

"Bum Bum Bholey' chants fill air as LG flags off yatra the LG said. He extended his best wishes to all the pilgrims for a safe and blissful journey. "This sacred pilgrimage is a journey of faith and self-discovery. Wishing all spiritual seekers a safe and comfortable journey to the holy abode of Almighty Shiva and deep soul-stirring experience," Sinha said during his brief interaction with media persons. "The administration, people of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, police and security forces have made elaborate arrangements for the pilgrims," he added. "More than 4,500 devotees set off to the holy cave shrine in the first batch to have a glimpse of the naturally formed ice-Shivalingam in South Kashmir Himalayas. Jammu city has come alive with a new vibrancy. The enthusiasm of pilgrims is very high," Sinha said. Eminent spiritual leaders, heads of religious organisations, public representatives, senior officers of civil administration, police, security forces, SASB officials, prominent citizens and devotees were among those present at the flag-off ceremony.

Quad calls for punishing Pahalgam attack perpetrators coercion," they said without directly mentioning China. The Quad foreign ministers specifically highlighted the "dangerous and provocative actions, including interference with offshore resource development, the repeated obstruction of the freedoms of navigation and overflight, and the dangerous manoeuvres by military aircraft and coast guard and maritime militia vessels." In this context, they mentioned the "unsafe use of water cannons and ramming or blocking actions in the South China Sea" and said these actions threaten peace and stability in the region.

"We are seriously concerned by the militarisation of disputed features. We emphasise the importance of upholding freedom of navigation and overflight, other lawful uses of the sea, and unimpeded commerce consistent with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)," the ministers said.

The Quad ministers affirmed that maritime disputes must be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law.

They also underlined the need for implementation of a ruling by the Arbitral Tribunal on July 12, 2016, saying it is a "significant milestone and the basis" for peacefully resolving disputes between the parties.

The international tribunal at The Hague ruled against China's claims in the South China Sea while giving its verdict in a case filed by the Philippines against Beijing's so-called "nine-dash line".

The Quad foreign ministers also voiced deep concern over the "abrupt constriction and future reliability" of key supply chains, specifically for critical minerals, in an apparent reference to China's policy on the matter.

"This includes the use of non-market policies and practices for critical minerals, certain derivative products, and mineral processing technology," the Quad ministers said.

They underscored the importance of diversified and reliable global supply chains.

"Reliance on any one country for processing and refining critical minerals and derivative goods production exposes our industries to economic coercion, price manipulation, and supply chain disruptions, which further harms our economic and national security," they said.

The Quad meeting also announced the grouping's plan to launch a Quad Ports of the Future partnership in Mumbai this year.

The grouping also expressed serious concerns over what it called the "worsening crisis" in Myanmar and its impact on the region.

"We call on the regime to adhere to its commitment to a ceasefire, and call on all parties to implement, extend and broaden ceasefire measures." "We reaffirm our strong support for ASEAN's efforts, including calling for the full and effective implementation of the Five Point Consensus in seeking an inclusive, durable, and peaceful resolution to the crisis," the Quad foreign ministers said.

"We call on all parties to allow safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance. We are also concerned about the impact of the crisis on regional security and the spread of transnational crimes," they said.

5 springs sealed in Rajouri distt Rajouri, Manohar Lal Rana, said around 40 cases of gastroenteritis and diarrhoea were reported from Sakri and one case from nearby Tralla village in the past five days. However, two of them - a 75-year-old woman with comorbidities from Sakri and a 40-year-old woman suffering from acute dehydration and multi-organ failure from Tralla - breathed their last.

In light of the reported cases of gastroenteritis, the deputy commissioner, Rajouri, also visited the affected village and mobilised medical and other teams, including water testing laboratory staff and collected samples from natural springs (baolis) and one tap connection, the officials said. Upon testing, E-Coli contamination was found in two springs, while the tap water was declared safe for consumption, they said, adding a total of five springs were sealed and are being treated. As a precautionary measure, the district administration has issued a public health advisory urging residents to avoid using untreated spring water and to consume only safe, treated water. Though the PHE department does not supply water from these baolis, it has taken proactive steps by thoroughly cleaning and chlorinating the contaminated baolis with bleaching powder. Additionally, all contaminated springs have been sealed to prevent public access, the officials said. They said residents have been sensitised and made aware of the health risks associated with unsafe water sources. Safe water supply is being ensured for the affected population, the officials said.

Study group formed to explore IT Park models tary, information technology department, would be the chairman of the study group which would have seven members from different departments. J&K-born IAS officer takes over as first DMC commissioner The posting followed Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's recent announcement to strengthen the DMC by appointing a full-time IAS officer.

