation that strains supply during the summer months. The Chief Minister said dependable electricity was central to public convenience and economic activity,

and asked departments to keep consumers at the centre of the reform drive.

## REGIONAL

## Omar Signals Cabinet Reshuffle Around Statehood Protest

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



SRINAGAR, July 2: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has indicated that the first expansion and reshuffle of his Council of Ministers will take place around the National Conference's planned statehood protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Speaking to reporters, Abdullah said the changes would come slightly before or shortly after the sit-in, which the party intends to hold on the opening day of Parliament's Monsoon Session, expected around July 20. He said the decision followed a recent party meeting at Dachigam, where leaders felt restructuring the ministry had become necessary to sharpen governance nearly two years after the government took office. The Chief Minister underlined Jammu and Kashmir's tight finances, noting the Union Territory's own revenue was not enough to meet salary bills and stressing the need to build

self-reliance. The National Conference has said its legislators will join the Jantar Mantar demonstration to press the Centre for restoration of full statehood and constitutional guarantees.



## REGIONAL

## LG Suspends Eight Officials Over Separatist School Books

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

SRINAGAR, July 4: The Jammu and Kashmir administration suspended eight School Education Department officials and ordered a high-level inquiry after two textbooks found in school libraries were held to contain content glorifying separatism. The books, "Personalities and Legends of J&K" and "Great Personalities of Jammu and Kashmir", had been procured under the Samagra Shiksha library scheme and were withdrawn from schools across several districts on July 3, officials said. A contractual employee was also disengaged. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, in an administrative order, cited "serious negligence, dereliction of duty and lack of proper due diligence" in the selection process. The authors and publishers of both titles were blacklisted across the Union Territory. Chairing a subsequent review, the LG directed departments to build a robust mechanism to ensure that no anti-national, separatist or objectionable material is procured or made available in universities, colleges, schools and libraries. He ordered a comprehensive audit of educational institutions. Heads of institutions were asked to certify within a fixed timeframe that no such material existed on their campuses. Opposition and ruling-side leaders traded charges over accountability, with some demanding wider action over the lapse.



## REGIONAL

## Omar Backs Renewed India-Pakistan Dialogue Effort

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

SRINAGAR, July 2: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has backed renewed dialogue between India and Pakistan, saying no one should object to appeals for better relations between the two neighbours. He was reacting to an open letter signed by more than 100 prominent citizens from both countries urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to explore the resumption of talks. Abdullah argued that voices from Kashmir favouring dialogue were often branded anti-national, whereas similar remarks by other national figures drew far less criticism. The Chief Minister said improved ties would benefit ordinary people on both sides of the border, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, which has long borne the cost of hostility. He maintained that pursuing engagement and enforcing firm security measures were not mutually exclusive goals for the Union Territory and the country.

## REGIONAL

## Cloudburst Devastates Thathri Town in Doda; 14 Houses, 21 Shops, 20+ Vehicles Damaged — NH-244 Blocked for 7 Hours

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUL, 2026



A ferocious cloudburst struck Thathri at 2:30 AM on July 7, sweeping mud, boulders, and debris through the town's residential and commercial heart — destroying 14 houses, 21 shops,...

A powerful cloudburst struck Thathri town in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district during the early hours of July 7, triggering flash floods that caused widespread destruction across residential areas, commercial establishments and government infrastructure. The cloudburst, which occurred around 2:30 a.m., sent torrents of water, mud, boulders and debris rushing through the town, forcing residents to flee their homes in the middle of the night.

According to local residents, heavy rainfall began shortly after midnight before floodwaters rapidly entered homes and shops. Several families escaped to safer locations as ground floors were inundated with muddy water and debris. Eyewitnesses described scenes of panic as the sudden flash flood swept through the town.

Authorities reported extensive damage to property. At least 14 residential and commercial buildings were either destroyed or suffered major structural damage, while 21 shops in the main market were buried under mud and debris. More than 20 vehicles were either swept away, overturned or trapped beneath rocks carried by the floodwaters.

The cloudburst also affected several public buildings, including the offices of the Block Development Officer (BDO), Agriculture Department, Animal Husbandry Department and PMGSY, along with a Community Hall. A private school also sustained significant structural damage.

The Doda-Kishtwar National Highway (NH-244) was blocked after landslides deposited large boulders and debris on the roadway, disrupting connectivity between the two

districts for over seven hours. Restoration teams later cleared the route and traffic movement was gradually resumed.

Data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) showed that Doda received 26.6 mm of rainfall on July 6, substantially higher than the normal rainfall of 4.1 mm for the period. Several neighbouring districts, including Kishtwar, Udhampur, Reasi, Jammu, Samba and Kathua, also recorded above-normal rainfall. Officials noted that the Thathri incident was the third cloudburst reported in the Doda-Kishtwar region within two days, following similar incidents in Bhalessa and near the 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Power Project.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha reviewed the situation by speaking with Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal and directed the administration to provide immediate relief to affected families while ensuring the prompt restoration of the highway. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh also stated that he was closely monitoring the situation and remained in constant contact with district authorities.

Meanwhile, local residents staged a protest alleging that debris from PMGSY road construction had been dumped into natural drainage channels, obstructing the flow of water and worsening the flooding. Protesters demanded an independent investigation into construction practices and drainage management in the area, particularly during the monsoon season.

Rescue and assessment operations are continuing as authorities evaluate the full extent of the damage and provide assistance to affected families.

## REGIONAL

## Bear Attack Leaves Loran Woman Critically Injured

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



POONCH, July 6: A woman suffered critical injuries on Monday when a bear attacked

her outside her home at Dargam in the Loran area of Mandi tehsil in Poonch district, officials said. The victim, Zarina Akhtar, wife of Abdul Kabir, had stepped out to fetch water when the animal suddenly set upon her, leaving her with severe facial injuries. She was first given first aid at the Loran hospital, then shifted to the sub-district hospital at Mandi and finally referred to District Hospital Poonch for advanced treatment. The Chief Medical Officer said her condition had since improved. The attack alarmed residents of the hilly belt, where sightings of bears and other wild animals near habitations rise during the summer months as they move down in search of food and water. Villagers appealed to the authorities to post Wildlife Department personnel in vulnerable pockets and urged the District Development Commissioner to mobilise the department to prevent further

encounters between people and wild animals.



## REGIONAL

## Army Holds LoC Mock Drill Across Poonch's Mendhar Belt

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

POONCH, July 5: The Army conducted a large-scale mock security drill across parts of Poonch district on Sunday, staging a simulated terror strike to test its readiness and to acquaint local residents with emergency procedures during a contingency. Officials said the exercise was carried out simultaneously by Rashtriya Rifles units and other formations at several points along the Line of Control, including the sensitive Mendhar sector, as well as in the hinterland. The drill rehearsed evacuation, casualty handling and coordination between security forces, the civil administration and the public. The exercise came amid a heightened state of vigil in the district. Troops have stepped up deployment and checking in the Surankote and Mendhar belts following intelligence inputs suggesting possible infiltration attempts in the region. Area domination patrols have been intensified and mobile vehicle check posts set up at strategic points along key roads, officials said. Residents were asked to cooperate with security checks and to promptly report any suspicious movement. The Poonch-Mendhar belt, which runs close to the LoC, has repeatedly seen security operations, and officials described such drills as routine measures to keep response systems sharp.



## REGIONAL

## Poonch Puts Health Institutions On High Alert As Monsoon Nears

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

POONCH, July 3: The health administration in Poonch placed all government health institutions in the district on high alert after the India Meteorological Department warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall, officials said. An order issued by the Chief Medical Officer directed District Hospital Poonch, the sub-district hospitals at Mendhar, Surankote and Mandi, and all primary health centres, new-type primary health centres and sub-centres to remain fully prepared to handle any emergency arising from adverse weather. Under the directive, all categories of leave except maternity leave were cancelled for medical officers, paramedics and other staff. Facilities were told to maintain buffer stocks of essential medicines, keep oxygen cylinders and ambulances on standby, and set up dedicated control rooms. The weather office had cautioned that the spell could trigger flash floods, landslides and road blockages in the hilly district, disrupting access to remote habitations along the Pir Panjal belt. The alert coincided with the monsoon's stormy entry into Jammu and Kashmir, which pushed up water levels in streams and rivers across Poonch and neighbouring Rajouri and prompted the administration to urge residents to stay away from swollen water bodies.

## REGIONAL

## Flash Floods Bury Vehicles At Kwar Hydrel Project

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



Flash floods from overnight cloudbursts buried trucks and construction machinery at Kishtwar's under-construction 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Project on July 6 and choked the Doda-Ki...

KISHTWAR, July 6: Flash floods triggered by overnight cloudbursts and heavy rain buried several vehicles at the under-construction 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Project and blocked the Doda-Kishtwar highway on Monday. Officials said large volumes of mud, boulders and debris rolled into the project premises in Kishtwar district, burying trucks, dumpers, dozers and other construction equipment and damaging building material. No casualties were reported at the site. The Batote-Doda-Kishtwar stretch of National Highway-244 was choked near Prem Nagar, where flood debris covered the carriageway and disrupted traffic between

the two districts for more than eight hours. Road-clearance teams restored the link by early afternoon. The wider Chenab Valley, comprising Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban, bore the brunt of the spell. The Meteorological Department recorded the highest rainfall in the Jammu region at Samba with 90 mm, followed by Kathua at 66.2 mm and Doda at 42 mm in the preceding 24 hours. Authorities advised commuters to avoid the highway and follow official traffic advisories until the surface was fully cleared, warning that saturated slopes remained prone to fresh landslides and shooting stones.

## REGIONAL

## Thathri Cloudburst Devastates Doda Town, Blocks NH-244

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



DODA, July 7: A cloudburst accompanied by torrential overnight rain struck Thathri town in Doda district early Tuesday, damaging homes and shops and severing a key highway link across the Chenab Valley. According to district officials, around 10 houses and 25 shops sustained damage, while several parked vehicles were overturned or buried under stones and mud swept down by the sudden deluge. No loss of life or injuries was reported. The National Highway-244, connecting Batote with Kishtwar, was blocked after floodwater and debris covered stretches of the road, halting vehicular movement. Authorities also suspended the ongoing Machail Mata Yatra as a precaution while restoration work got under way. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha reviewed the situation and spoke to the Deputy Commissioner of Doda to assess the extent of the damage on the ground. He directed the administration to ensure that relief reached affected families without delay and that normal life was restored at the earliest. The Lieutenant Governor further

instructed officials to accelerate clearance operations along NH-244 to reopen connectivity, as the Meteorological Department warned of further heavy rain, flash floods and landslides across vulnerable pockets of the region.

