

Iran's supreme leader Khamenei makes first public appearance since Israel war

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Satish Sharma attends Ashoora procession at Alamgari Bazar

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Srinagar
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NEWS BRIEF

PM arrives in Brazil for four-day visit

AGENCIES
 RIO DE JANEIRO, JUL 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived here for a four-day visit, during which he will participate in the 17th BRICS Summit and undertake a state visit.

The prime minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome upon his arrival at the Galeao International Airport on Saturday evening (local time). This is the fourth leg of his five-nation visit.

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Chopper service remains suspended for third day in fog hit Vaishno Devi Hills

HT NEWS SERVICE
 JAMMU, JULY 6

The chopper service from Katra to Sanjhi Chat remained suspended due to fog and bad weather for the third consecutive day today for the pilgrims of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine nestled in Trikuta Hills in Katra town of Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Due to bad weather and dense fog in the Trikuta Hills, the chopper service from Katra to Sanjhi Chat remained suspended for the third day," said an official.

He said that the pilgrims are trekking on foot and by pithoo/palanquin

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Fresh batch of 7,200 pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Yatra

HT NEWS SERVICE
 JAMMU, JUN 6

Amid incessant rains, a fresh batch of over 7,200 pilgrims left the base camp here early on Sunday for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

The 38-day annual pilgrimage, which started on July 3, crossed the 50,000 mark on Sunday.

The fifth batch of 7,208 pilgrims, including 1,587 women and 30 children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in two separate convoys amid tight

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AASHOORA OBSERVED WITH RELIGIOUS FERVOR ACROSS VALLEY: HT PHOTO BY ASHIQ HUSSAIN

Youm-e-Ashura: Zuljanah procession begins, LG Sinha joins thousands of Shia mourners in Srinagar

HT NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, JUL 6 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday joined thousands of Shia mourners at the traditional Zuljanah procession here on the solemn occasion of Youm-e-Ashura.

The procession commenced from Botakadal's Ali Pora area to Zadibal amid tight security and elaborate arrangements.

"Upon his arrival, the Lieutenant Governor offered water to the mourners and ceremoniously draped the Zuljanah with the traditional chaddar before the procession commenced," witnesses told the news agency.

Top officials including IGP Kashmir, SSP Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Srinagar were also present on the occasion.

The procession began this morning with mourners, including men, women and children, all marching alongside the symbolic Zuljanah, representing the horse of Imam Hussain (AS).

Stretch from Botakadal to Zadibal is expected to remain packed throughout the day as mourners remain engaged in chest-beating and recitation of nohas to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions in Karbala.

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Muslims should unite against evil: Farooq Abdullah

HT NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, JUL 6

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday urged the Muslims to unite against evil for peace as he attended a Muharram procession in the Union Territory capital.

"Muslims should unite against all evil. That's

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

LG Sinha attends 125th birth anniversary celebration of Syama Prasad Mookerjee

HT NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, JULY 6

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the 125th Birth Anniversary celebration of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

Paying rich tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his birth anniversary, the Lieutenant Governor recalled his immense contributions as one of the key architects of modern India.

"Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was a visionary statesman, educationist and fearless parliamentarian whose ideals continue to shape the destiny of India. His profound knowledge, and resolute



commitment to social cohesion and harmony will always be remembered," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the J&K has launched the 2-year celebra-

tion campaign to honour the life and legacy of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and his role in strengthening national unity and advocating 'One Nation, One Constitution'

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

Kashmir would never have become integral part of India without Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Amit Shah

HT NEWS DESK
 GUJARAT, JUL 6

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday paid rich tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee and remembered his contributions and sacrifices for the country, especially Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a gathering in Gujarat's Anand, Shah asserted that Mookerjee sacrificed himself for Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the territory would never have become an integral part of India without him.

Mookerjee strongly opposed the special status and autonomy granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of



the Indian Constitution. He advocated for the complete integration of J-K with the rest of India.

Shah said, "Today is a very important day. On this day in 1901, Syama Prasad Mookerjee

was born. Born in the land of West Bengal, he was a nationalist leader... The people of the nation are associating him with Jammu and Kashmir. That is correct because Kashmir would never have become an integral part of India without Syama Prasad."

"He sacrificed himself for Kashmir, raising the slogan 'Ek desh mein do Vidhan, do Pradhan aur Do Nishan nahi chahenge'. The entire credit for West Bengal being a part of our nation today goes to Syama Prasad and Swami Pranavananda..." the Union Minister said.

Expressing pride, the BJP leader stated that Bharatiya Jana Sangh, started by

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Will recommend reducing GST to 5 per cent on J&K's handloom, handicraft products: Piyush Goyal

HT NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, JUL 6

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday promised to recommend a reduction in the Goods and Services Tax imposed on handicrafts and handloom products to help promote the sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the FTII Traders Conclave - 2025 in Srinagar, the Union Minister said, "The issue of GST levied on handicrafts and handlooms was brought to my attention by two or three system delegations. I have suggested that they submit an application



regarding this matter to the Finance Ministry as well as to me so that we can explore what relief can be provided. We will try to reduce the GST rate from 12 per cent to 5 per cent on these items, which would

help promote the handloom and handicraft sectors - especially in Jammu & Kashmir. We will make efforts to find a way forward in this regard."

"One of the topics raised was the need for packaging

units where new designs and technologies could be introduced to better promote local products such as handicrafts, horticulture items, pashmina shawls, and handlooms," Goyal said.

The Union Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir will soon get a Centre of Excellence for Packaging and Design.

"I have directed officials to explore possibilities in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Packaging to initiate a project focused on quality packaging and design. They have been requested to identify a suitable

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

Tricolour flying high in Kashmir: Shivraj Singh Chouhan's glowing tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his birth anniversary

HT NEWS DESK
 BHOPAL, JUL 6

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday described Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee as an "ardent" nationalist leader and noted that the tricolour is now "flying high" in Kashmir.

"We pay our respects at the feet of the ardent nationalist leader and founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee. It was Dr. Mukherjee who established Bharatiya Jana



Sangh as a new political party based on Indian culture, values, and traditions, as an alternative to Congress," Chouhan said

in Bhopal in his tribute to Shyama Prasad Mookerjee on the occasion of his birthday. Recalling Mookerjee's

protest against Article 370, Chouhan said, "The Jana Sangh proclaimed that there cannot be two flags, two constitutions, and two heads in one country... He made the supreme sacrifice, and today, by paying our respects at his feet, we feel satisfied that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, his resolve has been fulfilled. The tricolour is now flying high in Kashmir."

Syama Prasad Mookerjee was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the ideological parent

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HT - PHOTO FEATURE ON YOUM-E-AASHOORA

A Day of Mourning, Reflection, and Moral Resolve, Aashoora was observed today across J&K with extreme religious fervor.

HT Photos from Across the Valley shot by, G M Bhat, Ashiq Hussain, Dr Ab Qayoom and Abu Hasnain



FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Youm-e-Ashura: Zuljanah...

Moreover, with the traditional observance continuing this year too, multiple stalls were set up by volunteers, civil society groups, and government departments to serve water, tea, and food to the devotees.

Additionally, security personnel were deployed in strength and traffic diversions were put in place to ensure the smooth conduct of the procession.

Top police and civil administration officials are overseeing the arrangements. "All necessary arrangements have been put in place," said an official.

The Zuljanah procession will conclude at the Zadibal Imambargah in the afternoon.

Muslims should unite...

"the only way the world will see peace," Abdullah told reporters after taking part in a procession in Old Srinagar city.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister called Islam a religion of peace and brotherhood.

"Islam teaches peace and brotherhood and that is the message Hussain (grandson of Prophet Muhammad) carried ... to fight against tyranny and to fight against evil," he said.

Donning a 'keffiyeh,' an Arab headgear and a symbol of Palestinian resistance, Abdullah said, "We express solidarity with the Islamic world, with the Palestinians, and with Iran for the Islamic war they are fighting." He added, "And it is Karbala that gave Islam hope that we will survive against all odds and nothing will beat Islam." (AGENCIES)

LG Sinha attends...

for a brighter future of Jammu Kashmir.

"Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee sacrificed his life for unification of J&K with India. He was a proponent of 'One Nation, One Constitution' and opposed Article 370. His martyrdom in Srinagar while fighting for J&K's complete integration, remained defining moment in the nation's history.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi fulfilled Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream 66 years after his martyrdom. Today, India is making exponential strides in its development journey to achieve his other resolves of building a strong, united, and developed India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the achievements of J&K post-August 2019 are guided by the dream of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and the resolve of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

"Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was guided by the vision to build a discrimination-free J&K and to change its destiny by complete integration with India. He wished active participation of the people of Jammu Kashmir in the mainstream of development and nation building. With the inspiration of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and the commitment of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Jammu Kashmir is setting new records of development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the influence of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on the intellectual, political, educational, industrial and cultural landscape of India.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was the chief architect of India's industrialisation. He laid the foundation of a self-reliant India, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor impressed upon the Departments of Culture, School and Higher Education to organise exhibitions and lectures on the life and work of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in every school, every college and every university from July 2025 to July 2027.

"Dr. Mookerjee breathed his last in Srinagar. The entire Jammu and Kashmir is indebted to him. The new generation should actively engage in honouring his legacy. Week-long exhibitions in educational institutions, and theatrical performances depicting his life's

journey should be organised.

The monumental contribution of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee should be spread to every village through grand commemoration events. Our new generation should know that without the visionary leaders like Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Jammu and Kashmir would never have been able to realize its aspirations," he further added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released the translation of new Criminal Laws in Kashmiri language. An exhibition on life and works of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was also organised by the IGNCRA Regional Office and Culture Department.

Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Vikram Randhawa, and Shri Satish Sharma, Members of Legislative Assembly; Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Shri Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Ms Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL; political leaders, senior officials of Police and civil administration and prominent citizens from all walks of life attended the commemoration event and paid their tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Kashmir would never...

Mookerjee with just 10 members, has now become the world's largest political party.

Shah stated, "He had resigned from Jawaharlal Nehru's Council of Ministers in protest against the policy of appeasement, after which he formed Bharatiya Jana Sangh, a party that was dedicated for India's soil, culture and interest. The party he started with 10 members has today become the world's largest political party with a membership of 12 crore people. On this occasion, I bow my head to pay tributes to Syama Prasad Mookerjee."

Syama Prasad Mookerjee was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the ideological parent organisation of the BJP.

Born on July 6, 1901, in Calcutta, was a multifaceted personality - patriot, educationist, parliamentarian, statesman, and humanitarian. He inherited a legacy of erudition and nationalism from his father, Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, an esteemed Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University and Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

Post-Independence, he joined the interim government under Jawaharlal Nehru as Minister for Industry and Supply, where he laid the foundation for India's industrial growth by establishing iconic institutions like the Chittaranjan Locomotive Factory, Sindri Fertilizer Corporation and the Hindustan.