Will junk meeting requests from unauthorised people: EC sive revision of Bihar's electoral rolls. The EC said henceforth, the poll authority will junk such requests by "unauthorised persons".

Opposition parties have alleged that the revision exercise may lead to a situation where eligible citizens could be deprived of their right to vote, with the BJP government using state machinery to their benefit.

According to officials, a legal counsel of the Congress sought an urgent meeting with the EC on July 2 regarding the revision exercise on behalf of several political parties.

He claimed to be representing a multi-party delegation and named almost all the INDIA bloc parties in the e-mail received on June 30.

However, sources said only two parties - CPI(ML) Liberation and CPI(M) - have so far confirmed their participation in the meeting.

Jitendra underlines govt commitment to pensioners' welfare der citizens be allowed to be consumed inconsequentially for avoidable reasons because they may be "retired from government service but not retired from service to the nation".

Addressing a packed hall of senior officials, legal experts and pension administrators, he underlined the Centre's firm commitment to pensioners' welfare, while also drawing attention to the mounting pressure on government finances due to litigation.

He noted that with over 60 lakh pensioners today - a figure that now exceeds the number of serving Central Government employees - the challenges of pension administration have entered a new phase that requires urgent institutional coordination and systemic reforms.

"Pension-related litigation often arises from misinterpretation of rules, and unresolved grievances can lead to unnecessary hardship for senior citizens," Dr Singh said.

Currently, over 300 pension-related cases are pending in various forums, with nearly 70% before Central Administrative Tribunals (CAT). The minister acknowledged that the Government is impleaded in nearly all of these cases, indicating the systemic nature of the problem.

"Litigation is usually the last resort, not the first," he said, cautioning against underestimating the grievances of pensioners. He also reflected on how, in many cases, both winning and losing parties in tribunals often appeal further, underlining the depth of discontent and the challenge of resolution.

India committed to BRICS, says Modi as he embarks on 5-nation visit vestment, energy, health, security, capacity building and development partnership. He said, "As fellow democracies, it will be an honour to speak at the Parliament of Ghana." For the next couple of days after visiting Ghana, he will be in Trinidad and Tobago, a country with which India shares deep-rooted historical, cultural and people-to-people connect.

Modi will meet President Christine Carla Kangaloo, who was the chief guest at this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, who has recently assumed office for the second term.

"Indians first arrived in Trinidad and Tobago 180 years ago. This visit will provide an opportunity to rejuvenate the special bonds of ancestry and kinship that unite us," the Indian prime minister said.

Modi will then travel to Buenos Aires, the first bilateral visit by an Indian prime minister to Argentina in 57 years.

He said Argentina is a key economic partner in Latin America and a close collaborator in the G20 and that he looked forward to discussions with President Javier Milei, whom he had met last year.

"We will focus on advancing our mutually beneficial co-operation, including in the areas of agriculture, critical minerals, energy, trade, tourism, technology, and investment," Modi said.

He will attend the BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro on July 6 and 7.

As a founding member, India is committed to BRICS as a vital platform for cooperation among emerging economies, he said.

"Together, we strive for a more peaceful, equitable, just, democratic and balanced multipolar world order," he added.

On the sidelines of the summit, Modi will meet several world leaders.

"I will travel to Brasilia for a bilateral State Visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in nearly six decades. This visit will provide an opportunity to strengthen our close partnership with Brazil, and work with my friend, President H.E. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, on advancing the priorities of the Global South," he said.

Namibia, which Modi described as a trusted partner sharing a common history of struggle against colonialism, will be his last destination.

He will meet President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and chart a new roadmap for cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples, regions and the wider Global South, Modi said.

He added, "It will be a privilege to also address the Joint Session of Namibian Parliament as we celebrate our enduring solidarity and shared commitment for freedom and development."

Modi expressed confidence that his visits to the five countries will reinforce India's bonds and friendship across the Global South, strengthen their partnerships on both sides of the Atlantic, and deepen engagements in the multilateral platforms such as BRICS, the African Union, ECOWAS and the CARICOM.

Encounter breaks out in Kishtwar woods presence of terrorists in the area. Officials said the terrorists opened fire on noticing security forces, leading to an exchange of fire which was continuing when reports last came in.

Reinforcements had been rushed to the area to maintain a tight cordon and neutralise the holed-up terrorists, the officials added.

Won't hesitate to eliminate terrorists, wherever they are: Rajnath

wherever they are. And we shall do so without making a distinction between masterminds of terror attacks and regimes which sponsor them," said the defence minister.