## REGIONAL

## DC Poonch Reviews Land Acquisition For NH-144A, RTS Road

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



POONCH, July 7: Deputy Commissioner Poonch chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of land acquisition for major road projects in the district, including National Highway 144A and the Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote (RTS) road, officials said. The meeting examined the status of acquisition, the disbursement of compensation to affected landowners, pending cases and departmental liabilities linked to the two projects, which are seen as vital to improving connectivity across the Pir Panjal belt. The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to expedite the acquisition process and to ensure timely payment of compensation to landowners so that construction work is not held up. He asked all departments involved to resolve outstanding issues and to adhere strictly to project timelines,

stressing that delays in acquisition should not stall execution of the infrastructure works. Officials from the revenue and works departments and other stakeholders attended the meeting, where the status of each project was discussed and follow-up actions were assigned to close pending matters at the earliest.



## REGIONAL

## Bandipora Reviews Yatra Facilities At Shadipora Transit Camp

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

BANDIPORA, July 6: The Bandipora district administration reviewed arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 at the Shadipora Transit Camp, inspecting facilities laid out for pilgrims passing through north Kashmir. Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib and Senior Superintendent of Police Ajaz Ahmad Zargar led the inspection, examining accommodation, sanitation, drinking water, healthcare, electricity, traffic management and security measures at the camp. The officers directed the departments concerned to maintain close coordination, respond promptly to any requirement and provide uninterrupted services to yatis for the entire duration of the pilgrimage. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sumbal Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh accompanied the team during the review. The Deputy Commissioner said all necessary steps would continue to be taken to ensure the safety, comfort and well-being of the pilgrims through seamless coordination among the various wings of the administration. Pilgrims resting at the transit camp appreciated the facilities extended to them. The Shadipora camp serves as an important halting and servicing point for convoys moving between the Jammu region and the Valley during the annual yatra.



## REGIONAL

## Waqf Board Takes Over Seer Hamadaan Shrine In Anantnag

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

ANANTNAG, July 3: The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has taken over the direct management of the Seer Hamadaan Ziyarat Assar-i-Shareef, its Jamia Masjid and all allied waqf properties in Anantnag with immediate effect. The decision was issued through Order No. 100 of 2026 on the directions of Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi. Officials said the step followed repeated representations from local residents seeking transparent administration of the shrine and its assets. An administrator has been appointed to assume charge of the complex and to prepare a complete inventory of all properties, records and accounts attached to the endowment. The Board said the measure was aimed at safeguarding waqf assets and strengthening institutional accountability. All financial transactions linked to the shrine have been frozen, and no withdrawals from its bank accounts will be permitted without prior authorisation from the Waqf Board. A comprehensive audit and verification of the financial records and assets has also been ordered. The takeover is part of a wider drive by the Board to bring major shrines and their revenues under centralised, monitored control across the Kashmir Valley.

## REGIONAL

## BJP National President Nitin Nabin Arrives in Jammu on Maiden J&K Visit; Reviews Party Organisation Ahead of Local Body Polls

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUL, 2026



BJP national president Nitin Nabin arrived in Jammu on July 6 for a two-day maiden visit to J&K since his appointment as party president, meeting senior functionaries, booth-level...

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Nitin Nabin arrived in Jammu on July 6 for a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, marking his first official tour of the Union Territory since assuming the party's top post. Party leaders described the visit as an important organisational exercise aimed at strengthening the BJP's grassroots network ahead of upcoming political developments.

During his visit, Nabin held a series of meetings with senior leaders of the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit, including office bearers, district presidents and booth-level workers. The discussions focused on reviewing the party's organisational structure, assessing grassroots feedback and enhancing outreach across the Union Territory.

According to party sources, special emphasis was placed on strengthening the organisation in the Jammu region, where the BJP enjoys significant political support. Leaders also reviewed the implementation of various Central Government welfare initiatives and discussed strategies for communicating these programmes more effectively to the public.

Among the issues highlighted during the meetings were employment and livelihood initiatives under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (VB-G-RAM) and the recently announced ₹384 crore fund allocation for Jammu and Kashmir under the scheme by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Party leaders reportedly viewed these initiatives as important components of the BJP's development-focused outreach in the region.

The visit comes at a politically significant time, with Jammu and Kashmir expected to feature prominently during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament. The BJP is also preparing for the anticipated urban local body elections later this year, making organisational readiness a key priority.

Political observers believe the tour reflects the party's efforts to consolidate its support base in the Union Territory while presenting governance, infrastructure development and welfare delivery as central themes of its political campaign.

The visit is expected to conclude with further interactions with party workers and local stakeholders as the BJP intensifies preparations for the months ahead.

## REGIONAL

## Record 8,815 Pilgrims Depart Jammu in Single Day; Amarnath Yatra Crosses 1 Lakh Mark in Just 5 Days

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUL, 2026



The annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 has witnessed an unprecedented influx of devotees, with the pilgrimage crossing the one-lakh mark within just five days of its commencement on July 2. Officials said the rapid rise in pilgrim numbers marks one of the fastest milestones achieved in the history of the annual pilgrimage.

By 1 p.m. on July 7, a total of 1,01,706 devotees had paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, situated at an altitude of 3,880 metres in the Himalayas. On the same day alone, 15,947 pilgrims visited the shrine through the Baltal and Pahalgam routes.

July 7 also witnessed the largest single-day departure of the pilgrimage season from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu. A total of 8,815 pilgrims began their journey in a convoy of 363 vehicles under extensive security arrangements. The group included 5,831 men, 2,193 women, 30 children, 598 sadhus, 131 sadhis, one child sadhu and 31 foreign nationals.

According to officials, 3,989 pilgrims departed for the Baltal route at 3:35 a.m., while 4,826 devotees proceeded towards the traditional Pahalgam route at 4:08 a.m.

The 57-day pilgrimage, scheduled to conclude on August 28, is being conducted through two routes: the traditional 48-kilometre Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

To ensure the smooth and secure conduct of the Yatra, authorities have implemented a four-tier security system

involving the Indian Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Jammu and Kashmir Police. The Army and ITBP are deployed in the higher reaches, CRPF personnel are securing the base camps, while Jammu and Kashmir Police are managing security and traffic at lower access points.

Comprehensive arrangements, including medical camps, emergency response teams, langars and real-time weather advisory systems, have also been established along both routes to facilitate the safe movement of pilgrims.

Earlier, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had appealed to devotees to undertake the pilgrimage only after obtaining valid registration, expressing concern over the increasing number of unregistered pilgrims reaching the base camps.

With favourable weather conditions and elaborate logistical arrangements in place, officials expect the number of pilgrims undertaking the sacred journey to continue rising in the coming weeks.



## REGIONAL

## Class 7 Boy Found Locked Inside Ramban School at 8 PM on Last Day Before Vacation; Entire 9-Member Staff Suspended

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUL, 2026

A serious case of alleged negligence has surfaced from Ramban district after a Class VII student was found locked inside Government Middle School, Krawah, in Zone Banihal, following the closure of the school for summer vacation.

According to officials, the incident occurred on July 4, the last working day before the 15-day summer break. The student had reportedly fallen asleep inside a classroom during school hours and was inadvertently left behind when the school premises were locked at the end of the day.

The child remained trapped inside the building for more than four hours before being rescued. At around 8 p.m., a passerby reportedly heard cries for help coming from the school, entered the premises and discovered the frightened student locked inside a classroom. The individual rescued the child and recorded a video of the incident, which later circulated widely on social media, triggering public concern and criticism over the apparent failure of school authorities to ensure all students had safely left before closing the premises.

Following the circulation of the video, the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Ramban, took immediate disciplinary action. All nine staff members posted at the school—including the headmaster, six teaching staff and three non-teaching employees—were placed under suspension under Rule 31 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Rules, 1956.



## REGIONAL

## J&K MLAs Can Now Allocate Rs 20 Lakh Annually from CDF for BPL Patients with Life-Threatening Diseases

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUL, 2026

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has amended the guidelines of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Scheme to enable legislators to extend financial assistance for the treatment of economically disadvantaged patients suffering from life-threatening diseases.

The revised provisions were notified through Government Order No. 230-FD of 2026, issued on July 6. Under the amended guidelines, each of the Union Territory's 90 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) can earmark up to ₹20 lakh annually from their Constituency Development Fund exclusively for providing medical assistance to patients belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and other government-notified economically weaker sections.

The new guidelines prescribe financial ceilings for specific treatments. Assistance of up to ₹5 lakh can be provided for organ transplantation, up to ₹2.75 lakh for cancer treatment, and up to ₹1 lakh for patients undergoing dialysis for chronic kidney disease. Financial support may also be extended for other life-threatening illnesses notified by the government from time to time.

Officials clarified that the CDF assistance is intended to supplement, rather than replace, existing healthcare schemes. Eligible patients must first avail themselves of benefits under programmes such as PM-JAY SEHAT, the Medical Aid Trust (MAT), and the Cancer Treatment and Management Fund for Poor (CTMFFP). The Constituency Development Fund will only be used

## NATIONAL

## Modi Opens CG Semi Chip Packaging Plant In Sanand

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated CG Semi's Rs 7,600 crore outsourced semiconductor assembly and test facility at Sanand in Gujarat, one of India's first major chip packaging plants.

SANAND, July 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the CG Semi outsourced semiconductor assembly and test facility at Sanand in Gujarat, marking the start of commercial production at one of the country's first major chip packaging plants. Built at an investment of about Rs 7,600 crore, the plant is a joint venture involving CG Power and Industrial Solutions, Japan's Renesas Electronics and Thailand's Stars Microelectronics, developed under the India Semiconductor Mission. Its pilot line is already operational with a daily capacity of around half a million units, with the

facility targeting a peak of about 4.7 billion units a year over the next five years. The unit will package chips for the automotive, industrial, consumer electronics, telecom, 5G, IoT and power sectors, reducing India's dependence on imported components for critical devices. Modi said the plant joined other recent ventures in the Sanand cluster, including facilities by Micron and Kaynes Semicon, and reflected the government's ambition to build a full domestic chip ecosystem across design, fabrication and packaging.