However, ideological differences led to his resignation, after which he founded the All-India Bharatiya Jan Sangh (1951) to champion nationalist ideals.

According to the BJP's official website, on the issue of the Delhi pact with Likayat Ali Khan, Mookerjee resigned from the Cabinet on April 6, 1950. Later on October 21, 1951, Mookerjee founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in Delhi and became its first president.

Mookerjee went to visit Kashmir in 1953 and was arrested on May 11. He died under detention on June 23, 1953. (Agencies)

Will recommend...

location where this initiative can be launched at the earliest," he said

Further, the Union Minister Goyal said that representatives have discussed setting up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) focused on storage technology, cold chain infrastructure, and encouraging startups and new talent.

"The aim is to support those shifting from traditional trades to entrepreneurship, offering assistance through innovation and research. The Centre of Excellence would work on developing new products, technologies, and even new seed or fruit varieties. I will also engage with the Ministry of Agriculture to explore how they can contribute by enhancing productivity and

supporting these efforts," Goyal assured the traders of Jammu and Kashmir.

Goyal also assured that he will discuss with the NTPC and Solar Energy Corporation to establish a solar lighting or power generation facility in the area to help producers to export their products as a green product to get a greater prices.

Goyal also assured that he would hold discussions with Public Sector energy unit NTPC and the Solar Energy Corporation to explore setting up a solar lighting or power generation facility in the region. The initiative aims to support local producers in exporting their goods as green products, thereby enabling them to fetch better prices in international markets.

Separately, in an X post, Goyal added that a detailed discussion was held with the MSME Development Forum, Jammu-Kashmir, regarding various suggestions to promote local enterprises.

During this, measures to enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs, improve Ease of Doing Business, and connect them to the national supply chain were discussed, he added.

The Minister said he had also met with a delegation from the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry and discussed on empowering local industries, accelerating economic development, and creating a favourable environment for business.

Goyal also met with representatives of the Jammu-Kashmir Fruits and Vegetable Processing and Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) in Srinagar.

"During this, discussions were held on strategies to sustain industrial development in the cold chain and agro-processing sectors, which are extremely important for strengthening J&K's agricultural economy and boosting exports," Goyal's X post read. (Agencies)

Tricolour flying high...

organisation of the BJP.

Born on July 6, 1901, in Calcutta, was a multifaceted personality - patriot, educationist, parliamentarian, statesman, and humanitarian. He inherited a legacy of erudition and nationalism from his father, Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, an esteemed Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University and Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

In 1940, he became the acting President of the Hindu Mahasabha and declared complete independence for India as its political goal.

Mookerjee resigned from the Bengal Cabinet in November 1942, protesting against the Governor's interference in administration and criticising provincial autonomy as ineffective.

His humanitarian efforts during the Bengal famine of 1943, including relief initiatives, highlighted his commitment to serving society.

Post-Independence, he joined the interim government under Jawaharlal Nehru as Minister for Industry and Supply, where he laid the foundation for India's industrial growth by establishing iconic institutions like the Chittaranjan Locomotive Factory, Sindri Fertilizer Corporation and the Hindustan.

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Mookerjee went to visit Kashmir in 1953 and was arrested on May 11. He died under detention on June 23, 1953. (Agencies)

PM arrives in...

"Landed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where I will take part in the BRICS Summit and later go to their capital, Brasilia, for a state visit on the invitation of President Lula. Hoping for a productive round of meetings and

interactions during this visit," Modi said in a post on X.

"Committed to BRICS partnership! PM @narendramodi lands in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the 17th BRICS Summit," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in an X post.

The prime minister arrived here from Argentina, where he held wide-ranging talks with President Javier Milei and agreed to diversify two-way trade and ramp up cooperation in defence, critical minerals, pharmaceutical, energy and mining sectors.

During his visit, Modi will attend the BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro on July 6 and 7, followed by a state visit, for which he will travel to Brasilia. It will be the first bilateral visit to the country by an Indian prime minister in nearly six decades.

BRICS, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, has been expanded with five additional members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

In his departure statement, Modi said that as a founding member of BRICS, India is committed to the bloc as a vital platform for cooperation among emerging economies.

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

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

Modi visited Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Argentina as part of the five-nation visit. He will travel to Namibia on the last leg of his tour. (Agencies)

Chopper service remains...

(palki) and pony services to reach the Bhawan.

The chopper service will resume only after weather improves, he added.

He, however, said that the Shrine Board staff has also been deployed along the track to guide pilgrims and provide assistance in case of any urgent situation.

At present, 12,000 to 15,000 pilgrims are arriving daily at Katra base camp to reach the Bhawan and pay obeisance at the holy shrine. (Agencies)

Fresh batch of 7,200...

security arrangements between 3:35 a.m. and 4:15 a.m., the officials said.

This was the largest batch of pilgrims since Wednesday (July 2, 2025), when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the yatra from here.

With this, a total of 31,736 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley.

The first pilgrim convoy carrying 3,199 pilgrims in 147 vehicles left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district followed by second convoy of 4,009 pilgrims in 160 vehicles who are undertaking the yatra from the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, the officials said.

The pilgrims braved heavy rains which lashed wide parts of Jammu throughout the night.

So far, over 50,000 pilgrims have visited the 3,880 metre high cave shrine of Amarnath since the commencement of the yatra on July 3, the officials said.

The yatra goes on as usual, albeit in tighter security, despite the April 22 Pahalgam attack in which 26 men were gunned down.

The Bhagwati Nagar base camp has been put under a multi-tier security cover in the backdrop of the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead.

More than 3.5 lakh people have registered online for the pilgrimage so far. Thirty-four accommodation centres have been set up across Jammu, and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are being issued to the pilgrims. Twelve counters have been set up for an on-the-spot registration of pilgrims. (Agencies)

10th Muharram Processions held with profound religious significance in Budgam

HT NEWS SERVICE BUDGAM, JULY 6

The 10th Muharram (Ashoora) procession was today held in Budgam with deep religious reverence and solemnity.

The main Zuljana Sharief procession began from Bab-ul-Ilem Imambara in Mirgund early in the morning and culminated late in the evening at Daar-ul-Mustafa, Budgam.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, along with SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar, actively participated in the procession from Mirgund. They were also accompanied by Director Health Services Kashmir, ADC Budgam, CPO Budgam, CMO Budgam, and other concerned district officers.

As a mark of respect and solidarity, DC and SSP Budgam also carried the Alam and walked alongside the Taziyah procession. They personally



participated in serving water and refreshments to the mourners at various points, including the district administration's refreshment stall set up outside Behishte Zehra Park Budgam.

District administration had made elaborate arrangements for smooth observance of Ashoora processions across the district. Medical camps, water distribution stalls, sanitation services, and police deployments were ensured at all major locations.

DC, who was continuously monitoring and reviewing the arrangements on the ground, reiterated the importance of the day and said, "Remember the significance of 10th Muharram and the message it gives us - of sacrifice, patience and standing for truth."

He expressed gratitude to all departments, volunteers, and the local community for their coordination and support in maintaining the sanctity and smooth conduct of Ashoora across Budgam.

Treasury office Bandipora organizes orientation programme on SNA-SPARSH

HT NEWS SERVICE BANDIPORA, JULY 6

District Treasury Office Bandipora under the directions of Finance department conducted an orientation programme on the Single Nodal Account Samyochit Pronali Aakakrit Shigr Hastantaran (SNA-SPARSH), model for efficient management of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

The programme was attended by Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) associated with the District Treasury Bandipora and its subordinate Treasuries, aimed at familiarizing them with the SNA-SPARSH system for seamless financial operations.

The session began with a comprehensive introduction to the model by the District Treasury Officer



Bandipora, who highlighted the role of SNA-SPARSH in strengthening the financial governance at the grassroots level. A Power Point Presentation on SNA-SPARSH and a demo on bill generation on JKPaySys from DDO maker to checker login were presented by the experts of NIC Bandipora. The SNA-SPARSH model integrates critical financial platforms, including JKBEAMS, PFMS and eKuber of RBI, facilitating

real-time fund transfers directly from the central and state consolidated funds to the implementing agencies.

On the occasion, DTO Bandipora said that this reform is part of a broader financial transformation under the Finance department, complementing the systems like BEAMS, JKPaySys, Treasury Net and e-Kuber, aimed at ensuring timely, transparent and efficient release of funds to the beneficiaries.

Islamia College Organises Sabeel at Alamgari Bazar on Ashura

HT NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JULY 6

In a heartfelt gesture of community service and interfaith harmony, the NSS Unit I of Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar, set up a Sabeel (facilitation camp) at Alamgari Bazar Chowk on the eve of Youm-e-Ashura.

As part of its regular outreach initiatives, the camp served refreshments including fruit juices, water, lassi, tea, and coffee to the mourners participating in the Ashura procession. Additionally, a mobile charging station was established at the site to assist attendees during the religious gathering.

The initiative was conducted under the super-



vision of NSS Programme Officer and saw enthusiastic involvement from NSS volunteers along with the college's supporting staff.

Commending the initiative, Prof. (Dr.) Tehmina Yousuf, Principal of Islamia College, lauded the team for their thoughtful planning and dedicated service to the community. She appreciated the NSS Unit's role in fostering a spirit of unity, empathy, and volunteerism among students.

Speaking on the occasion,

NSS Programme Officer underscored the importance of such facilitation camps, describing them as integral to the institution's sustained commitment to social welfare. He noted that Islamia College has consistently led by example through similar community outreach drives.

As a follow-up, the NSS Unit also plans to undertake a cleanliness campaign in the area immediately after the culmination of the Ashura procession.

Satish Sharma advocates digital empowerment, youth led entrepreneurship at FTII Traders Conclave 2025

HT NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JULY 6

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Youth Services and Sports, and Information Technology, Satish Sharma, today underlined the importance of digitally empowering the local traders and integrating youth into entrepreneurial initiatives.

He was speaking at the FTII Traders Conclave 2025. The conclave organized by the Federation of Trade and Industry of India (FTII) at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, was held under the banner of "Vocal for Local", to promote indigenous trade and entrepreneurship.

The conclave was also attended by Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Poyush Goyal; Chairman National Traders Welfare Board, Sunil Singh; Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Ghulam Ali Khatana; Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh and other senior officers.

"The convergence of trade, digital technol-



ogy and youth innovation holds the key towards building a self-reliant and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir. Through our IT initiatives, we aim to simplify trade processes and ensure transparency in consumer services. At the same time, we are working to encourage our youth to become job creators instead of job seekers," Satish Sharma maintained.