He added that the country's defence exports have seen a sharp rise, thanks to Modi's thrust on "swadeshikaran" (production at home) and "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat".

"The Modi government works with a long-term roadmap, in marked contrast with Congress-led governments of the past, which lacked direction and were driven by vote bank concerns," said the union minister.

Singh also made an oblique reference to the controversy over RSS second in command Dattatreya Hosabale's remark that the words "secular" and "socialist" be dropped from the preamble of the Constitution, as those were inserted during the infamous Emergency.

"I would like to ask fake secularists, after the word secular was added to the country's Constitution, why was it not added to the separate Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir? Should the state, where minority Hindus were being oppressed, not have been secular? Jammu and Kashmir became secular only after Article 370 was abrogated," he said.

The BJP leader claimed that the party is the only political organisation in the entire world to have raised a voice against atrocities against minorities in neighbouring countries and taken a concrete step, in the form of CAA, upon coming to power.

He said, "India has always believed in treating all faiths with respect. Parsis were accepted with open arms. We have one of the world's oldest churches in Kerala. Ours

is the only land where all 72 sects of Islam are recognised."

In contrast, even Ahmadiya Muslims are facing persecution in Pakistan, and one should not speak about minorities, Singh said.

"The situation is horrifying in Bangladesh as well. The treatment meted out to Hindus there is a blot on humanity," said the defence minister.

Monsoon session of Par from July 21 to Aug 21 July to 21st August, 2025," he said in a post on X. "In view of the Independence Day celebrations, there will be no sittings on the 13th and 14th of August," Rijiju said.

ELI scheme will be game-changer for youth employment: Kavinder wards job creation and formalisation of the workforce.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government has taken a historic step with an outlay of Rs 99,446 cr to support the creation of over 3.5 cr jobs across the country over the next two years," he said.

"J&K will benefit immensely from this scheme as it will be providing opportunities to thousands of first-time job seekers and bring more youth into the formal economy," he added.

The scheme has two components - one aimed at incentivising first-time employees and the other focused on providing incentives to employers for generating and sustaining additional employment, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

The first-time employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will receive one month's wage (up to Rs 15,000) in two installments after completing 6 and 12 months of service, along with a financial literacy programme. A part of this incentive will be saved in a deposit account to encourage the habit of saving among youth.

"The scheme is part of the broader employment and skilling package announced in the Union Budget 2024-25, aimed at empowering 4.1 cr youth with a total allocation of Rs 2 lakh crore," Gupta said.

"This scheme is not only about job creation but also about formalising the workforce by bringing more workers under social security coverage. The use of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) through Aadhaar-linked accounts will ensure transparency and timely delivery of benefits," he added.

"Such initiatives reaffirm the Modi government's commitment to youth empowerment and economic revival," he said and expressed confidence that the scheme would open new avenues of employment for the youth of J&K also and help strengthen the region's socio-economic fabric.

Sonia, Rahul wanted to usurp Rs 2k cr AJL company: ED to court

they were finding it difficult to manage their daily affairs. If you are doing reasonably well, you cannot say, I am in loss, etc. You have to build a facade. Rs 90 crore loan was taken from the AICC. They (AJL) said we cannot repay you (AICC). Ordinarily, any prudent person would have sold their assets. (Rs) 90 crore is child's play," Raju further said, "The conspiracy was creation of Young Indian to usurp Rs 2,000 crore in exchange for a Rs 90 crore loan. Sonia and Rahul Gandhi wanted to take over this Rs 2,000 crore company." Within six days of Rahul's appointment as the director of Young Indian, Raju said, it sent a representation to AJL to repay the loan or convert it into equity.

Judge Gogne posed a question to Raju about the possibility of the AICC writing off AJL's loan, similar to public sector banks.

The ASG said banks wrote off loans of defaulters in the absence of assets as collateral but in this case AJL had assets worth Rs 2,000 crore which they gave away for a loan of Rs 90 crore.

Raju alleged that the AICC distanced itself from a direct transaction to avoid "creating ripples" and instead created Young Indian. The judge again asked Raju if it was peculiar for political parties to own a newspaper.

"Political parties acquire running newspapers and channels. The main question is how can they acquire an asset for peanuts," Raju said adding that AJL was acquired by Young Indian, in which 76 per cent shares were held by Sonia and Rahul Gandhi.

"Taking by the left hand and taking by the right hand. Buying and selling of shares. All bogus transactions," he added.

The hearing would continue on July 3.

On May 21, the ED alleged that the proceeds of crime in the case were obtained on "instructions of some senior party leaders" towards "protection, tickets to contest elections, and securing positions in the party".