## NATIONAL

## Digital India Marks Eleven Years, Modi Hails Impact

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

NEW DELHI, July 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday marked eleven years of the Digital India initiative, saying that when more than a billion people embrace technology, the impact is truly transformative. Launched in 2015, the programme was built around nine pillars spanning broadband expansion, mobile connectivity, e-governance and digital job creation, and has grown into one of the world's largest digital public infrastructure ecosystems. Modi said the initiative had made governance more transparent, efficient and citizen-centric, pointing to seamless digital payments and direct benefit transfers that had curbed leakages and improved ease of living. The government said India now leads global real-time digital payments, with the Unified Payments Interface accounting for nearly 49 per cent of worldwide transaction volume, while the digital economy contributes an estimated 12 to 14 per cent of GDP. The Prime Minister linked the effort to the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, arguing that digital tools, a thriving startup base and youth participation together would reshape the country's future and deepen technological self-reliance.

## NATIONAL

## Fresh Amarnath Batches Head To Kashmir Under Tight Security

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



JAMMU, July 4: A batch of 4,812 Amarnath pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Saturday for the Kashmir Valley, days after the annual 57-day pilgrimage to the Himalayan cave shrine began. The pilgrims travelled in 259 vehicles under escorted convoys, with 2,041 opting for the Baltal route in Ganderbal and 2,771 for the traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag, officials said. The group included 3,434 men, 966 women and 11 children, along with 244 sadhus and 157 sadhvis, who set off in the early hours in convoys that departed shortly after 3 am. Authorities said a multi-layer security cover had been provided by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Central Reserve Police Force and other agencies, with medical teams and ambulances stationed along the national highway. The pilgrimage, which began on July 3 and is scheduled to conclude on August 28, is being held amid heightened vigilance following last year's attack in Pahalgam, with special train services also introduced to ferry devotees.

## NATIONAL

## New Rules From July 1 Reshape Passport, Rail And Aadhaar Norms

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



NEW DELHI, July 1: A range of financial and administrative rules came into force across India from Tuesday, touching passports, railways, Aadhaar, provident fund and cooking gas prices. The Ministry of External Affairs raised passport charges, with the fee for a standard 36-page booklet increasing from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500 and tatkal charges rising sharply, even as the online application process was streamlined. Indian Railways tightened penalties for ticketless travel, lifting the minimum fine to Rs 500 from Rs 250, while men entering coaches reserved for women on a general ticket could face penalties of up to Rs 2,500. The Unique Identification Authority of India waived its usual Rs 75 charge for updating the email linked to an Aadhaar, making the service free through December, while the EPFO began rolling out revised schemes allowing withdrawals via UPI. Oil marketing companies cut the price of the 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder by up to Rs 183.50, leaving the domestic cooking gas cylinder unchanged,

as the new financial quarter reset several household-facing tariffs.



## NATIONAL

## GST Completes Nine Years As Collections Cross Rs 22 Lakh Crore

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

NEW DELHI, July 1: The Goods and Services Tax completed nine years on Tuesday, with the government hailing it as a reform that reshaped India's economic landscape by unifying a fragmented indirect tax regime. Gross collections have climbed from around Rs 7.4 lakh crore in 2017-18 to roughly Rs 22.27 lakh crore in 2025-26, while the number of registered taxpayers has grown from about 6.65 million to nearly 16.5 million. The government said the next-generation GST 2.0 framework, rolled out in late 2025, had simplified the structure into two principal slabs of 5 and 18 per cent, with a 40 per cent levy reserved for luxury and sin goods. The revamp rationalised rates on more than 200 items across essentials, agriculture, healthcare, renewable energy, automobiles and textiles, and promised faster refunds and easier compliance for small businesses. Officials said the reforms were expected to lift GDP growth, with the World Bank revising its FY26 forecast upward to 6.5 per cent, citing resilient domestic demand and the boost from the simplified tax regime.

## NATIONAL

# Cabinet Reviews Northeast Floods, Monsoon Rain Deficit

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



The Union Cabinet reviewed the severe flood situation in northeastern states and a below-normal rainfall outlook for July, as fresh downpours claimed lives in Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh...

NEW DELHI, July 1: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday reviewed the severe flood situation in the northeastern states, where several districts have been devastated by incessant rain. The meeting also assessed the broader monsoon picture, with the India Meteorological Department indicating that rainfall was likely to remain below normal across most of the country during July, alongside above-normal temperatures in parts. The Cabinet was told that the monsoon was expected to advance further towards Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and parts of

Rajasthan in the coming days, even as the northeast reeled from flooding and landslides. The first flood wave of the season had already affected more than 22,000 people across six districts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, submerging nearly 100 villages and over 1,600 hectares of farmland. Officials said fresh rain-related deaths had been reported in Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, prompting the government to review preparedness, relief coordination and central assistance for the worst-hit states.



## NATIONAL

## Operation Sindoor Lifted Trust In Homegrown Arms: Rajnath

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

NEW DELHI, July 4: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday that Operation Sindoor had significantly enhanced trust in made-in-India defence platforms, marking what he called India's journey from self-reliance to self-confidence. Speaking at an event in the capital, Singh said several indigenously developed systems had played an important role during the four-day military confrontation with Pakistan launched after the Pahalgam terror attack. He said annual defence production had climbed to more than Rs 1.78 lakh crore, against roughly Rs 46,000 crore eight to nine years earlier, while exports had touched a record above Rs 38,000 crore, a near 57-fold rise from 2013-14. The minister argued that battlefield performance, rather than promotional claims, had convinced buyers at home and abroad of the reliability of Indian-built equipment, aiding the country's push to become a defence manufacturing hub. Singh also cautioned against the corrosive effect of misinformation, saying fake news damaged social cohesion and the morale of the armed forces, and urged the media to guard its credibility in a fast-changing information landscape.

## NATIONAL

## Supreme Court Flags Fake AI-Generated Case Citations

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



NEW DELHI, July 2: The Supreme Court has set aside orders of the National Company Law Tribunal and its appellate body after finding they had relied on non-existent, fake and hallucinated material generated through artificial intelligence, treating it as valid precedent. A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe, ruling in a dispute involving a private borrower and a bank, said such lapses struck at the credibility of judicial reasoning and could not be countenanced. The court mandated what it called a zero-tolerance mode for producing, citing or using AI-generated precedents without independent verification, directing tribunals to check the authenticity of every authority relied upon. Legal observers described the ruling as one of the first from India's apex court to squarely confront the risk of generative AI fabricating case law, an issue courts worldwide have begun grappling with. The judgment underscored that convenience offered by new technology cannot dilute the duty of adjudicators to ensure that

citations are real, accurately quoted and correctly applied before they shape binding decisions.

## NATIONAL

## Deadly Downpour Batters Mumbai And Pune Region

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



MUMBAI, July 7: At least four people were killed in Pune district on Tuesday as relentless monsoon rain pounded Maharashtra, with the India Meteorological Department issuing an orange alert for Mumbai and several coastal districts. Three members of a family died in a landslide at Patan village while two others were swept away in separate rain-related incidents, officials said. More than 500 people were moved to safer locations as water entered low-lying settlements. The Karjat-Lonavala ghat section on the Mumbai-Pune corridor recorded around 600 mm of rain in 24 hours, triggering multiple landslides and disrupting train services. Waterlogging, fallen trees and damaged roads were reported across the metropolis. Authorities ordered schools and colleges shut in Mumbai and Pune, suspended darshan at

the Trimbakeshwar temple near Nashik and closed forts, waterfalls and dams to tourists in Thane district as a precaution. The IMD warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall with gusty winds of 60 to 70 kmph and flagged a high tide of nearly four metres, urging residents to step out only when necessary and to heed civic helplines.



## NATIONAL

## Modi Dedicates Rs 1.06 Lakh Crore Projects In Balotra

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

BALOTRA, July 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday dedicated and laid the foundation for development projects worth around Rs 1.06 lakh crore in Balotra district of Rajasthan, anchored by the country's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex at Pachpadra. Built by HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd at an investment exceeding Rs 79,450 crore, the nine-million-tonne complex carries a high Nelson Complexity Index and petrochemical yields above 26 per cent, positioning India as the world's fourth-largest refining hub. Modi said India had expanded its crude imports from around 25 nations to more than 40 during the recent West Asia crisis, insulating consumers even as state-run oil firms absorbed heavy losses on elevated international prices. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the new terminal at Jodhpur airport, relaunched a modified UDAN regional connectivity scheme and virtually laid the foundation stone for the Rs 13,037 crore second phase of the Jaipur Metro. He described the projects as a template for industrial growth in western India, arguing that refining, petrochemicals and connectivity together would generate employment and strengthen the foundation of a developed Bharat by 2047.

## BUSINESS

## India's Forex Reserves Near \$700 Billion, Gold Holdings Rise

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$699.7 billion for the week ended July 4, with gold holdings rising \$342 million to \$84.8 billion, according to Reserve Bank of India data...

MUMBAI, July 4: India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$699.736 billion for the week ended July 4, 2026, hovering just below the psychologically significant \$700-billion mark, according to data published by the Reserve Bank of India. The country's gold reserves rose by \$342 million during the week to \$84.846 billion, extending a run of steady accumulation by the central bank as it diversifies holdings amid persistent global uncertainty. Foreign currency assets, the largest component of the reserves, are expressed in dollar terms and incorporate the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-

dollar currencies such as the euro, pound and yen held in the kitty. A comfortable reserves cushion gives the RBI room to smooth volatility in the rupee, which has faced pressure from elevated energy prices and portfolio outflows earlier in the year. The buffer covers several months of imports. Analysts said the central bank was likely to continue building reserves opportunistically while managing orderly movements in the currency, with global rate expectations and crude prices remaining the key variables to watch.