He highlighted that the Department of FCS&CA is actively modernizing the public distribution and consumer grievance redressal mechanisms using IT tools. He added that improved digital infrastructure is also enabling the department to empower both consumers and traders alike.

Satish Sharma emphasized the critical need to create a youth-driven economic culture through

entrepreneurship cells, skill training under sports and youth welfare programs and digital skilling platforms. "We must tap into the potential of our youth to transform the border districts and trade hubs into innovation centres," the Minister added.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment towards safeguarding the consumer interests, streamlining digital services and expanding platforms for youth engagement in business and sports sectors. He also lauded FTII for hosting the conclave in Kashmir and fostering a platform for local voices to be heard nationally.

The program featured interactive sessions with policymakers, business leaders and youth entrepreneurs followed by networking and business linkage facilitation.

Chairperson DDC Kulgam visits Shahoo Sachan, participate in 10th Muharram Procession

HT NEWS SERVICE KULGAM, JULY 6

Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, M Afzal Parrey visited Shahoo Sachan Kulgam today and participated in the solemn procession marking the 10th Muharram, a significant day of remembrance for the Muslim community.

His presence highlighted the administration's dedication to fostering unity and supporting the community during this sacred occasion.

During the visit, DDC Chairperson interacted with local residents, religious leaders and participants of the Muharram procession, ensuring that all necessary arrangements were in place for a peaceful and dignified observance.

He directed the concerned departments to provide essential services, including security, healthcare and sanitation along the procession routes to



facilitate mourners.

On the occasion, DDC Chairperson also visited blood donation camp organised in collaboration with local health authorities and voluntary organizations. The camp, reflecting the spirit of sacrifice and compassion central to Muharram, witnessed active participation from the community. Chairperson praised the donors for their humanitarian ges-

ture, emphasizing that such efforts embody the essence of Muharram and strengthen communal harmony. He reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and mutual respect during the observance, and assured continued administrative support to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants in the Muharram processions across Kulgam district.

Muharram 2025: DC Bandipora participates in Mourning Procession at Sumbal

HT NEWS SERVICE BANDIPORA, JULY 6

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Sunday participated in the Muharram procession taken out by mourners from various villages at Sumbal sub-division of the district.

The procession was taken out to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (R.A). On the occasion, DC distributed refreshments and drinking water among mourners. People from all schools of thought joined the processions, offering refreshments and water to



the mourners, highlighting communal and sectarian harmony and brotherhood.

Pertinent to mention that the district administration ensured all necessary arrangements, enhancing the spirit of unity and peace, and ensuring the smooth conduct of the processions.

DC said that the district administration is working

closely with local communities to maintain peace and order and to ensure all the necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Muharram observance.

Among others, DC was accompanied by SDM Sumbal, ASP Bandipora, Tehsildar Sumbal, and other officers from the district and sub-divisional administration.

Satish Sharma attends Ashoora procession at Alamgari Bazar



HT NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JULY 6

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today attended the Ashoora procession at Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar, to pay homage to the martyrs of Karbala. He expressed solidarity with the Shia Muslim community on the solemn occasion of 10th Muharram.

Former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, Legislators Tanvir Sadiq, Mushtaq Guru and other prominent representatives of various religious organizations and community elders were also present.

The Minister joined thousands of mourners as they paid tribute to the supreme sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions, highlighting the universal message of justice, sacrifice and truth. He termed the day as a powerful reminder of standing firm against tyranny and upholding the values of righteousness.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said,

"Ashoora is not only a day of mourning but also of reflection, reminding us of the eternal message of Imam Hussain (AS) who stood against injustice and oppression. His legacy continues to inspire the generations across the world, cutting across religions and regions."

The Minister appreciated the coordination between the administration, local volunteers and religious leaders in ensuring smooth conduct of the event.

He further directed the officials of the concerned departments, including FCS&CA, Transport and Health, to ensure all necessary arrangements of essential supplies, mobility and emergency medical support throughout the Muharram period.

The Minister also emphasized the need for communal harmony and respect for all faiths, stating that unity in diversity remains the cornerstone of Jammu and Kashmir's pluralistic ethos.

Senior officers of the district administration were also present on the occasion.

DC Kulgam visits Shahoo Sachan, oversees arrangements



HT NEWS SERVICE KULGAM, JULY 6

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Shahoo Sachan to oversee the arrangements for the 10th

Muharram, today. During the visit, DC served water and refreshments to the mourners at various points. Among others, DC was accompanied by ACR, Tehsildar, besides other officers.

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FROM EDITORS DESK

Jehangir Bukhari

AASHOORA : A Spiritual Epic Which Continues to Stir Hearts Across The Globe

As the crescent of Muharram ushers in the Islamic New Year, the 10th day Aashoora casts a long and profound shadow upon the conscience of humanity. More than a historical milestone, Indeed Aashoora is a spiritual epic that continues to stir hearts across the globe. It is a day not merely marked on the calendar but etched into the soul of every believer who seeks truth, justice, and moral clarity.

On this solemn day, the world pauses to remember Imam Hussain ibn Ali (A.S.), the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who along with his family and companions, was martyred in the scorching sands of Karbala in 680 CE. Facing the might of a tyrannical empire, Imam Hussain chose death over disgrace, sacrifice over submission, truth over compromise. His stand was not for power or territory, but for principles for dignity, freedom, and the preservation of prophetic values.

The tragedy of Karbala is not confined to a particular sect or community. Its universal message echoes across religions and ideologies. It is a call against oppression, a beacon for those resisting injustice in any form. It tells us that silence in the face of tyranny is betrayal, and that even in the face of certain death, dignity must never be surrendered.

In the modern world, plagued by conflicts, moral confusion, and systemic injustices, the message of Aashoora remains painfully relevant. From Gaza to Kashmir, from oppressed minorities to silenced voices, the spirit of Karbala challenges us to stand with the oppressed, to speak truth to power, and to uphold integrity even in isolation.

But Aashoora is not only a political or historical event. It is a deeply personal and spiritual experience. For millions of Muslims, especially in the Shia tradition, it is a day of mourning, fasting, prayer, and self-purification. It is a day to reconnect with the essence of Islam—not through rituals alone, but through compassion, empathy, and moral courage.

As we mark this sacred day, let us not reduce it to mere symbolism. Let the tears we shed for Hussain inspire us to act with conscience. Let the lessons of Karbala shape our conduct, our societies, and our leadership. Let Aashoora be not only a remembrance of martyrdom, but a revival of commitment to justice, to humanity, and to the eternal struggle between truth and falsehood.

Imam Hussain's words at Karbala still echo today:

"I have not risen to spread evil or to show off. I have risen to seek reform in the nation of my grandfather."

May his sacrifice continue to awaken hearts. May we prove worthy of his legacy.

NEP 2020: Role of Teachers in Promotion of Socio-Emotional and Ethical Development among Students in Schools



IMRAN RAINA
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Teachers, as guides and mentors, not only impart knowledge but also instil values, resilience, and a sense of citizenship in students. By effectively implementing NEP 2020, teachers help shape responsible, skilled, and adaptable individuals, contributing to a more equitable and progressive society.

A teacher does not merely teach a subject; instead, they ignite curiosity and a love for learning. NEP 2020 encourages a shift away from rote memorisation, and it is teachers who bring about this change.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 places significant emphasis on the socio-emotional and ethical development of students, recognising these as essential components of holistic education alongside intellectual, physical, and aesthetic growth. The policy envisions nurturing not just academic proficiency but also emotional intelligence, ethical reasoning, and social awareness to prepare students for life and responsible citizenship.

Socio-emotional development, as outlined in NEP 2020, refers to the cultivation of emotional competence, self-awareness, empathy, relationship skills, and the ability to manage emotions and interact positively with others. Ethical development involves instilling values such as integrity, responsibility, justice, and respect for diversity, enabling students to make morally sound decisions and act with social responsibility.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a transformative shift in the educational landscape, aiming to foster holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary learning. At the heart of this ambitious reform are teachers, recognised as the principal agents of change who bridge policy and practice in the classroom.

NEP 2020 envisions teachers as the



cornerstone of educational reform in India. Their role extends beyond instruction—they are facilitators, innovators, and role models who will determine the policy's ultimate success. By embracing new pedagogies, integrating technology, and fostering holistic development, teachers will lead the way in transforming Indian education for future generations.

NEP 2020 moves away from rote learning, emphasising the integration of arts, sciences, and vocational subjects. Teachers are expected to design lessons that encourage critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving, nurturing students into well-rounded individuals. This includes developing socio-emotional skills, ethical reasoning, and communication abilities alongside academic content. The policy advocates for experiential, project-based, and inquiry-driven learning.

Teachers must create engaging, real-world learning experiences, making education relevant and practical. This shift requires teachers to move beyond traditional lectures and foster environments where students learn by doing, questioning, and collaborating.

Teachers foster socio-emotional

growth by developing trusting, supportive relationships with students. Active listening, empathy, and understanding are essential—acknowledging students' feelings, validating their experiences, and providing constructive feedback all contribute to a positive classroom climate. Teachers can weave socio-emotional learning into academic lessons through activities that foster self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills, and ethical decision-making. For example, group projects, role-playing scenarios, and discussions about emotions and values help students practice empathy and cooperation in real-life contexts.

Teachers should provide opportunities for students to talk about their feelings, frustrations, and successes. Activities like journaling, reflective exercises, and open discussions allow students to process emotions and develop coping strategies. Also, collaboration with parents and the wider community ensures consistent support for students' socio-emotional and ethical development. Regular communication and shared activities between school and home reinforce the values taught in the classroom.

By intentionally integrating these

strategies, teachers play a pivotal role in shaping students into emotionally intelligent, empathetic, and ethically responsible individuals prepared for the challenges of life beyond school.

Teachers who demonstrate empathy, self-awareness, and respectful communication serve as role models for students. By observing teachers' positive behaviours—such as managing emotions, resolving conflicts constructively, and showing respect for diverse perspectives—students learn to replicate these skills in their own interactions.

Furthermore, strong, positive relationships between teachers and students foster trust, safety, and mutual respect. These relationships encourage students to express themselves, take academic risks, and seek help when needed, all of which are essential for developing self-worth, resilience, and emotional regulation.

By intentionally integrating these strategies, teachers play a pivotal role in shaping students into emotionally intelligent, empathetic, and ethically responsible individuals prepared for the challenges of life beyond school.

(The writer is a teacher and hails from Kangan, Ganderbal.)

Artificial intelligence: Flight of innovation or tool for intellectual theft?