The ED had filed its chargesheet against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others under Sections 3 (money laundering) and 4 (punishment for money laundering) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED accuses the Gandhis, late Congress leaders Motilal Vora and Oscar Fernandes aside from Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda and a private company Young Indian of conspiracy and money laundering over the fraudulent takeover of properties valued over Rs 2,000 crore belonging to the AJL.

The chargesheet names the Gandhis, Dudey, Pitroda, Sunil Bhandari, Young Indian, and Dotex Merchandise Private Limited.

State Tax Department launches operation against Fake ITC Evasion in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JULY 2:

In a resolute effort to safeguard the public revenue and ensure compliance with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the State Taxes Department Kashmir today conducted massive raids against the business entities involved in fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) practices across Kashmir.

These meticulously executed raids, planned over the past month, unearthed significant instances of tax fraud, reinforcing the department's commitment towards curbing the fraudulent tax practices.

The raids were initiated based on credible intelligence inputs regarding widespread misuse of ITC provisions, particularly in Kashmir, where certain commodities such as iron, cement and steel have been identified as highly susceptible to tax evasion. The investigation cell of the State Taxes Depart-



ment conducted thorough research over the past 30 days to identify the entities involved in generating fake invoices and passing ineligible ITC.

The department's proactive approach was driven by a "reason to believe" that fraudulent practices were causing substantial revenue losses to the exchequer. The investigation zeroed in on sectors such as iron, cement and steel and other high-value commodities known for their vulnerability to tax evasion. These sectors have been exploited through

fake billing and shell companies to fraudulently claim ITC without actual supply of goods or services in violation of the Act and rules.

The State Taxes Department's enforcement team, under the guidance of Additional Commissioner State Taxes Department Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina, worked tirelessly to map out the complex web of transactions and pinpoint the perpetrators. The crackdown was proposed and executed under the leadership of Commissioner State Taxes J&K,

P.K. Bhat.

The operation comprised seven specialized teams, properly trained and adequately equipped, each led by a State Tax Officer (STO) and supported by a dedicated team of inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. These teams were tasked with conducting simultaneous raids in the early hours today across multiple locations across North Kashmir, targeting the businesses and individuals suspected of orchestrating fake ITC rackets.

Over the past month, the team cross-referenced GST returns and conducted physical verifications to identify discrepancies in ITC claims.

The underlying aim is to create a robust and transparent tax regime, deterring fraudsters from exploiting loopholes and encouraging the honest taxpayers to contribute to the region's economic progress.

KUPWARA, JULY 02:

In order to review the developmental issues and grievances of the people at their doorsteps, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today visited remote border area Keran and was chaired a Mega Block Diwas function at Higher Secondary School (HSS).

ACD Kupwara, CEO, CPO, besides, other District and Block Level Officers and people in large number attended the programme.

Addressing the Block Diwas, the Deputy Commissioner said that the Keran block has a bright future because the Government of India has a special focus on its overall development. She highlighted various initiatives of the Central Government like Aspirational Block Development Programme and Vibrant Village Programme

through which the holistic development of this border block is being ensured. Addressing different issues of the people, the DC said that District Administration is committed to provide the basic infrastructure to the people of Keran especially road connectivity, hospital equipment and mobile network connectivity to ease out their sufferings. She assured the people for redressal of their developmental issues and grievances and said that she will hold a separate comprehensive meeting of concerned officers to review the overall progress of various indicators of Aspirational Block Keran.

To address the drop out rate in schools, the DC asked the CEO to make an action plan for motivation and retention of children, especially girls, to

reduce the drop out rate. She also emphasized for monitoring the attendance of teachers and staff to ensure complete functioning of the schools.

On her arrival, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed stock of the stalls established by various departments including Fisheries, Agriculture, Education, Health, ICDS, Animal Husbandry and others. She enquired about the progress and achievements of these departments under the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP).

She stressed upon the concerned officers and field functionaries to gear up their efforts in saturation of ADP indicators which will improve the overall developmental scenario of the border block.

Earlier, prominent and senior citizens spoke and put forth their day to day developmental issues which include poor mobile network, macadamization of inner roads etc.

Later, the DC inaugurated the Robotic Lab in Higher Secondary School Keran and asked the Teachers to make fruitful use of the Laboratory by inculcating the scientific temperament among the school children. She also inspected the school Library and directed the Teachers to develop the habit of book reading among the children.

The Deputy Commissioner also took a detailed tour of the Keran area and stressed upon the concerned officers for execution of different developmental works and initiatives to make Keran more accessible and attractive place.