## BUSINESS

## India M&A Value Jumps 31% to \$86.9 Billion in H1

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

MUMBAI, July 4: The value of mergers and acquisitions involving Indian companies jumped 31 percent year-on-year to \$86.9 billion in the first half of 2026, according to data released by the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), even as the number of deals fell 8 percent. The divergence pointed to a market defined by fewer but substantially larger transactions. Activity was concentrated in the April-June quarter, which totalled \$66.9 billion, more than triple the preceding three months and the highest quarterly figure since the second quarter of 2022. Deals targeting Indian firms rose 12.2 percent to \$68.0 billion, while domestic transactions increased 8.7 percent to \$54.2 billion. Inbound M&A climbed 28.8 percent to \$13.8 billion, the strongest first-half showing since 2024, LSEG said. Healthcare, industrials and financials drove much of the momentum, while high-technology remained active by volume but eased in value. Large restructurings, cross-border acquisitions and domestic consolidation underpinned the surge. Bankers said outbound activity, with Indian firms chasing global assets, was an increasingly prominent theme, though tighter financing conditions and stretched valuations could temper the pace over the remainder of the year.

## BUSINESS

## Sensex, Nifty Extend Winning Run as Fed Hopes Rise

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



MUMBAI, July 3: Indian equity benchmarks ended higher for a third consecutive session on Friday, with the Sensex adding 261.79 points, or 0.34 percent, to close at 77,763.91 and the Nifty 50 gaining 95.15 points, or 0.39 percent, to settle at 24,270.85. Information technology, pharmaceutical and real estate stocks led the advance. The IT index rose about 1.8 percent as investors accumulated technology shares ahead of the June-quarter earnings season, while realty emerged as the day's strongest sector. Softer-than-expected US labour market data strengthened expectations that the Federal Reserve could begin easing monetary policy sooner than anticipated, lifting risk appetite across global markets. Lower crude oil prices and easing Middle East tensions added to the upbeat mood. Among individual movers, HCL Technologies climbed after announcing a \$1.14-billion artificial-intelligence-led digital transformation contract, while Zydus Lifesciences touched

a one-year high following a fresh partnership. Metal shares including Tata Steel and Hindalco also advanced. Analysts said the market's near-term direction would hinge on the tone of early corporate results and global cues from Wall Street and Asian bourses as the earnings season gets under way.

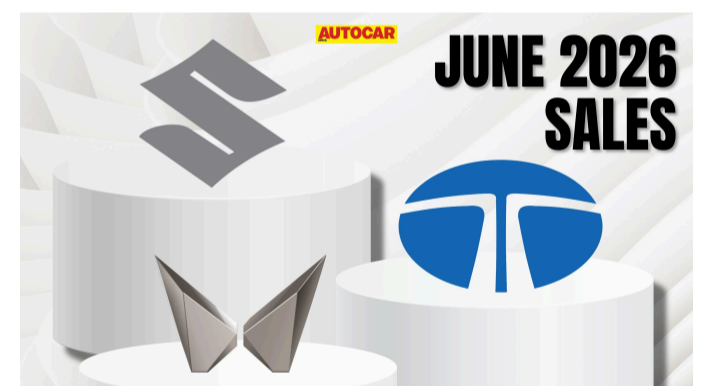


## BUSINESS

## GST Collections Rise 13.9% to ₹1.94 Lakh Crore in June

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

NEW DELHI, July 1: India's gross goods and services tax collection rose 13.9 percent year-on-year to ₹1,94,812 crore in June 2026, the finance ministry said on Tuesday, marking the fastest monthly growth in 13 months. The figure compares with ₹1,71,105 crore gathered in the same month a year earlier. After refunds of ₹32,436 crore, net GST revenue stood at ₹1,62,377 crore, up 11.2 percent from a year ago. Central GST contributed ₹37,376 crore, state GST ₹45,116 crore and domestic integrated GST ₹52,282 crore. Economists said the headline jump was overwhelmingly import-driven. Revenue from imported goods surged 34.6 percent to ₹60,038 crore, while domestic collections grew a more modest 6.5 percent to ₹1,34,774 crore, pointing to still-uneven consumption at home. For the April-June quarter, the first of the 2026-27 fiscal year, gross collections reached ₹6,31,699 crore, an increase of 8.4 percent over the ₹5,82,542 crore recorded a year earlier. The buoyant print gives the government fiscal headroom as it balances capital spending commitments against revenue targets, though analysts cautioned that sluggish domestic demand growth bears watching in the months ahead.



## BUSINESS

## India Car Sales Climb in June; Maruti Leads, Tata Second

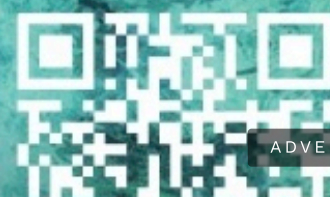
BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

NEW DELHI, July 1: India's passenger vehicle market sustained its momentum in June 2026, with most manufacturers reporting year-on-year growth, according to monthly wholesale figures released on Tuesday. Maruti Suzuki remained the largest carmaker, dispatching 1,47,187 units, up 23.8 percent from a year earlier. Tata Motors narrowly retained second place with 62,076 units, a 67.4 percent jump from 37,083 a year ago, edging out Mahindra, which sold 60,393 units, up 27.7 percent. The tight contest underscored intensifying competition in the utility-vehicle segment. Hyundai was the only carmaker among the top ten to post a year-on-year decline, after a fire at a supplier disrupted production during the month. Toyota and Kia continued to expand their volumes. Industry executives attributed the broad gains to a widening model line-up, steady demand for sport-utility vehicles and easing supply constraints, though several makers reported a month-on-month softening. Analysts said festive-season stocking and new launches in the second half would be key to sustaining the growth trajectory as the industry navigates rising input costs and uneven rural demand.

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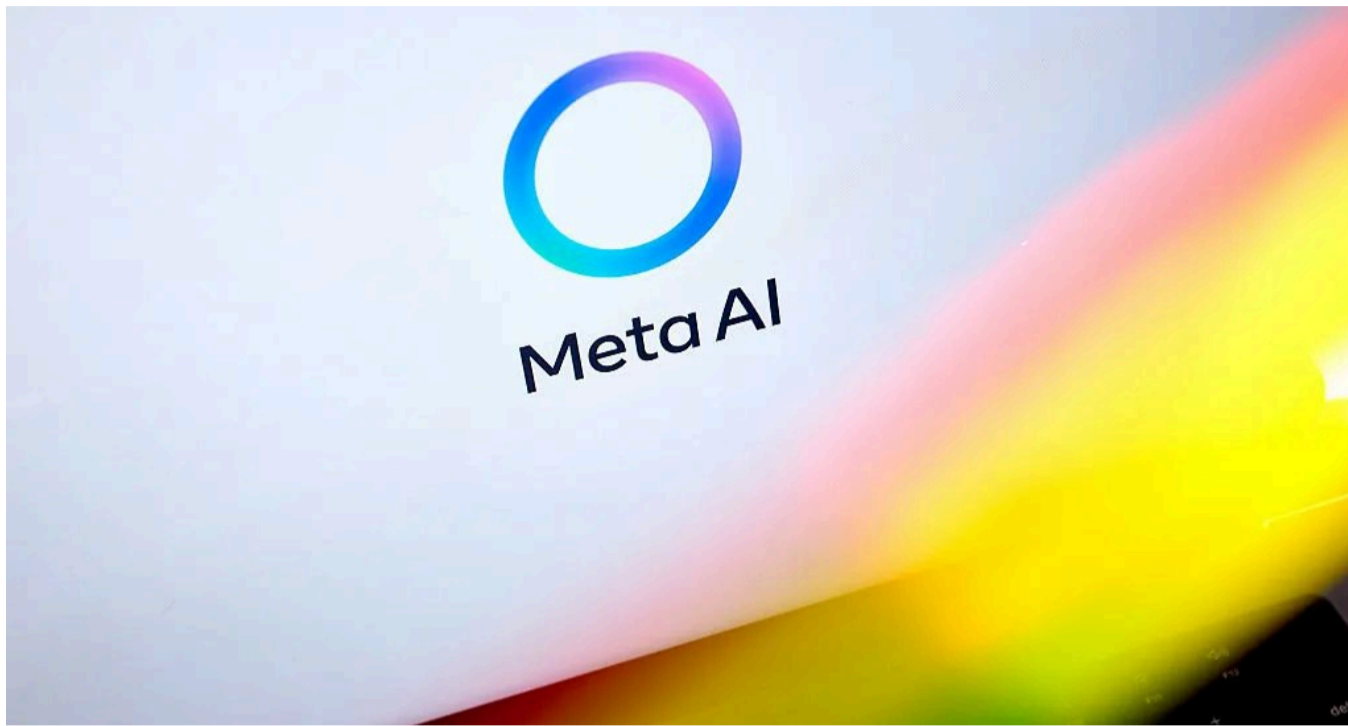


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## TECHNOLOGY

# Meta Plans Cloud Business To Sell Spare AI Compute

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



Meta is building a cloud unit called Meta Compute to rent out surplus AI computing power and hosted models, opening a new front against Amazon, Microsoft and Google in the race to...

MENLO PARK, July 1: Meta Platforms is preparing a cloud infrastructure business, provisionally named Meta Compute, that would sell access to its artificial-intelligence computing power and models to outside customers, according to a report published on Wednesday. The move would put the social-media company in direct competition with established cloud providers Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud, as well as specialist rivals such as CoreWeave. Meta plans to offer both raw graphics-processor capacity and access to hosted models, including its recently released closed-weight system Muse Spark. The initiative is being led by infrastructure chief Santosh Janardhan, Meta

Superintelligence Labs figure Daniel Gross and company president Dina Powell McCormick. Chief executive Mark Zuckerberg had signalled in May that a cloud business was firmly under consideration as a way to earn returns on the firm's enormous outlays on chips and data centres. Investors welcomed the disclosure, sending Meta shares sharply higher in Wednesday trading. Analysts said the plan mirrors a strategy pursued by other compute-rich firms seeking to convert idle capacity into revenue. Meta has not disclosed pricing, a launch timeline or early customers, and the effort remains in early stages.