PRIYANKA SAURABH

One of the biggest technological leaps of the twenty-first century is generative artificial intelligence - a computer brain that can create everything from stories to news reports, pictures to poems, and court decisions to dialogues. But the question is whether the foundation of this machine creativity rests on someone else's hard work? Is this new technology silently making the material created by composers, writers, journalists, painters and musicians a part of its knowledge - without their permission, without giving them any credit?

Recently, two courts in the US decided on similar cases. These decisions have provided relief to tech companies for the time being, but the issue is still not completely settled. These decisions have sparked debate across the world - and India is no exception.

Generative artificial intelligence models - such as OpenAI's ChatGPT or Meta's Llama - are trained by studying billions of books, websites, songs, news stories, and images. They are trained in the same way as a student acquires knowledge by reading books, but this student neither takes permission from the author before reading that book, nor gives credit or remuneration to the author. This is where the controversy begins.

In 2024, the first case came in

the US in which some novelists accused the company 'Anthropic' of using their books to train its artificial intelligence model. The authors said that this was a violation of their intellectual property. But the court ruled that the new content this model is generating is different, new and changed from the original work. Therefore, it falls under the category of 'fair use' and the company cannot be considered a criminal.

In the second case, the company Meta was accused of using literary and journalistic material without permission. The court held that the company had indeed read the protected works, but its purpose was to learn and create something new, so Meta was acquitted, considering this also a 'transformative use'.

One message from both these decisions is that the courts are currently giving priority to technological innovation, but the question that is growing in the minds of the writers' community and intellectual workers is that if this is 'fair use', then what about their hard work, originality and rights?

Now let's turn our attention to India. In 2024, news agency ANI accused OpenAI of copying the language, style and content of their news stories through dialogue-based models (such as ChatGPT). Publishers' associations also alleged that these AI companies were commercially exploiting Indian content by ignoring copy-

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a medium of new creativity today, but it is a matter of debate whether this innovation is based on the theft of the hard work of the creators? In America, the courts considered the content 'learned' by AI as fair use, but the creators are dissatisfied. In India, news agency ANI has complained of copyright infringement against OpenAI. The existing laws in the country are inadequate for this technological challenge. India should update its intellectual property laws so that creative rights can also be protected along with technological development.



right registration in India.

OpenAI's argument was that it neither runs its servers nor has a permanent office in India. It argued that its technology creates something new, transformative and useful in the public interest - and this does not amount to intellectual theft.

The case is now pending in the Delhi High Court, and its hearing is scheduled in the first week of July. This makes it clear that in India this debate has now reached the judicial corridors.

The question is whether India's existing intellectual property law is ready for this new technological challenge? The Copyright Act,

enacted in 1957, has the concept of 'fair use', but it does not clearly define cases like artificial intelligence. Neither does India have a mechanism to check whether the materials an AI model is using for training are covered under copyright or not.

Today writers, poets, painters, musicians, photographers and journalists are realizing that their creative work is being fed into machines, and in return they are getting neither credit nor remuneration. This is not only a matter of legal but also moral concern.

The debate on this topic is not about stopping technology. Innovation and technological progress are

necessary, but that progress should not swallow human creativity. If a writer works for ten years to create a novel, and a machine copies the style in two seconds and creates a new 'product', it is neither fair nor respectable.

The responsibility of the courts is no longer limited to resolving disputes between companies and individuals, but they must also ensure that future technological development is equally beneficial to all. If someone's intellectual labour is being usurped for free on the basis of only capital and technology, then it is a violation of democratic and moral values.

India should re-draft its copyright laws - especially in the age of artificial intelligence. A system should be created in which creators should be paid, their names should be mentioned, and their permission should be mandatory if their works are being used by technology.

It is not just a matter of justice, it is a matter of protecting literature, culture and creativity. If we ignore the creators of our time, future generations will inherit technology - but no sensitivity, no soul.

Gave flight to machines, but snatched the sky from the pen, If knowledge is without credit, then what kind of science is it?

Priyanka Saurabh is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist

Your Dream Doesn't Have an Expiry Date



JASWINDER PAL SHARMA

In a world that often values immediate results and quick successes, it's easy to feel discouraged when our dreams seem distant or unattainable. However, one of the most empowering truths is that your dream doesn't have an expiry date.* No matter how long it takes or how many setbacks you face, your aspirations are valid and waiting for you to pursue them at your own pace.

The Timeless Nature of Dreams

Dreams are deeply personal and often rooted in our passions, values, and desires. Unlike perishable goods, dreams are timeless. They don't come with a "use by" date. Whether you're 20, 40, or 60, it's never too late to chase what truly ignites your soul. Many successful people achieved their dreams later in life, proving that age and timing are just numbers.

Overcoming the "Too Late" Mindset

A common barrier to pursuing dreams is the belief that it's "too late" or "I missed my chance." This mindset can paralyze action and foster regret. Remember, every moment is an opportunity to start anew. If you've ever felt that you've missed your window, remind yourself that every day is a fresh chance to move closer to your goals.

Embracing Patience and Persistence

Some dreams require time, effort, and perseverance. The path to fulfillment isn't always linear; setbacks and failures are part of the journey. Embracing patience and persistence is crucial. Celebrate small victories along the way and recognize that progress, no matter how slow, is still progress.

Reinventing and Evolving Your Dreams

As you grow and change, so might your dreams. It's okay if your goals evolve over time. Your aspirations are not static; they can adapt with your experiences and insights. This flexibility allows you to pursue passions that resonate more deeply as you gain clarity and wisdom.

Practical Steps to Keep Your Dreams Alive

1. Revisit Your Dreams Regularly: Reflect on what truly matters to you and whether your current pursuits align with your passions.
2. Set Small, Achievable Goals: Break down your big dreams into manageable steps to maintain motivation.
3. Surround Yourself with Support: Connect with people who inspire and encourage your journey.
4. Learn Continuously: Acquire new skills or knowledge that bring you closer to your goals.
5. Be Patient and Compassionate: Recognize that progress takes time, and setbacks are part of growth.

Final Thought

Your dreams are a vital part of your identity and happiness. They are not bound by time or circumstances. No matter where you are in life, remember: your dream doesn't have an expiry date. It's always worth pursuing, and with dedication and belief in yourself, you can turn your aspirations into reality—whenever the time feels right.

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Multilingualism in classrooms will increase learning outcomes



VIJAY GARG

Over 30% of children enrolled in primary schools in India face a moderate to severe learning disadvantage because they are taught through a language they do not speak or understand when they first join school. These include children belonging to Adivasi communities in remote habitations; children in inter-state border areas; children of migrant labours, including seasonal migrants; children who speak languages that are considered 'dialects' of the standard language used at school but are different (for example Bagheli, Wagdi, Bundeli-speaking children who study through Hindi), and of course, those children who study in English-medium schools without an environment of support for the language at home.

Learning in schools happens using language, whether it is children talking, listening, thinking, collaborating with other children, reading, or writing. Research shows that learning through a familiar language that children understand well promotes self-esteem and confidence that is so crucial for early learning, supports the learning of additional languages, makes classrooms more active and learner-centered, results in better comprehension and learning in all subjects, and promotes creativity, expression, higher order thinking, and reasoning.

Sense of familiarity
The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) 2023 emphasise the use of children's first language or the most familiar language in the initial learning phase. Students can be exposed to second and third language sequentially over time. The NEP also promotes natural exposure to multiple languages for children from an early age since children can acquire oral languages easily.

The NEP and NCF also laud the virtues of multilingualism and its use in the classroom. However, these policy formulations are not easy to implement, given the complex language situations in India. Also, there is little reliable data available about languages that children understand and speak when they first join school at age 5 or 6. Speech patterns change over short distances and it is sometimes difficult to assign a specific language label to the languages spoken by children as a few local/regional languages may influence them. There could also be multiple home languages spoken by children even in one classroom. To complicate things further, it is estimated that about 15% of primary school teachers do not understand or speak the language that is most familiar to children in their schools.

Since all languages spoken by children cannot be made Mediums of Instruction (MoI), it is important to ensure that when a child is studying a language that she does not understand or speak well when she joins the school, her strong or familiar language is given space in formal teaching, at least while speaking. A lot of conversation, higher-order thinking tasks, and expressions by children can initially be in the children's strong language, slowly shifting to a higher usage of the language used as MoI, while never removing the children's familiar language

from the classroom.

One of the strategies that work best in the initial years of schooling in situations where children are emerging bilinguals, gradually learning a less familiar language, is for the teacher and children to use a mix of languages that are most suited to the language repertoire of children at any point in time. This will help children comprehend better, express themselves freely, and promote their emotional adjustment which is crucial for better learning. Such an approach to teaching requires the creation of a strong multilingual awareness in the education ecosystem that promotes the simultaneous development of two or more languages.

Learning three languages

While societal multilingualism is the norm in India where most people use two or more languages (or in a mixed form) in everyday life, our schools often do not reflect this multilingual reality in the teaching and learning process. The NEP 2020 specifies that children should learn three languages with reasonable proficiency, at least two of which should be native Indian languages. A multilingual society requires an inclusive approach to teaching and learning. A multilingual approach will also ensure that children develop strong language and literacy skills in English which is a strong aspiration. Some of the core principles of a multilingual approach to education include:

1. Extensive use of the children's most familiar language formally for teaching and learning.
2. New or unfamiliar languages are taught with the support of the mother language.
3. A multilingual classroom reflects tolerance and mutual respect for all children's languages and cultures.
4. A multilingual approach to teaching and learning should be used across the curriculum for all subjects.
5. A multilingual and multicultural approach aims to bring children's local contexts and experiences into the classroom.

Strong oral expressions with logical thinking and reasoning, fluent reading with deep inferential comprehension, and an ability to express oneself in writing are skills at the core of success for our youth in this century. This will require an overhaul of language teaching practices in our country and the centerpiece of this reform has to be a multilingual approach to education.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

[04/07, 6:47 pm] VIJAY GARG Retd Principal: How the Brain Filters Distractions to Stay Focused on a Goal

Vijay Garg

A new attention model reveals how the human brain allocates limited perceptual resources to focus on goal-relevant information in dynamic environments. Researchers developed "adaptive computation," a system that prioritizes important visual details—like traffic signals over flashy cars—based on task relevance.

In experiments tracking multiple moving objects, the model successfully predicted where attention would be directed and how difficult people found the task. These findings shed light on why distractions often fade from awareness when we're focused, and how our brains optimize attention in real time.

Key Facts:

Adaptive Computation: The brain prioritizes perceptual effort based on goals, filtering out distractions.

Dynamic Attention: Attention shifts rapidly and flexibly in response to changing visual demands.

Human-Like AI: The model may help build AI systems that ignore irrelevant stimuli like humans do.