## TECHNOLOGY

## ESA Launches CyberCUBE To Test Security In Orbit

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



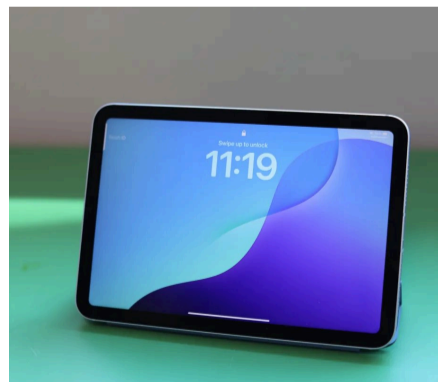
VANDENBERG, July 7: The European Space Agency's CyberCUBE satellite reached low Earth orbit on Tuesday, opening what officials describe as a dedicated on-orbit laboratory for testing the cybersecurity of space systems. The small spacecraft lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California as part of SpaceX's Transporter-17 rideshare mission aboard a Falcon 9 rocket, one of dozens of payloads on the flight. CyberCUBE supports the Cyber Evolutions programme run by ESA's Cybersecurity Operations Centre. Its purpose is to give engineers a low-cost, reconfigurable environment in orbit to validate monitoring systems, probe onboard hardware vulnerabilities and gather threat data under real-world conditions. The satellite carries a software-defined radio and a fully reprogrammable field-programmable gate array core, allowing operators to alter its software profile in flight and run a varied suite of security experiments over the mission's

life. The project is the first ESA mission led end-to-end by technology firm GMV in Romania, marking the first time a Romania-based company has taken responsibility for a full ESA mission lifecycle. Officials said the growing reliance on satellites for communications, navigation and observation makes securing them against cyber threats an increasingly urgent priority.

## TECHNOLOGY

## Apple Plans New iPad Pro And MacBook Pro For 2027

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



CUPERTINO, July 1: Apple is reportedly preparing a fresh wave of professional devices, including new iPad Pro tablets and an entry-level MacBook Pro, for release in the first half of 2027, according to a Bloomberg report published on Wednesday. The company is said to be working on four new iPad Pro models fitted with faster chips. Its previous iPad Pro refresh came in October 2025, making an update overdue in the tablet line. On the laptop side, Apple is developing an entry-

level MacBook Pro, internally referred to as K104, that is described as a full-fledged professional machine rather than a stripped-down budget alternative. The devices are expected to debut Apple's first M7 processor in early 2027. The reported plans follow recent price increases across Apple's laptop range, with the one-terabyte MacBook Pro rising from \$1,699 to \$1,999, lending fresh relevance to a more affordable professional option. Apple typically does not comment on unreleased products, and the timing and specifications could shift before any launch. Still, the report offers an early look at how the company intends to refresh two of its most important hardware franchises.



## TECHNOLOGY

## Indian Entrepreneur Bets \$30 Million On AI Office Rival

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

BENGALURU, July 1: Indian serial entrepreneur Bhavin Turakhia has committed \$30 million of his own money to build Neo, an artificial-intelligence-first workplace platform intended to rival established productivity suites from Microsoft and Google, according to a report on Wednesday. Neo brings together project management, documents, file storage and AI in a single platform, and is aimed at mid-sized businesses in technology, consulting and professional services. The Bengaluru-based startup rolled the product out internally in April before its wider push. Turakhia, 46, argued that incumbent office software cannot simply bolt on AI features and must instead be rebuilt around the technology. "If you want to build an iPhone, you can't take the parts of a Nokia and somehow convert it into an iPhone," he said. The company employs about 45 people, including 18 engineers, and expects to roughly double its headcount by the end of the year. Turakhia said the platform was assembled in about three months with heavy use of AI tools. He contended that capturing even a two-to-five percent slice of the productivity-software market would surpass the value of his previous ventures, several of which he sold for hundreds of millions of dollars.



## TECHNOLOGY

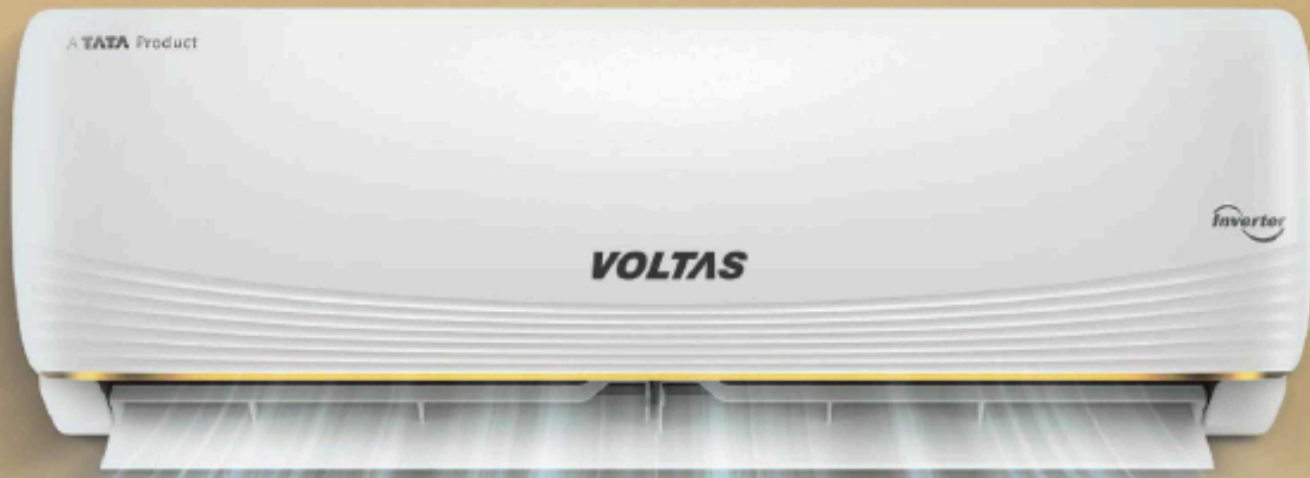
## Microsoft Launches Frontier Company For Enterprise AI

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

REDMOND, July 2: Microsoft on Thursday launched a dedicated business, Microsoft Frontier Company, aimed at helping large organisations put its artificial-intelligence tools to work, backing the venture with a \$2.5 billion investment. The unit will be staffed by about 6,000 industry and engineering specialists who will work directly with enterprise customers to design, build and optimise AI systems rather than leaving deployment to the clients alone. Judson Althoff, chief executive of Microsoft's commercial business, said the effort went beyond what the industry has termed forward-deployed engineering, describing it as the largest and most capable outcome-driven engineering organisation of its kind. Microsoft named London Stock Exchange Group, Unilever, Land O'Lakes and Accenture among early partners for the initiative. The company said the model is intended to close the gap between the promise of AI software and the practical difficulty many firms face in adopting it at scale. The launch reflects a broader shift among technology giants toward hands-on services that pair their models with human expertise, as competition intensifies to lock in corporate customers and demonstrate measurable returns from AI spending.

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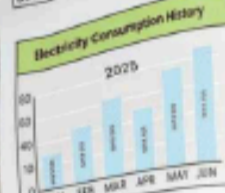


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Energy Charges:	₹ 8,020
Fixed Charges:	₹ 3180
FAC:	₹ 720
Electricity Duty:	₹ 720
Meter Rent:	₹ 260
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Payments:	₹ 0
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## HEALTH

## Early-Life Air Pollution Linked To Childhood Obesity Risk

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

NEW YORK, July 7: Babies who breathe more polluted air in their first year of life may face a higher risk of obesity later in childhood because the exposure appears to weaken their ability to control impulses, researchers reported in a study described as the first of its kind. Scientists at Mount Sinai in New York analysed data from 434 children born largely in 2007 and 2008 in Mexico City who are part of a long-running health study. They modelled levels of fine particulate matter, or PM2.5, during pregnancy and infancy, a window the authors called highly sensitive for brain development. Children exposed to higher pollution early on

were more likely to show difficulties with impulse control between the ages of four and eight. Those behavioural changes were, in turn, linked to greater body fat and higher body-mass index. PM2.5 is a recognised neurotoxin, but the team said it was the first to identify impaired impulse control as a possible pathway connecting dirty air to weight gain in children. The findings, published in the journal *Communications Medicine*, add to concern in polluted cities across India and beyond, where children face some of the world's highest exposures to fine particulate matter.

## HEALTH

## FDA Clears First Gene Therapy For Young Sickle-Cell Patients

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



SILVER SPRING, July 1: The US Food and Drug Administration approved the gene-editing therapy Casgevy for children as young as two years old with sickle cell disease, making the CRISPR-based treatment the first of its kind cleared for such young patients. The therapy, developed by Vertex Pharmaceuticals, was already approved for patients aged 12 and older. The expanded clearance covers children with sickle cell disease who suffer recurrent vaso-occlusive crises, as well as those with transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia, two inherited blood disorders that cause severe pain and organ damage. Casgevy is made from a patient's own blood stem cells, which are edited outside the body to switch on production of fetal haemoglobin before being infused back as a one-time treatment. Regulators said the expansion could reach roughly 5,500 additional American children. The approval marks another milestone for gene-editing medicine, though the therapy's high cost and the intensive hospital procedure it requires are expected to limit access, particularly in lower-income countries where sickle cell disease is most common. Sickle cell disease affects millions worldwide, with a heavy burden across sub-Saharan Africa and parts of India. Advocates said the approval offered hope but underscored the need for affordable options for the vast majority of patients.

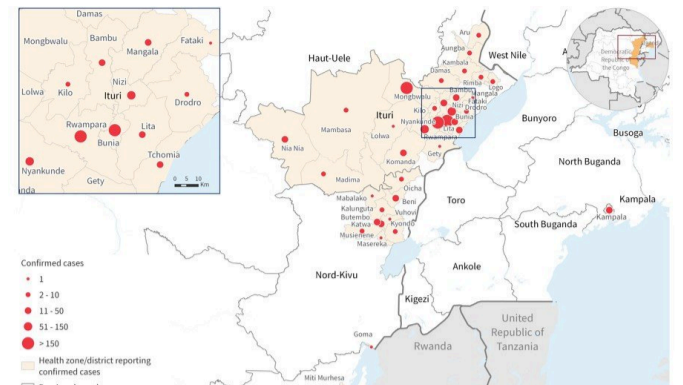
## HEALTH

## FDA Approves Orca Bio Cell Therapy For Blood Cancers

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



WASHINGTON, July 1: US regulators approved Tregzi, a precision-engineered cell therapy from Orca Bio, for adults with blood cancers undergoing stem-cell transplants, a treatment designed to reduce one of the procedure's most dangerous complications. The therapy, known in trials as Orca-T, is built from a donor's purified regulatory and conventional T cells. It aims to lower the risk of graft-versus-host disease, in which transplanted immune cells attack the recipient's body, a frequent and sometimes fatal consequence of matched-donor transplants. The FDA cleared the treatment for adults with acute myeloid leukaemia, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndromes. Approval was based on the Precision-T trial, which enrolled 187 patients across US centres. Patients receive stem cells alongside a high proportion of regulatory T cells to suppress the harmful reaction, followed days later by conventional T cells to rebuild immunity and preserve the transplant's cancer-fighting effect. Orca said the approach was intended to break the trade-off between a transplant's curative potential and its long-term risks. It is the first cell therapy approved for allogeneic transplantation in blood cancers, and analysts said it could reshape a field where graft-versus-host disease has long limited outcomes. The company said it would begin rolling out the therapy at transplant centres.



## HEALTH

## Congo Ebola Toll Climbs Past 450 As WHO Tracks Spread

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

GENEVA, July 3: The World Health Organization said the Ebola outbreak sweeping the Democratic Republic of the Congo had reached 1,460 confirmed cases and 452 deaths as of July 1, a case-fatality ratio of nearly 31 percent, in its latest update on an epidemic already declared a public health emergency of international concern. The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the virus, is centred in the eastern provinces of Ituri and North Kivu. WHO said 213 patients had recovered and that more than 10,800 contacts had been identified for follow-up, though insecurity in the region continued to hamper the response. Health workers remain heavily affected, with 102 infections recorded among medical staff, exposing persistent weaknesses in infection prevention on the front lines. Neighbouring Uganda reported 20 confirmed cases and two deaths in an imported cluster, but had logged no new infections since June 21. A single laboratory-confirmed case was also identified in France, in a physician returning from the DRC. WHO said Africa CDC and partners had launched a continental response plan, with expert groups assessing candidate vaccines and treatments matched to the circulating strain. The agency continued to classify the risk as very high nationally and regionally, but low globally.

## HEALTH

## Measles Cases In Americas Soar 181 Percent, PAHO Warns

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

WASHINGTON, July 2: Measles cases across the Americas surged 181 percent in the first half of 2026, the Pan American Health Organization reported, with 22,974 confirmed infections and 39 deaths recorded in 17 countries and territories through late June. Four nations accounted for 96 percent of the total. Mexico led with 11,820 cases, followed by Guatemala with 7,067, the United States with 2,134 and Canada with 1,079, the agency said in its sixth situation report on the regional outbreak. There were signs of a slowdown. Cases in the two most recent weeks fell more than 51 percent compared with the prior fortnight, driven by declines in Mexico, Peru and the United States. PAHO cautioned, however, that transmission remained volatile. The agency flagged Venezuela as a growing concern, citing low vaccination coverage, surveillance gaps and population movement following recent earthquakes, all of which raise the risk of renewed spread. Measles is among the most contagious human diseases but is preventable with two doses of vaccine. PAHO urged countries to close immunisation gaps and strengthen surveillance, warning that pockets of under-vaccinated communities continue to fuel outbreaks that had once been eliminated across much of the hemisphere.

## INTERNATIONAL

# Iran Begins Days-Long State Funeral For Khamenei

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



Iran opened a seven-day state funeral for slain supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as mourners filed past his coffin in Tehran, with authorities predicting one of the largest gatherings...

TEHRAN, July 3: Iran began a days-long state funeral for Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday as his body lay in state in Tehran's Grand Mosalla, the sprawling prayer hall built to honour his predecessor. Crowds of scholars, officials and ordinary Iranians filed past the coffin to pay their respects. Khamenei, who was 86 and had led the country for 37 years, was killed in an airstrike on February 28, the opening day of the joint US-Israel war on Iran. Several family members died in the same strike. His son, Mojtaba Khamenei, was named to succeed him weeks later. Officials said the ceremonies would run through July 9 across sites in Iran and

Iraq. Tehran's mayor suggested attendance could reach as high as 20 million, framing the event as a show of resilience after months of conflict. Delegations from more than 100 countries were expected, including officials from Pakistan, Iraq and Tajikistan. Authorities said invitations were withheld from European governments that had backed the military campaign against Iran. Security forces patrolled the streets and prepared to manage vast crowds amid a regional heatwave, as processions moved through the capital in scenes recalling the 1989 funeral of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

## INTERNATIONAL

## Coordinated Militant Assaults Sweep Across Mali

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



BAMAKO, July 4: Insurgents staged coordinated attacks across Mali on Saturday, striking army positions and towns stretching from the northern desert to the country's south. The assaults hit Gao, Anefis and Aguelhok in the north, Sevre and Konna in the centre, and Kenieroba near the capital. The al-Qaeda affiliate Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, known as JNIM, claimed responsibility, as did the Tuareg-led Azawad Liberation Front, or FLA. The two groups have increasingly coordinated against Mali's military government despite their differing aims. The army said the situation was "totally under control" and reported killing about 20 fighters in Sevre and six more in Gao, with the loss of one pro-government fighter. Russian-linked Africa Corps paramilitaries assisted in repelling attacks on central towns, officials said. The offensive followed the rebels' capture of the strategic northern town of Kidal in late April, an assault in which Mali's defence minister was killed. Analysts

said the coordinated strikes underscored how thinly stretched government forces have become, holding only fortified enclaves and supply corridors while militants roam much of the countryside. The fighting has deepened a security crisis gripping the wider Sahel region.

## INTERNATIONAL

## Venezuela Quake Toll Passes 2,600 As Rescue Winds Down

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



CARACAS, July 3: The death toll from the twin earthquakes that devastated northwestern Venezuela rose to at least 2,645, the government said, as rescue teams reached the outer limit of hope for finding survivors more than a week after the disaster. The back-to-back tremors, measured at magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5, struck within seconds of each other on June 24, flattening buildings and triggering hundreds of aftershocks. More than 12,000 people were injured and roughly 15,000 left without homes. Officials said operations were beginning to shift from search-and-rescue toward structural assessments and reconstruction planning.

Tens of thousands of soldiers, police and volunteers remained deployed, supported by international rescue teams, and dozens of temporary displacement camps had been set up. Forensic experts cautioned that the official count could still rise sharply, with thousands of people unaccounted for and morgues overwhelmed in the worst-hit areas. Relatives continued to gather at collapse sites seeking news of missing loved ones. The government declared national mourning for the victims. United Nations assessors estimated the disaster caused tens of billions of dollars in physical losses, pointing to a lengthy and costly rebuilding effort for one of the region's poorest economies.



## INTERNATIONAL

## Russian Barrage On Kyiv Kills At Least 26

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

KYIV, July 6: At least 26 people were killed across Ukraine, including 19 in the capital, after Russia launched one of its heaviest aerial assaults of the war overnight, Ukrainian officials said. Rescuers dug through the rubble of shattered residential blocks in Kyiv, where dozens more were wounded. The military said Russia fired 23 ballistic missiles, 39 cruise missiles and six hypersonic Zircon anti-ship missiles, alongside 351 attack and decoy drones. Air-defence units brought down most of the cruise missiles and drones, but ballistic and hypersonic weapons proved far harder to intercept. Officials said the strikes exposed gaps in Ukraine's defences more than four years into the invasion. Kyiv relies heavily on US-made Patriot systems, whose interceptors are in short supply worldwide after the recent conflict in the Middle East drew down stocks. President Volodymyr Zelensky said the attack demanded "strong decisions" from Western partners and renewed appeals for additional air-defence batteries. His comments came as the annual NATO summit prepared to open in Ankara, with US President Donald Trump attending. Russia has intensified long-range strikes in recent weeks, and residents in several regions spent hours sheltering as explosions echoed across the capital.



## INTERNATIONAL

## Australia And Fiji Seal Mutual Defence Pact

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

SUVA, July 6: Australia and Fiji signed a landmark mutual defence treaty on Monday, committing the two nations to consult over any development that threatens their security. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his Fijian counterpart Sitiveni Rabuka sealed the agreement in the Fijian capital. The Ocean of Peace Alliance is Fiji's first mutual defence treaty and Australia's fourth, after Cold War-era pacts with the United States and New Zealand and a bilateral deal with Papua New Guinea last year. Albanese said the partners would have "no higher obligation than to come to each other's aid." The leaders also signed an economic agreement, the Vuvale Union, under which Australia will invest more than one billion Australian dollars in Fiji over a decade. The signing was widely seen as a bid to blunt China's expanding reach in the South Pacific, where Beijing has courted island nations with security and infrastructure deals. The timing sharpened those concerns. Chinese state media reported that a submarine had test-fired a long-range ballistic missile in the South Pacific the same day. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Canberra had told Beijing it regarded the launch as destabilising to the region.

## SPORTS

## Hiltz Stuns World Record Holder Kipyegon In Eugene Mile

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



Nikki Hiltz produced a world-leading run to beat mile world-record holder Faith Kipyegon at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, clocking the fastest women's mile ever recorded on Am...

EUGENE, July 4: Nikki Hiltz delivered one of the standout results of the athletics season, beating mile world-record holder Faith Kipyegon in the women's mile at the Prefontaine Classic, the Diamond League meeting held at Hayward Field. Hiltz won in 4:17.49, a world-leading time and the fastest women's mile ever run on American soil, timing a surge over the final lap to move from second at the bell to first at the line. Kenya's Dorcus Ewoi took second in 4:17.62, while Kipyegon, the dominant force in women's middle-distance running, had to settle for third in 4:17.80. The

margins across the podium were slender, underlining how close the finish was. Kipyegon later said she had been managing a hamstring problem that was gradually improving, and congratulated the American on what she called a fine victory. The result was one of several notable performances across the two-day meeting in Oregon, which drew a strong international field and served as an important marker with the outdoor season building toward its major championships. For Hiltz, it was a career-defining win over the event's defining athlete.