A person's capacity for attention has a profound impact on what they see, dictating which details they glean from the world around them. As they walk down a busy street, the focus of their attention may shift to a compelling new billboard advertisement, or a shiny Lamborghini parked on the curb.

Attention, however, can be fleeting. When that person reaches a busy intersection, for instance, details of the billboard or sports car disappear. The person's attention instead becomes focused on approaching or stationary traffic, the flashing walk sign, and other pedestrians they'll need to avoid in the crosswalk.

This shows a person on a busy street.

The model also helps make sense of what's sometimes considered a "human quirk": the ability to make perceptions of non-task-oriented objects—such as the billboard or the sports car—disappear while crossing the busy street. Credit: Neuroscience News

Most research on attention has concentrated on what happens when we notice the new billboard or shiny car.

But in a new study, Yale psychologists instead focus on what happens when our attention shifts to a specific goal, such as navigating the busy intersection.

Writing in the journal *Psychological Review*, the researchers unveil a human attention model that explains how the mind evaluates what is task-relevant in complex, dynamic scenarios—and apporitions computational capacity in response.

"We have a limited number of resources with which we can see the world," said Ilker Yildirim, assistant professor of psychology in Yale's Faculty of Arts and Sciences and senior author of the study.

"We think of these resources as elementary computational processes; each perception we experience, such as the position of an object or how fast it's moving, is a result of exerting some number of these elementary perceptual computations."

For the study, the researchers developed a system which they call "adaptive computation," which is essentially a software program that rations these elementary computations in order to more deeply process goal-relevant objects. For example, when a person crosses a busy street, adaptive computation would prioritize the pedestrian walk sign over the shiny car.

"Our model reveals a mechanism by which human attention identifies what things in a dynamic scene are relevant to the goal at hand, and then rations perceptual computations accordingly," said Mario Belledonne, a graduate student in Yale's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and co-author of the study.

In one experiment, they presented volunteer participants with eight identically colored circles on a computer screen. The researchers then highlighted a group of four circles and asked the participants to track the highlighted circles as all eight circles moved randomly across the screen. Such tracking of multiple objects at the same time elicits a complex, dynamic ebb and flow of attention among the participants. Researchers measured these shifts of attention, at sub-second thresholds, by asking subjects to hit the space bar whenever they noticed a flashing dot appear very briefly on a specific object.

The frequency with which these flashing dots were noticed indicates where and when people are attending, and the adaptive computation model successfully predicted these momentary, fine-grained

patterns of attentional deployment.

In another experiment, participants again were asked to track four objects, but in this case the researchers varied how many identically colored "distractor" objects were on the screen and how fast the objects were moving. When the objects stopped moving, researchers asked participants to rate how difficult it was to track them.

The researchers showed that the adaptive computation model also explains these subjective difficulty ratings: The more computational resources the model exerted for tracking, the more difficult it was rated by participants. In this way, the researchers' model provided a computational signature of the feeling of exertion that occurs when a person focuses attention on the same task for a prolonged period.

"We want to work out the computational logic of the human mind, by creating new algorithms of perception and attention, and comparing the performance of these algorithms to that of humans,"

The model also helps make sense of what's sometimes considered a "human quirk": the ability to make perceptions of non-task-oriented objects—such as the billboard or the sports car—disappear while crossing the busy street.

"We think this line of work can lead to systems that are a bit different from today's AI, something more human-like," Yildirim said. "This would be an AI system that when tasked with a goal might miss things, even shiny things, so as to flexibly and safely interact with the world."

The research team also included Brian Scholl, a professor of psychology at FAS, and Eivinas Butkus, of Columbia University, a former member of Yildirim's lab.

Original Research: Closed access.

"Adaptive computation as a new mechanism of dynamic human attention" by Ilker Yildirim et al. *Psychological Review*

Abstract

Adaptive computation as a new mechanism of dynamic human attention

A key role for attention is to continually focus visual processing to satisfy our goals. How does this work in computational terms?

Here we introduce adaptive computation—a new computational mechanism of human attention that bridges the momentary application of perceptual computations with their impact on decision outcomes. Adaptive computation is a dynamic algorithm that rations perceptual computations across objects on-the-fly, enabled by a novel and general formulation of task relevance. We evaluate adaptive computation in a case study of multiple object tracking (MOT)—a paradigmatic example of selection as a dynamic process, where observers track a set of target objects moving amid visually identical distractors.

Adaptive computation explains the attentional dynamics of object selection with unprecedented depth.

It not only recapitulates several classic features of MOT (e.g., trial-level tracking accuracy and localization error of targets), but also captures properties that have not previously been measured or modeled—including both the subsecond patterns of attentional deployment between objects, and the resulting sense of subjective effort. Critically, this approach captures such data within a framework that is in-principle domain-general, and, unlike past models, without using any MOT-specific heuristic components.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

Aviation Safety: A Question of Technology, Responsibility, and National Prestige

MUNISH BHATIA

The recent crash of an Air India Boeing aircraft has shaken the entire nation. The grief of the families who lost their loved ones is unimaginable. However, this tragedy is not limited to personal suffering; it raises serious concerns about India's global reputation, the credibility of civil aviation, and the standards of travel safety. This incident is possibly the first of its kind, involving a rare and severe technical failure. Though final conclusions will emerge only after

a detailed investigation and black box analysis, the preliminary questions are already alarming.

If the investigation reveals lapses in safety checks or that equipment was not reviewed periodically, the matter becomes even more troubling. In today's aviation business, competition is so fierce that airlines are racing to reduce "turnaround time"—the time between a plane's landing and its next take-off—to maximize revenue. However, in this race, critical aspects such as technical inspections, maintenance, and staff fatigue are often

overlooked, which can have fatal consequences. While it is true that more flights mean more profit, compromising safety in pursuit of profits is not only irresponsible but amounts to criminal negligence. Every flight carries with it the responsibility of hundreds of lives, a responsibility that cannot be taken lightly.

Questions are also being raised about the age of the aircraft involved. If the aircraft was old and still being used for regular flights, this is a serious concern. Regardless of where a plane is built, even in the most technologi-

cally advanced countries, regular maintenance, timely upgrades of parts, and rigorous airworthiness testing are essential. An aging aircraft, if not properly maintained, turns into a "flying risk." Therefore, it is imperative that the Ministry of Civil Aviation develops an independent, transparent, and accountable system to make the status of older aircraft, their airworthiness reports, and flight permissions public. If an aircraft is outdated and repeatedly shows technical faults, it must be retired from service.

When a passenger mis-

behaves on a flight, causes a scene under the influence of alcohol, or harasses crew members, they are added to the "No-Fly List." This is a sensible provision—necessary to ensure the safety of all passengers. But the question arises: when an airline itself violates safety standards or provides poor services, why is similar strict action not taken? Are such airlines penalized heavily? Are their operations temporarily suspended? Are they held accountable to passengers?

Air travel is no longer a luxury—it has become a

necessity in modern life. In a vast country like India, where swift connectivity between major cities and remote regions is crucial, air services have become an essential part of the infrastructure. Hence, their safety must be prioritized just as much as railways or national highways. It is crucial that the Central Government, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the DGCA together develop a comprehensive, accountable, and forward-looking policy that not only tightens technical standards but also places passenger safety at

the center. Currently, in an effort to reduce turnaround time, aircraft are prepared for their next flight almost immediately after landing. This process is considered safe only if no obvious technical fault is present. However, recent incidents suggest that even subtle technical defects can cause major accidents. Therefore, it is necessary to mandate a brief but thorough technical check before every flight—even if the aircraft landed just two hours earlier. This inspection must cover engine condition, sensor data, landing

gear functionality, and flight control systems.

Pilots and crew members are human—not machines. Excessive workload, irregular duty schedules, lack of sleep, and personal mental stress can all impair their performance. Hence, a pre-flight wellness check system must be made mandatory, which evaluates not only physical health but also mental well-being. Regular psychological fitness tests for pilots should be implemented to ensure they are not under stress or susceptible to lapses in concentration during flights.

Iran's supreme leader Khamenei makes first public appearance since Israel war

AGENCIES

TEHRAN [IRAN], JULY 6

Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, made a rare public appearance after several weeks, attending a religious gathering in Tehran on Saturday, CNN reported, citing the Iranian state media outlet Press TV.

This marks his first public sighting since the country was embroiled in a 12-day conflict with Israel, which began on June 13, when Israel unilaterally bombed Iranian military and nuclear sites. The US later joined in, bombing three key Iranian nuclear sites before US President Donald Trump declared a ceasefire on June 24.

According to state media, Khamenei waved to a crowd of worshippers during a ceremony marking the eve of Ashura, a significant day in the Shia Muslim calendar.



emony marking the eve of Ashura, a significant day in the Shia Muslim calendar.

Ashura commemorates the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali, the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, and is a day of mourning for Shia Muslims. The crowd greeted Khamenei with cheers and chants.

Khamenei, the longest-serving leader in the Middle East, reportedly spent the 12-day conflict with Israel and the US hiding in a bunker with little access to outside communications. During the conflict, both Israeli politicians and Trump openly discussed

overthrowing Khamenei's government and deposing him by force, as per CNN.

After reportedly rejecting an Israeli plan to kill Khamenei, Trump stated in late June that the cleric was an "easy target." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not rule out targeting Khamenei either, saying that his death would "not ... escalate the conflict" but rather "end" it.

According to CNN, in a recorded statement posted from an undisclosed location days after the ceasefire began, Khamenei was defiant, declaring victory over both Israel and the US. Khamenei took time to respond directly to Trump, who had called for Iran's "unconditional surrender" shortly before ordering US airstrikes.

Immortal son of nation: PM Modi pays tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee

AGENCIES

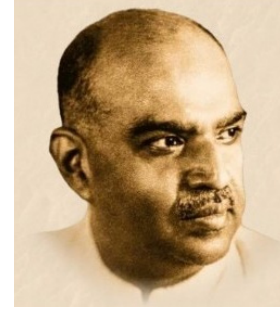
NEW DELHI, JULY 6

On the birth anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an emotional tribute to the iconic nationalist leader, calling him the "immortal son of the nation" and praising his lifelong dedication to India's unity, pride, and development.

Taking to social media platform X, PM Modi wrote, "A heartfelt tribute to the immortal son of the nation, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, on his birth anniversary. He sacrificed his life to protect the honour, dignity, and pride of the country. His ideals and principles are invaluable in the construction of a developed and self-reliant India."

The Prime Minister shared a video clip of Dr Mookerjee reflecting on his life, values, and vision for India.

"Bengal's son, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, used to say that any nation can only be secure through its own energy. He had immense faith in the nation's resources and the capable people of this country," PM Modi said.



"After Independence, his vision helped lift the country from despair and disappointment. As the first Minister for Industry and Supply, he drafted India's first industrial policy. He believed that if the government, educational institutions, and industrial organizations worked together, India would soon achieve economic independence," he added.