## SPORTS

## Bethell Fifty Steers England Past India In Manchester

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



MANCHESTER, July 4: Jacob Bethell struck an unbeaten 76 to lead England to a four-wicket win over India in the second Twenty20 international at Old Trafford, giving the hosts a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. Set 191 to win, England reached 191 for 6 with six balls to spare, Bethell's 46-ball innings holding the chase together after the top order made only fitful progress. He was named player of the match. India had posted 190 for 7 after being asked to bat, with Ishan Kishan top-scoring on 49 and Abhishek Sharma adding a brisk 43 at the top of the order. The innings lost momentum in the closing overs as England's bowlers pulled things back. Sam Curran was the pick of the attack with 3 for 33, breaking partnerships at important moments and denying India the late acceleration they sought. The opening fixture of the series produced no result, leaving the second match to break the deadlock. The tourists now need to respond quickly, with the remaining Twenty20 games to come before the

white-ball tour moves into its one-day phase later in July.

## SPORTS

## Pedersen Wins From Break As Traeen Takes Yellow Jersey

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026



FOIX, July 7: Mads Pedersen won the fourth stage of the Tour de France from a big breakaway, sprinting clear in Foix as the race lead changed hands on a day dominated by Scandinavian riders. The Lidl-Trek rider timed his effort to perfection at the end of the 181.9-kilometre run from Carcassonne, which carried around 2,800 metres of climbing through the foothills of the Pyrenees. His teammate Quinn Simmons completed a one-two for the American squad, with Movistar's Raul Garcia Pierna third. The stage was shaped by an escape of more than 30 riders that the peloton allowed to gain several minutes. That margin proved decisive for the overall standings, lifting Norway's Torstein Traeen of Uno-X Mobility into the yellow jersey ahead of Tadej Pogacar. Traeen leads the general classification by 28 seconds from breakaway companion Sean Quinn of EF

Education-EasyPost, a rare turn in the race lead so early in the three-week event. For Pedersen, a former world champion, it was a statement win from a difficult day of racing, and reward for a Lidl-Trek team that controlled the closing kilometres of the breakaway to set up its sprinter.



## SPORTS

## Leclerc Wins Chaotic British Grand Prix At Silverstone

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

SILVERSTONE, July 5: Charles Leclerc won the British Grand Prix for the first time, taking the flag behind the safety car after a chaotic afternoon at Silverstone that ended with Max Verstappen buried in the gravel. Leclerc made a decisive start from the medium-tyre grid, seizing the lead as Lewis Hamilton also moved forward in the second Ferrari. The order was reshaped during the pit-stop phase, when Andrea Kimi Antonelli briefly took the front before a left-front wheel-shield failure on lap 41 dropped him out of contention. The finish was neutralised when Verstappen spun into the barriers at Stowe on lap 48, bringing out the safety car for the closing laps. George Russell, who stayed on track through the caution, leapfrogged Hamilton to take second, leaving the Mercedes driver third. Hamilton was investigated after the race for a yellow-flag infringement but escaped with a reprimand, keeping his place on the podium. Leclerc said the victory was a relief after a difficult run of weekends, adding that the car's feel had returned to where he needed it. The result marked a notable turnaround for Ferrari at one of the sport's landmark venues.



## SPORTS

## Djokovic Passes Federer With Record 106th Wimbledon Win

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

LONDON, July 5: Novak Djokovic moved past Roger Federer as the men's record-holder for singles wins at Wimbledon on Sunday, grinding out a fourth-round victory over qualifier Roman Safiullin to reach the quarter-finals. The seven-time champion won 7-6(6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 for his 106th match win at the All England Club, edging one clear of Federer's 105. He still trails Martina Navratilova, whose 120 wins remain the overall benchmark across the men's and women's game. The milestone came the hard way. Ranked 132nd, Safiullin took the third set and pushed Djokovic through repeated tense exchanges, prompting the Serb to vent his irritation on court in outbursts he later described as "meltdowns." Djokovic played down the record afterwards, saying he had not been aware of it until the match ended and that it sat low on his list of priorities. His stated focus, he said, was a longer-standing target: an eighth Wimbledon crown, which would match Federer's all-time men's tally at the tournament. The result kept the 39-year-old on course in the second week of a Championships being played from June 29 to July 12.

## PUBLIC NOTICES · TENDERS · AUCTIONS · RECRUITMENT

**PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT — SE R&B  
POONCH (CE R&B PIR PANJAL)**

Ref: e-NIT No. 4 of 2026-27 dated 02-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_PWDJK\_314398\_1)

**Construction of Helipad and Waiting Lounges at Qasba Mendhar, Poonch**

The Roads & Buildings wing under Chief Engineer Pir Panjal invites e-bids for construction of a helipad and passenger waiting lounges at Qasba Mendhar in Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch. Bids close 16 July 2026 with tech...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 16 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹2.93 crore  
**EMD:** ₹5,85,860  
**Location:** Qasba Mendhar, Poonch district, J&K  
**Contact:** Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Poonch · Refer NIT PDF

**POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT — TLC  
DIVISION-I, JAMMU (CIRCLE-II)**

Ref: TLMD-VIII/J/T/13 of 2026-27 dated 30-06-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_PDD\_314237\_1)

**Construction of 132 KV Line Bay at Draba for Draba-Mendhar 132 KV Line, Poonch**

The Transmission Line Construction Division invites e-tenders for construction of one 132 KV line bay at Grid Station Draba for the Draba-Mendhar 132 KV single-circuit line, along with thickening of the 132 KV bus bar fr...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 23 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹3.50 crore  
**EMD:** ₹7,00,000  
**Location:** Draba, Poonch district, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, TLC Division-I, PDD Jammu · Refer NIT PDF

**POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT — TLC  
DIVISION-I, JAMMU (CIRCLE-II)**

Ref: TLMD-VIII/J/T/08 of 2026-27 dated 22-06-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_PDD\_313286\_1)

**Replacement of Isolators and DC Panels at Grid Stations Rajouri, Kalakote, Draba & Chandak**

The PDD invites e-tenders for replacement of 145 KV and 36 KV isolators, AC/DC distribution panels (110 V) and battery banks (110 V) at Grid Stations Rajouri, Kalakote, Draba and Chandak. Bids close 15 July 2026. For mak...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 15 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹1.50 crore  
**EMD:** ₹3,00,000  
**Location:** Rajouri district (Rajouri, Kalakote, Draba, Chandak), J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, TLC Division-I, PDD Jammu · Refer NIT PDF

**JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT — PHE DIVISION  
POONCH (HYDRAULIC CIRCLE POONCH)**

Ref: E-NIT No. 12 of 2026-27 dated 02-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_PHE\_314255\_1)

**Re-alignment / Shifting of GI Pipes on Pindi Gali-Shahpur Road, Poonch**

The PHE Division Poonch invites e-bids for shifting, providing, laying and re-alignment of GI pipes falling under the Pindi Gali-Shahpur road stretch. Bids close 15 July 2026 with opening on 16 July 2026. Item rates, pip...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 15 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹41.86 lakh  
**EMD:** ₹83,720  
**Location:** Pindi Gali-Shahpur, Poonch district, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, PHE Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF

**JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT — PHE DIVISION  
POONCH (HYDRAULIC CIRCLE POONCH)**

Ref: e-NIT No. 13 of 2026-27 dated 03-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_PHE\_314493\_1)

**Laying of GI Pipes from Kawarian to Ashram at KG Top, Poonch**

The PHE Division Poonch invites e-bids for providing, laying and fitting of GI pipes from Kawarian to Ashram at KG Top, Poonch. Bids close 15 July 2026 with opening on 16 July 2026. For quantities, pipe schedule and term...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 15 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹39.31 lakh  
**EMD:** ₹78,620  
**Location:** KG Top, Poonch district, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, PHE Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ — XEN REW  
DIVISION POONCH**

Ref: e-NIT No. 04 of REW Poonch 2026-27 dated 25-06-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_RDPR\_313709\_2)

**Construction of DEWAT (12 KLD) at Gohlad Town Upper, Block Mendhar under SBM**

The Rural Engineering Wing (REW) Poonch invites e-bids for construction of a Decentralised Wastewater Treatment (DEWAT) unit of 12 KLD capacity near Dak Bungalow, Panchayat Gohlad Town Upper, Block Mendhar, under Swachh...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 15 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹21.24 lakh  
**EMD:** ₹42,480  
**Location:** Gohlad Town, Mendhar, Poonch district, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, REW Division Poonch · Refer NIT PDF

**IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT — I&FC  
DIVISION RAJOURI (HYDRAULIC CIRCLE RAJOURI)**

Ref: e-NIT No. 03 of 2026-27 dated 30-06-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_IFC\_314013\_2)

**Restoration of Dodasan Upper/Lower Khul, Rajouri**

The Irrigation & Flood Control Division Rajouri invites e-bids for restoration of the Dodasan Upper/Lower Khul (part of a cluster of khul-restoration works under e-NIT 03 of 2026-27). Bids close 22 July 2026. For itemise...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 22 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹4.43 lakh  
**EMD:** ₹8,860  
**Location:** Rajouri district, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, I&FC Division Rajouri · Refer NIT PDF

**PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT — EE R&B  
SURANKOTE (CE R&B PIR PANJAL)**

Ref: e-NIT No. 36 of 2026-27 dated 02-07-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_PWDJK\_314274\_2)

**Construction of Link Road from NABARD Road Potha to Mohalla Lohara, Surankote (2nd Call)**

The R&B Division Surankote invites e-bids (2nd call) for construction of a link road from the NABARD road at Potha near H/o Shoket to Mohalla Lohara, Panchayat Lower Potha, under Non-Plan. Bids close 17 July 2026. For BO...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 17 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹2.50 lakh  
**EMD:** ₹5,000  
**Location:** Potha, Surankote, Poonch district, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Surankote · Refer NIT PDF

**UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU —  
CONSTRUCTION/ENGINEERING WING**

Ref: e-NIT No. 201 dated 23-06-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_UDJK\_313544\_1)

**Repair and Renovation of IMFA Building at Poonch House, Talab Tillo, Jammu**

The University of Jammu invites e-bids for repair and renovation of the IMFA building at Poonch House, Talab Tillo, Jammu. Bids close 15 July 2026. For detailed scope and terms refer the e-tender/NIT on jktenders.gov.in.