The Prime Minister also highlighted Dr Mookerjee's progressive outlook, adding, "The work and thoughts he contributed towards women's empowerment, education, and shaping India's nuclear policy were far ahead of their time. I pay my deepest respects to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and bow to his memory."

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also honoured the legacy of Dr Mookerjee, recalling his powerful message against the dual governance of Jammu and Kashmir.

"In one country, two constitutions, two leaders, two flags will not do... This was the life-long pledge of the great man Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who tirelessly dedicated himself to an undivided India," said CM Yogi posted on X.

He further added, "Humble tributes to the revered Dr. Mookerjee ji, the founding president of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, a fervent nationalist thinker, and an immortal martyr of Kashmir's integration. Your life is an unceasing beacon of national unity, education, and national duty, which will continue to guide India's generations."

Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha, also paid tribute, saying, "Remembering the illustrious son of Maa Bharati, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Ji on his Janm Jayanti. A visionary leader & great educationist, he sacrificed his life for a united & modern India. His unparalleled contribution to nation-building continues to inspire generations."

Dr Mookerjee, the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the ideological precursor to today's Bharatiya Janata Party, is remembered as a staunch nationalist, an educationist, and a political visionary.

Hamas naval commander killed in Israeli airstrike

AGENCIES

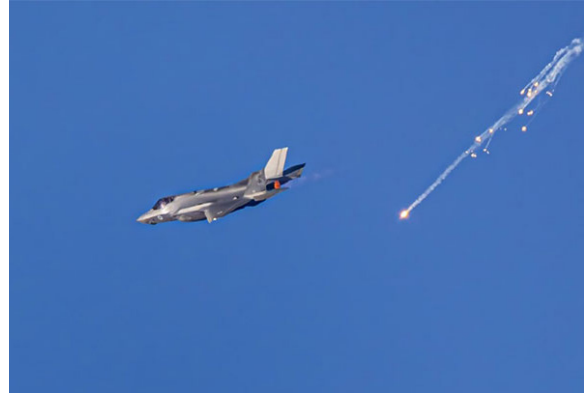
TEL AVIV [ISRAEL], JULY 6

Israeli soldiers eliminated Ramzi Ramadan Abd Ali Saleh, commander of Hamas' Naval Force in the northern Gaza Strip, who was killed in an airstrike in Gaza City, the Israel Defence Forces said on Sunday.

"Saleh was a significant source of knowledge in the Hamas terrorist organisation, and in recent weeks was involved in planning and advancing maritime terrorist attacks against IDF troops operating in the Gaza Strip."

Also killed with Saleh were Hisham Ayman Atiya Mansour, Deputy Head of Hamas' mortar shell array cell, and Nissim Muhammad Suleiman Abu Sabha, who operated within Hamas' mortar shell array.

The IDF stressed that steps were taken ahead of the strike to mitigate the risk to civilians, including aerial surveillance, precise munitions and other measures.



The army's announcement came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prepared to depart for Washington, where he is scheduled to meet US President Donald Trump on Monday.

Media reports indicate the ceasefire will last 60 days and include the phased release of 10 living hostages and 18 bodies. In exchange, Israel will release an unspecified number of Palestinian security prisoners. The deal includes mechanisms for humanitarian aid and a gradual redeployment of Israeli forces in the Strip.

Hamas is expected to provide information on the remaining hostages, and Israel will disclose data on Palestinians detained or killed since October 7. The US, Egypt, and Qatar will act as guarantors.

Netanyahu's July 7 trip will be his third meeting with Trump since the US President returned to office in January. The Prime Minister will also meet with Vice President

JD Vance, Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Marco Rubio, Secretary of Defence Pete Hasegawa, Congressional leaders, and other senior Trump administration officials.

Trump has intensified his push for a Gaza deal. However, talks remain stalled, with Hamas demanding a permanent end to the war and Israel insisting on a temporary truce that preserves its right to resume fighting.

Netanyahu's discussions are also expected to focus on the next steps with Iran, thawing Israeli-Syrian relations, and finalising elements of a US-Israel trade agreement.

At least 1,180 people were killed, and 252 Israelis and foreigners were taken hostage in Hamas's attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border on October 7. Of the 50 remaining hostages, around 30 are believed to be dead.

Dalai Lama, more than spiritual leader, says Union Minister Kiren Rijiju

AGENCIES

DHARAMSALA, JULY 6

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Sunday attended the 90th birthday celebrations of the 14th Dalai Lama at Tsuglagkhang, the main Tibetan temple here where the spiritual leader has been residing since 1960.

Speaking at the celebrations amidst the presence of his Cabinet colleague Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Hollywood actor Richard Gere, Union Minister Rijiju said, "Your holiness, you are more than a spiritual leader. You are a living bridge between ancient wisdom and the modern world."

He noted, "For over seven decades, you have carried the light of the Buddha's teachings with humility and clarity, guiding not only followers of Tibetan Buddhism but also people of all faiths and backgrounds."

"In a world at strife with conflict, your message embodied in how you continue to lead your life assumes even greater and more urgent significance. It is a matter of pride and honour for India and Indians to have you in our midst," he noted.



Rijiju reached McLeodganj on Saturday to attend the long-life prayer offering on the birthday eve. He travelled by overnight train from Delhi to Pathankot in Punjab and further travelled by road.

Ahead of reaching McLeodganj, Union Minister Rijiju clarified that the position of the Dalai Lama is of utmost importance, not just for Tibetans but for all his followers across the world.

"The right to decide on his successor rests solely with the Dalai Lama himself," he had said.

Offering greetings to the spiritual leader, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu in his speech said His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has devoted his life to compassion, peace, and the wellbeing of all sentient beings, his journey "is an inspiration to humanity".

"Through every trial, His Holiness remained a steady voice of wisdom, teaching us that true strength lies in forgiveness, and real change begins with the human heart. His message transcends borders and beliefs, calling us all to live with more kindness and courage," he wrote on X.

"On this most auspicious occasion, we offer our collective prayers for your long life and continued guidance. May your words keep lighting the path for generations yet to come, and may your presence remain a refuge for all sentient beings," the CM further said.

Saying the Dalai Lama belongs to the universe, Hollywood actor Richard Gere said, "Your Holiness, on behalf of all of us as Westerners, there was something very sweet I saw at the religious conference, the confirmation that His Holiness agreed to continue the institution of the Dalai Lama. But, many of the Lamas who spoke out -- they were openly declaring -- the Dalai Lama doesn't belong to Tibet anymore; he belongs to the world... He belongs to the universe."

A day earlier, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Khandu participated in special prayers seeking a long life for the Buddhist monk. In September last year, Chief Minister Khandu had an audience with the Tibetan spiritual leader and invited him to visit the northeastern state. He had also announced the gifting of a 'Phodrang' (meaning palace in the Dzongkha language) that was used as the Dalai Lama's temporary residence in Tawang, a revered seat of Buddhism in Arunachal Pradesh, after he fled from Tibet following the Chinese invasion in 1959, to the Dalai Lama Trust.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama is expected to visit Arunachal Pradesh in the near future, marking a significant moment for the people of the state who share a deep reverence for his spiritual leadership.

UN Chief Guterres reiterates call for "immediate and unconditional" ceasefire in Ukraine after Russian drone attack

AGENCIES

NEW YORK [US], JULY 6

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday condemned the latest large-scale Russian drone and missile attacks on Ukraine, reiterating his call for an "immediate and unconditional" ceasefire as a critical step towards achieving a "just, comprehensive & sustainable peace" in the region.

As per Al Jazeera, citing Ukrainian authorities, Moscow launched over 500 drones and 11 missiles at Kyiv overnight into Friday (local time), resulting in the death of one person, injuries to at least 23 others, and widespread damage to buildings across the capital.

Air raid sirens, the buzz of kamikaze drones, and loud explosions echoed through the city until sunrise.

In a post on X, the UN Chief stated that the attacks, which disrupted the power supply to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, under-



scored the ongoing risks to nuclear safety, prompting the urgency of halting hostilities in line with the UN Charter, international law, and relevant UN resolutions.

"I strongly condemn the latest series of large-scale drone & missile attacks on Ukraine by Russia. The power supply to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant was disrupted - once again underlining the ongoing risks to nuclear safety. I reiterate my call for a full, immediate & unconditional ceasefire in Ukraine as a first step towards a just, comprehensive & sustainable peace, in line with the UN Charter, international law &

relevant UN resolutions," Guterres stated.

Following the attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the day as a "rocky start" but noted significant defensive successes.

"It was a rocky start to the day, with more than 500 Russian attack drones and missiles. Difficult, but a significant number were shot down. Interceptor drones demonstrated important performance today, and we are scaling this up to the hilt," Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

Zelenskyy also announced a landmark development in Ukraine's defence strategy in the

same post, as Kyiv made an agreement with Denmark on weapons productions.

"Today marks an important decision in Europe -- in Denmark -- our first agreement on weapons production for Ukraine in Europe. Coproduction between Ukraine and Denmark. This is paramount both in terms of security and investment," he added.

The deal will allow Ukrainian companies to begin joint weapons production on Danish territory, as reported by New York Post.

This is the first instance of Ukraine establishing military manufacturing operations abroad, as the country seeks to counter intensifying Russian attacks during the conflict.

As per the New York Post, citing Ukraine's Strategic Industries Minister Herman Smetanin, Denmark is contributing USD 5 million to the initiative, which is designed to support Ukrainian defence startups.

Govt says there's no directive to block Reuters X handle in India

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JULY 6

The Government of India has clarified that it has not issued any order to withhold the X account of the international news agency Reuters in the country.

"There is no requirement from the Government of India to withhold Reuters handle. We are continuously working with X to resolve the problem," an official spokesperson said in a statement.

This clarification comes after Reuters' X account was found to be withheld

in India, prompting concerns over press freedom and censorship. Users attempting to access the handle were shown a notice stating that the account had been withheld "in response to a legal demand".

Reuters confirmed the development earlier, saying it was seeking more information on why its handle was blocked in India.

According to officials familiar with the matter, the only request for blocking Reuters' X account was issued on May 7,

during Operation Sindoor launched against Pakistan following the massacre of 26 Indian tourists in Pahalgam in an Islamabad-sponsored terrorist attack. This was a part of a national security exercise.

However, although several hundred accounts were blocked due to national security reasons, no action was implemented to block the Reuters handle on X despite the government order, the official said.

It appears that X, owned by Elon Musk, may have mistakenly enforced the

outdated order. "The issue is not relevant anymore. The government has reached out to X, asking them to explain the blocking and to lift the embargo," a senior official said.

Reuters has not issued any public statement on the issue.

Despite the block on Reuters' main and Reuters World handles, several affiliated accounts, including Reuters Tech News, Reuters Fact Check, Reuters Asia, and Reuters China, remain accessible within India.

Sitharaman holds talks with Russian, Brazilian and Chinese counterparts at BRICS meet in Rio

AGENCIES RIO DE JANEIRO [BRAZIL], JULY 6

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held separate bilateral meetings with her counterparts from Russia, Brazil and China during the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

In her meeting with Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov, Sitharaman reaffirmed the "long-standing" partnership between India and Russia. She also thanked Russian President Vladimir Putin for his unwavering support after the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.

Sitharaman said that both countries enjoy "exemplary levels of mutual trust and understanding," and underlined the strength of the "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership". The two ministers discussed bilateral



financial cooperation, developments at the New Development Bank (NDB), and new initiatives under the BRICS framework.

She also congratulated Russia for successfully chairing BRICS in 2024 and said that India remains committed to boosting South-South cooperation through the platform.

"The two sides also discussed issues of bilateral cooperation, including cooperation in the financial sector, along with matters related to NDB," the Ministry of Finance said in a post on X.

Sitharaman also met Brazilian Finance Minister Fernando Haddad.

During the meeting, both sides shared views on raising the voice of the Global South, climate finance before COP30 and working together at global platforms such as the UN, G20, WTO, BRICS and IBSA.

"The two leaders discussed issues of mutual interest, including South-South cooperation, amplifying the voice of the Global South, COP30 and climate finance issues, and engagement in regional and global forums such as the United Nations, G20, BRICS, WTO and IBSA," the Finance Ministry said in its post said.

She praised Brazil's leadership of BRICS, especially its efforts to build a "multipolar world order" and expand the grouping.

She said India would support Brazil's priorities and would focus on practical cooperation when it takes over the BRICS Chairship in January 2026. Sitharaman also spoke about the strategic importance of India-Brazil ties and their growing collaboration in different sectors.

"India and Brazil, as strategic partners, share warm and cordial ties spanning across multiple sectors, and are cooperating closely in multiple sectors to further strengthen the strategic partnership," the Finance Ministry quoting Sitharaman said.

Earlier, Sitharaman met China's Finance Minister Lan Fo'an. She recalled meeting him earlier in Samarkand during the AIB Annual Meetings in September 2024.

Sitharaman said that India and China are among the "world's largest and

fastest-growing economies" and can play a major role in pushing "inclusive" global growth and innovation. She referred to their civilisational ties and growing economic power and said both countries must work more closely to represent the Global South and help shape global debates.

"Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted that India and China can strengthen collaboration across a wide range of areas due to the common rich human capital, deep civilizational ties, and expanding economic influence," the Finance Ministry said in its X post, adding, "The Union Finance Minister suggested that deeper engagement between the two countries can help to amplify the voice of developing economies, and shape global narratives that reflect the priorities and aspirations of the Global South."

He's one of the best batters in the world: Justin Greaves hails Steve Smith for his fifty in Grenada test

AGENCIES NEW DELHI [INDIA], JULY 6

Already 1-0 ahead in the series, Australia's advantage in the West Indies Test series was furthered when they extended their lead to 254 runs on Day Three of the St George's Test.

On a surface of variable bounce, Steve Smith stood class apart, hitting an excellent 71 off 119 balls.

"He's one of the best batters in the world for a reason, but we always knew that he was going to come, and he was always going to be positive," West Indies all-rounder Justin Greaves said, as quoted from ICC.

"We didn't start our best at him, but Steve is Steve, he just at a really good innings."

Giving good support to Smith was Australia's number three, Cameron Green, who overcame indifferent recent form (48 runs from five innings) to score a fighting 52.

"I don't think I ever felt comfortable out there. I think last night was tricky with the new ball, and had to start all over again, and then there were a few ball changes. I never really felt at any point that it



was that good," Cameron Green said.

Green, however, lauded Smith, with whom he shared a 93-run partnership.

"You'd probably ask a different question to Steve, he was batting on a different wicket," he added.

When questioned about how West Indies would approach the Test, Justin Greaves stated that despite the Green-Smith vigil, the hosts remained positive.

"For us try and keep Australia under 300 (on Day 4), that is one of our main goals," Justin Greaves said.

On their batting approach for the chase, Greaves hoped that the West Indies batters could follow a methodology sim-

ilar to Australia's middle-order batters.

"As a batting group we need to be positive when we go out to bat. Probably take some notes from Travis Head, Beau Webster or Alex Carey on just having that positive mindset," he added.

Half-centuries from Alex Carey and Beau Webster helped Australia reach 286 in their first innings. Jayden Seales, Shamar Joseph and Justin Greaves took two wickets apiece.

West Indies was bowled out for 253 and conceded a lead of 33 runs. Brendon King scored 75 runs.

For Australia, Nathan Lyon was the pick of the bowlers and took three wickets. Captain Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood took two wickets each.

Industry-government collaboration key to solving rare minerals dependencies: CII President

AGENCIES NEW DELHI [INDIA], JULY 6

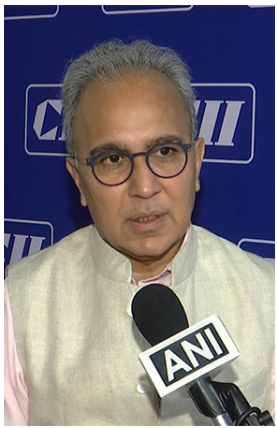
Collaboration between industry and government which proved successful in semiconductors, will be the key to addressing rare minerals dependencies according to president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) who pointed out that there is no short-term fix for the possible shortage of rare-earth minerals.

"It's a long-term solution," acknowledged the CII President Rajiv Memani emphasizing on the need for a comprehensive, product-led strategy.

"What are the minerals that are required for that? What is the technology that's required for that? What is the policy support or financial support that that industry or sector needs?" he outlined, calling for urgent action despite the long-term nature of solutions.

Rare earth elements (REEs) are crucial in modern technological products such as smartphones, electric cars, and advanced military equipment. Countries with rich REEs deposits have become pivotal players in the industry and essential elements of international supply chains.

The president of industry body specifically highlighted the automotive sector's vulnerability to rare



minerals shortages. "When I talk to automobile companies, they say this will really make a difference," he noted, emphasizing the sector's concern about supply chain disruptions. The CII chief outlined a strategic approach for India: "India will have to identify where there are major risks in their supply chains. If it's minerals, then they need to create a minerals strategy - either how to produce them here or where to import them from, and what support the private sector needs from the government."

Memani acknowledged the complexity of establishing domestic production capabilities, citing cost disadvantages compared to established global players. "Many things are not viable in themselves because of the cost of production - many countries have built such scale that their cost of production is

quite low, and they have done such backend integration of their mineral resources that replicating it immediately is very difficult."

He emphasized that government support would be essential, whether through policy measures or other assistance to the private sector.

The CII President highlighted additional challenges posed by regulatory frameworks, particularly for radioactive minerals. "Many minerals are radioactive, and the Department of Atomic Energy is also involved. So often, after talking with them, a big urgent strategy should be made about which countries to partner with," he explained.

Drawing parallels with international experiences, Memani cited Japan's decade-long efforts in this sector. "If you look at Japan, they have been working on this for so many years. The value addition they have achieved so far is only around 40 per cent, and they have been at it for 10 years," he said, illustrating the time-intensive nature of building rare minerals capabilities.

Memani drew extensive comparisons with India's semiconductor mission, positioning it as proof of the country's capability to tackle complex techno-

logical challenges. "When the semiconductor problem came, the government worked on it. They brought out a semiconductor policy, then made some amendments, and then launched the PLI scheme with an allocation of Rs 75,000 crore for four companies," he explained, highlighting the systematic approach that delivered results.

The CII President expressed strong confidence in the semiconductor sector's trajectory: "I think that gradually, as the semiconductor industry develops in India, this entire ecosystem will develop in seven to eight years."

This success story, according to Memani, demonstrates India's proven methodology for addressing strategic vulnerabilities through comprehensive policy frameworks and substantial financial commitments.

Memani emphasized that once the ecosystem develops, it becomes a significant competitive strength for the country. "It is an evolving technology. Things keep on changing, but once the ecosystem develops, then it becomes a very strong, competitive strength that a country has when they have their own semiconductor ecosystem," he noted.

Kidambi Srikanth semi-final loss end India's campaign at Canada Open 2025

AGENCIES ONTARIO [CANADA], JULY 6

India's campaign at the BWF Super 300 tournament ended as Kidambi Srikanth, the former world No. 1, lost to Kenta Nishimoto in the semi-finals of the men's singles event at the Canada Open 2025 badminton tournament in Ontario on Sunday, Olympics.com reported.

Kidambi Srikanth, 49th in the men's singles badminton rankings, won the first game but squandered the lead to lose 19-21, 21-14, 21-18 to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, the world No. 12 and third seed, in an hour and 18 minutes, according to Olympics.com.

The Indian badminton player, who defeated Chou Tien-Chen of Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals, also had a strong start against Kenta Nishimoto. Kidambi Srikanth overcame a trail of 18-16 to win the first match.

According to the Olympics.com report, Srikanth maintained his momentum and quickly jumped out to a 9-4 lead in the second game after Kenta Nishimoto tied the score at 14-all. At that moment, the Japanese increased their speed and won the following seven points in a row to tie the score.

Paris Saint-Germain, Real Madrid march into semi-finals of FIFA Club World Cup 2025

AGENCIES NEW JERSEY [US], JULY 6

Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Real Madrid won their respective games in the quarterfinals of the ongoing FIFA Club World Cup and cruised to the semi-finals of the competition.

PSG outclassed the German champions Bayern Munich 2-0, whereas Real Madrid edged past Borussia Dortmund 3-2 in the game on Saturday.

For Paris Saint-Germain, Desire Doue and Ousmane Dembele scored the goals for their side in the 78th and in the stoppage time (90+6) minutes, respectively.

During this game, two PSG players got a red card. In the 82nd minute, Wilian Pacho was shown the red card and the other one was given to Lucas Hernandez during the stop-



page time (90+2).

In the other quarter-final clash between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund, a total of five goals were scored, three by Madrid and two by Dortmund.

The three goal scorers for Los Blancos were Gonzalo Garcia (who scored goals in the 10th & 20th

minute of the game. The third goal for the Whites was scored by Kylian Mbappe in the stoppage time (90+4).

For Dortmund, both goals were scored in the stoppage time. Maximilian Beier scored the goal in 90+2 minutes, and striker Serhou scored the goal in the 90+8 minutes through a penalty.

Madrid received one red card in this game, which came during the stoppage time (90+6). The player who got the red card was Dean Huijsen.