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 15 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹33.78 lakh  
**EMD:** ₹67,556  
**Location:** Talab Tillo, Jammu, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, University of Jammu · Refer NIT PDF

**IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT —  
IRRIGATION DIVISION TRAL (I&FC KASHMIR)**

Ref: e-NIT No. 01 of 2026-27 (Tender ID 2026\_IFC\_312349\_1)

**Akbar Khul and Arabal Gawer Khul Cluster Irrigation Scheme**

The Irrigation Division Tral invites e-bids for the Akbar Khul and Arabal Gawer Khul cluster irrigation scheme in the Shopian/Pulwama hydraulic circle. Bids close 20 July 2026. For itemised scope, quantities and CDR requ...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 20 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹5.85 crore  
**EMD:** ₹17,56,000  
**Location:** Tral, Pulwama district, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Tral · Refer NIT PDF

**POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT — M&RE  
CIRCLE-II, SRINAGAR (KASHMIR)**

Ref: STD-II/31 of 2026-27 dated 16-06-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_PDD\_312606\_1)

**Permanent Restoration of 33 KV Lines at Doniwari, Budgam**

The PDD (M&RE Wing) Kashmir invites e-tenders for permanent restoration of the 33 KV Ahmedpora-Beerwah line and 33 KV Nowbugh-Chadoora line at Doniwari. Bids close 23 July 2026. For material specifications and terms refe...

**Type:** Works  
**Last date:** 23 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹6.88 lakh  
**EMD:** ₹13,760  
**Location:** Doniwari, Budgam district, J&K  
**Contact:** Executive Engineer, M&RE Division, PDD (Circle-II) Srinagar · Refer NIT PDF

**SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES  
(SKIMS), SOURA — MATERIALS MANAGEMENT  
(IMPORTS)**

Ref: SIMS 324/NIT 17 (Imports) of 2026 dated 11-06-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_SKIMS\_312143\_1)

**Supply & Commissioning of Automated CLIA/ECLIA Immunoassay Systems on Reagent-Rental Basis**

SKIMS Soura invites e-bids for supply, installation and commissioning of fully automated chemiluminescence/electrochemiluminescence (CLIA/ECLIA) immunoassay systems on reagent-rental basis — two machines for Immunology a...

**Type:** Supply  
**Last date:** 15 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹3.00 crore  
**EMD:** ₹6,00,000  
**Location:** SKIMS Soura, Srinagar, J&K  
**Contact:** Materials Management Department (Imports), SKIMS Soura, Srinagar · Refer NIT PDF

**J&K MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD (JKMSCL)  
— HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPT**

Ref: NIT/JKMSCL/MM/2026/698 dated 02-06-2026 (Tender ID 2026\_HME\_311398\_1)

**Supply of Mobile Medical Unit with Diagnostic Facilities**

The J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd invites e-bids for supply of a Mobile Medical Unit fitted with diagnostic facilities for the Health & Medical Education Department. Bids close 15 July 2026. For vehicle/equipment...

**Type:** Supply  
**Last date:** 15 Jul 2026  
**Est. cost:** Approx. ₹50.00 lakh  
**EMD:** ₹1,00,000  
**Location:** Jammu / Srinagar, J&K  
**Contact:** Managing Director, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd · Refer NIT PDF

**J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB) — HOME  
(PRISONS) DEPARTMENT**

Ref: Advertisement Notification No. 05 of 2026 dated 06-07-2026

**JKSSB Recruitment — 288 Warder (UT Cadre) Posts, J&K Prisons Department**

JKSSB has notified 288 UT-cadre Warder posts under the Home (Prisons) Department. Online applications run from 27 July 2026 to 25 August 2026, with selection through written exam, Physical Standard Test and Physical Endu...

**Type:** Recruitment  
**Last date:** 25 Aug 2026  
**Est. cost:** Refer notification  
**Location:** J&K (UT-wide cadre)  
**Contact:** Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board · jkssb.nic.in

**J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB) — PUBLIC  
WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT**

Ref: Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2026 dated 06-07-2026

**JKSSB Recruitment — 357 Draftsman (Civil) & Works Supervisor Posts, PWD (R&B)**

JKSSB has notified 357 divisional-cadre posts of Draftsman (Civil) and Works Supervisor under the Public Works (R&B) Department. Online applications run from 01 August 2026 to 30 August 2026, with selection on merit of a...

**Type:** Recruitment  
**Last date:** 30 Aug 2026  
**Est. cost:** Refer notification  
**Location:** J&K (Divisional cadre, Jammu & Kashmir divisions)  
**Contact:** Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board · jkssb.nic.in

## REGIONAL

**LG Sinha Flags Off First Amarnath Yatra Convoy**

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

JAMMU, July 2: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first convoy of pilgrims for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here on Wednesday, formally launching SANJY-2026 amid unprecedented, multi-layered security. Around 4,800 devotees travelling in a convoy of 259 vehicles left for the twin base camps at Baltal in Ganderbal and Nunwan in Anantnag, where they halted overnight before beginning the trek to the cave shrine on July 3. The 57-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre shrine will run until August 28, coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan. Yatris can approach the cave through the shorter 14-km Baltal route or the traditional 48-km Pahalgam track. Officials said the security cover combines heavy deployment of personnel, technology-driven surveillance and continuous area-domination exercises along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, backed by medical teams, ambulances and langars for pilgrims. Religious dignitaries, political representatives and senior security officers attended the send-off as devotees chanted religious slogans while the convoy rolled out of the base camp toward the Valley.

## REGIONAL

**Firing Near Samba Court Complex, Woman Abducted**

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

SAMBA, July 7: Tension gripped the Samba district headquarters after a family alleged that unidentified assailants opened fire on their vehicle near the court complex and abducted a woman travelling with them. According to the family, they were being trailed by several vehicles before the attackers overtook and fired at their car. In the ensuing chaos, the assailants allegedly seized the woman and fled the spot, they said. The reported firing in the heart of the district town, close to a court and a police presence, caused alarm among residents and prompted an immediate response from security agencies. Senior officers reached the scene and cordoned off the area. Police registered a case and launched a search operation, setting up checkpoints on routes leading out of Samba and towards adjoining districts.

Officials said teams were examining the sequence of events and the motive behind the attack. Samba, which shares a stretch of the International Border with Pakistan, has largely remained calm, making the daylight incident near a court complex a serious law-and-order concern. Authorities urged residents to share any information that could aid the investigation.

## NATIONAL

**2 Assam Rifles Soldiers Martyred in Militant Ambush on NH-202, Ukhrul; Massive Combing Operations Launched**

BY ANMOL PRADHAN · 8 JUL, 2026

TWO brave soldiers of the Assam Rifles were martyred and several others injured on Sunday, July 6, after suspected militants launched a deadly ambush on their convoy near Nungshangkong village on National Highway 202, approximately eight kilometres from Ukhrul town in Manipur's Ukhrul district. The soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice have been identified as Warrant Officer Balwant Singh and Rifleman C.M. Singh of the 40 Assam Rifles battalion.

The attack triggered immediate and extensive search and area domination operations by security forces, who cordoned off the surrounding hills and forest terrain to track down the insurgents responsible. Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh — who replaced Biren Singh following the BJP's internal reorganisation in the state — and Home Minister Govindas Khonthoujam all condemned the attack in the strongest terms and conveyed deep condolences to the bereaved families. CM Singh declared that the state government "will not remain a mute spectator" and vowed swift justice.

The Ukhrul district is historically associated with militant activity by Naga insurgent groups, though security agencies have not formally attributed this specific attack to any group. Manipur, which witnessed prolonged ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities in 2023-24, has been in a politically sensitive phase, and the martyrdom of security personnel at a time when normalcy is gradually returning to parts of the state has intensified the security establishment's resolve. The Centre has directed additional forces to be deployed in the area while the investigation proceeds.

## REGIONAL

**Forces Trap Two LeT Militants In Shopian Operation**

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

SHOPIAN, July 4: A major counter-terrorism operation was launched in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday after security forces trapped two suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba militants during a cordon-and-search exercise triggered by specific intelligence. Officials said the gunfight erupted in the Meemandar-Chanapora belt when the hiding militants opened fire on approaching troops. Forces sealed off nearly seven villages, including Saidpora and Amshipora and adjoining orchards, to prevent any escape. CCTV footage recorded the two suspects, identified as Zakir and Latif of Kulgam, moving through a dense apple orchard while carrying weapons. Investigators said Zakir joined the outfit in 2024 and Latif enlisted last year. A joint team of the Army's Victor Force units, the Jammu and Kashmir Police Special Operations Group and the CRPF pressed additional personnel into the search as thick summer foliage slowed the advance. The operation unfolded even as Amarnath Yatra convoys moved through the Valley, underlining the heightened security posture across the Union Territory during the pilgrimage season.

## REGIONAL

**Amarnath Yatra Crosses One Lakh Pilgrims In Five Days**

BY RAJESH KHAJURIA · 7 JUL, 2026

SERINAGAR, July 7: The number of pilgrims who have paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre Amarnath cave shrine crossed the one lakh mark on Tuesday, barely five days after the yatra began, officials said. By 1 pm, another 15,947 devotees had performed darshan via the Baltal and Chandanwari routes, taking the cumulative figure past 1,01,000. More than 93,000 had already completed the pilgrimage in the first four days, reflecting a rush officials described as heavier than anticipated. The largest batch of the season, comprising 8,815 pilgrims including 31 foreign nationals, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu earlier in the day, split between the Baltal and Pahalgam tracks. The batch included women, children, sadhus and sadhvis. Citing the pressure on facilities, the administration urged unregistered devotees to defer their journey, noting that registration slots stood booked until July 9.

Movement continued to be regulated in line with Supreme Court directions on daily capacity. The 57-day pilgrimage, which began on July 3, is scheduled to conclude on August 28, with multi-layered security and medical arrangements deployed along both routes and the Jammu-Srinagar highway.