The first semifinal of the FIFA Club World Cup will be played between Fluminense and Chelsea on July 9, and the other semi-final of the tournament will be played between Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid on July 10. Both games will be played at 12:30 am IST.

Dominant Sakshi opens India's gold medal account at World Boxing Cup in Astana

AGENCIES ASTANA [KAZAKHSTAN], JULY 6

Two-time youth world champion Sakshi bagged India's first gold medal at the World Boxing Cup - Astana, Kazakhstan 2025 with a dominant performance in the women's 54kg final here on Sunday.

The 24-year-old was at her attacking best against USA's Yosline Perez to get a unanimous verdict from the judges, as per a press release from the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

The Indian contingent has had a fruitful outing at



the World Boxing Cup here and is assured of a total of 11 medals. India had bagged six medals in the first leg in Brazil, including a gold and a silver.

There were four Indian boxers in action in the first session on Sunday, and it was Sakshi who managed to stand atop the podium

with a stellar display that combined speed and combination punches.

Earlier, Meenakshi pushed hard for victory against local favourite Nazym Kyzaibay in the 48kg final but ended on the wrong side of a 3:2 verdict.

Jugnoo (men's 85kg) and

Pooja Rani (women's 80kg) will also return home with silver medals after losing their respective finals.

Jugnoo lost 0:5 against Bekzad Nurdauletov of Kazakhstan, while Pooja went down by an identical score line against Australia's Eseta Flint.

Four more Indians will be vying for gold medals in the evening session with Brazil leg gold medallist Hitesh Gulia (men's 70kg) leading the charge along with Abhinash Jamwal (men's 65kg), Jaismine (women's 57kg) and Nupur (women's 85+ kg).

Young Flintoff registers first Youth ODI century against India

AGENCIES WORCESTER [UK], JULY 6

Batting at No. 4 in the fourth Youth ODI against India at the County Ground in Worcester, 17-year-old Rocky Flintoff walked in during the 15th over with England at 104/2. Openers BJ Dawkins (67) and Joseph Moores (52) had given the hosts a strong start while chasing a big target of 364, as per Wisden.

Flintoff began cautiously and took his time to settle in. His first boundary came only on his 20th ball, a straight six off spinner Naman Pushpak. The momentum picked up in the 25th over when he smashed three consecutive



fours off Deepesh Devedran. From 13 off 20 balls, he accelerated smartly and reached his fifty in 41 deliveries.

He was particularly dominant against Pushpak,

scoring 36 runs off him, including two sixes and two fours. Flintoff brought up his maiden Youth ODI hundred in the 43rd over, reaching the milestone in 88 balls with a two through the off side. He was eventually dismissed for 107 as the ninth wicket.

This was Flintoff's second century for England U19, his first came in a Youth Test against Sri Lanka last July, where he scored 106. Earlier this year, at just 16, he became the youngest player to score a hundred for England A or Lions, with a remarkable century from No. 9 against Australia A. He also became Lancashire's youngest debu-

tant in the County Championship last August.

Despite Flintoff's heroics, England fell short. Earlier in the day, 14-year-old IPL sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi smashed the fastest century in Youth ODI history, and Vihaan Malhotra added 129 at over a run-a-ball to power India to 363/9.

Apart from Flintoff and the two openers, no other England batter made more than 20. When Flintoff was dismissed, England still needed 80 from 40 balls with just one wicket left. They were eventually bowled out for 308, giving India a 55-run win and a 3-1 lead in the five-match series.

India break Birmingham jinx to level series 1-1

HT NEWS DESK
LONDON, JULY 7

Akash Deep's career-best performance powered India to a series-levelling win at Edgbaston, Birmingham. The pacer finished with 6 for 99 in the second innings - his best innings figures - and also bagged his best match figures of 10 for 187, playing a pivotal role in India's com-

manding 336-run victory in the second Test (their biggest in terms of runs in an away Test). Despite a rain delay at the start of Day 5 and a fighting 88 from Jamie Smith, England could only offer brief resistance as Akash ran through the England line-up to register the best match figures for an Indian bowler in England. With the win, their first in nine attempts at this

venue, India also became the first Asian team to register a Test victory at Edgbaston. After the rain interruption pushed back the start of play by 100 minutes, Prasidh Krishna and Akash started the proceedings, with the latter bowling from the opposite end from which he bagged two wickets on Day 4. However, Akash found early success from this end



to, getting a tentative Ollie Pope to push forward and play one onto the stumps. Prasidh kept it tight from the other end, unlike the first innings, while Akash kept posing questions on the off-stump and outside. But then there was one that jagged in sharply to Harry Brook, trapping him in front. Akash and Prasidh continued until the drinks break but Ben Stokes

and Smith kept the pacers at bay while also finding the boundaries. Mohammed Siraj was the first bowling change while Ravindra Jadeja came from the other end and troubled Stokes by targeting the rough outside off. The England captain nearly gloved one to leg-slip but managed to score off Siraj as the sixth wicket stand reached fifty.

With about five minutes left for the break, Washington was introduced and bowled in tandem with Jadeja. The offspinner thought he had Stokes caught down the leg-side but Shubman Gill was averse to a review. But Washington struck soon after, getting Stokes out LBW on the brink of Lunch, with a review failing to help the left-hander.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra - 2025

Traffic Advisory

The yatris, travelling to seek blessings of Shri Amarnath Ji, in their own/rented cars/buses or any other mode, are requested to travel in the main Yatra convoy only, starting from Bhagwati Nagar Jammu daily; in the interest of smooth and secure conduct of Shri Amarnath ji Yatra 2025.

@informationprjk Information & PR, J&K @dlprjk @dlpr_jk

Space Devoted in Public Interest by HEADLINES TODAY

TRAFFIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS, J&K, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

- From 05-07-2025, 1700 hrs. to 06-07-2025, 1600 hrs., there was slow movement observed on NH-44 due to breakdown of 03 HMVs, single lane traffic at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishtwari Pather.
- Commuters belonging to Reasi, Katra, Udhampur, Patnitop, Doda and Ramban town are requested to keep their photo ID card to prove their identification after cut off timing from Jammu/Udhampur so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.
- Passengers/LMVs operators are advised to undertake journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW during day time due to apprehension of shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal.
- Goods carrier (HVM/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable/live stock are advised to load their vehicle as per advisory issued by Traffic Police Headquarters time to time as there is single lane traffic and poor condition of road at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishtwari Pather on Jammu Srinagar NHW.
- Fruit growers/ Load carrier (HVM/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable from Valley towards Jammu are advised to load and park their vehicle timely (every morning before 9.00 am at designated place between NAVYUG Tunnel and Levdoora) so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.
- HVMs Operators/Owners are requested to desist from overloading and carry sufficient fuel during journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW. It is further requested that vehicle owners must double check the fitness of their vehicles and carry sufficient fuel before undertaking journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW.
- HVMs with only 06 and 10 tyres shall be allowed to ply through Dhar road.
- Commuters are advised to avoid unnecessary halts between Ramban and Banihal especially near landslide/shooting stone area.

TRAFFIC PLAN & ADVISORY FOR 07-07-2025:-

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions SANJY Convoy/LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa. However, HMVs shall be allowed on alternate days. TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing this traffic.

SHRI AMAR NATH JI YATRA 2025

Please refer to Yatra Advisory No. 01 dated 27-06-2025

CUT OFF TIMINGS FOR LMVs/PASSENGER/PRIVATE CARS:-

To be released from:-

- Nagrota (Jammu) towards Srinagar: from 0600 hrs. to 1200 hrs.
- Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar: from 0700 hrs to 1300 hrs &
- Qazigund towards Jammu: from 1130 hrs to 1400 hrs.

TCU Jammu and TCU Srinagar will inform all concerned about the traffic advisory and cut off timings. No vehicle shall be allowed to move before and after cut off timings.

HMVs/Load Carriers:-

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions, HMVs shall be allowed from NAVYUG Tunnel (Qazigund side) towards Jammu after assessing the road and traffic situation on NH-44 and no HMV shall be allowed after 1900 hrs. TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the HMVs.

Moreover, in view of ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, to provide hassle free movement of trucks carrying fresh/perishable goods on NH-44. UT administration has decided, all tankers of Petrol, Diesel, LPG bulk gas, all trucks carrying empty LPG cylinders; all empty vehicles of FC; any other vehicle loaded/empty upto 10-tyres shall use only Mughal Road while returning to Jammu, as per advisory issued by DIVCOM Kashmir vide No. Divcom/Dev/120/2025/7055-75 dated 01-07-2025

Kishtwar- Sinthan- Anantnag NH-244:-

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from NHDCCL, LMVs/HPSVs shall be allowed from both sides viz from Anantnag towards Kishtwar and vice-versa on Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road. These vehicles shall be allowed from PP Parana towards Anantnag from 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs and from PP Daksum towards Kishtwar from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. No HMV other than designated HPSVs shall be allowed as per order issued by SDM Chhatroo vide No. SDM/C/2025-26/146-53 dated 16-05-2025 and SDM Kokernag vide No. SDM/KNG/665-71 dated 16-05-2025.

SSG ROAD

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, (after getting green signal from the BRO) traffic movement shall be allowed on regulated manner on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari road. LMVs followed by HMVs shall be allowed from Minamarg towards Srinagar at 0500 hrs. to 1000 hrs. Similarly, LMVs followed by HMVs shall be allowed from Sonamarg towards Kargil at 1130 hrs to 1730 hrs. No vehicle shall be allowed after cut off timing.

SFs Convoy, plying from Srinagar to Kargil and vice versa shall plan their movement in such a manner so that Yatra convoys (both UP and DOWN) don't get disturbed.

Mughal Road:-

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from Road maintenance agencies (GREF). LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Mughal road viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa via Poonch. However, HMVs (upto ten tyres only) shall be allowed from Shopian towards Poonch. These vehicles shall be allowed from Behramgala (Baffliaz) and Herpora (Shopian) at 0700 hrs. upto 1800 hrs. as per advisory issued by DIVCOM Kashmir vide No. Divcom/Dev/120/2025/7055-75 dated 01-07-2025.

ADVISORY :-

People are advised to undertake journey only after confirming status of the road from Traffic control units as under:-

- Jammu (0191-2459048, 0191-2740550, 9419147732, 103)
- Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 1800180791, 103)
- Ramban (9419993745, 1800-180-7043)
- Udhampur (8491928625)
- PCR Kishtwar (9906154100)
- PCR Kargil (9541902330, 9541902331)

DIK/K-3352/25
Date: 6-7-25

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FOR ENQUIRY/ASSISTANCE /COMPLAINTS

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94191 47732

HELP LINE

103

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