

Domestic tourist visits to J-K during Jan-June 2025 stood at over 95 lakh: Govt data

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

The figures for domestic tourist visits (DTVs) to Jammu and Kashmir during January-June this year stood at more than 95 lakh, according to data shared by the government.

Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat shared the data in a written response to a query on whether the Centre is aware of the decline in tourism footfall and business losses in Jammu and Kashmir during the peak tourist season following the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam. AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi also asked if any assessment was made by the government on its economic impact on local tourism-dependent



stakeholders. "No such assessment has been made by the Ministry of Tourism on economic impact on local tourism-dependent stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir," Shekhawat said. In his response, he shared year-wise tabulated data for domestic tourist visits (DTVs) and foreign tourist visits (FTVs) from 2020 to 2025. This data is provided by the state tourism department. Based on the

latest information received from the Jammu and Kashmir tourism department, the number of DTVs and FTVs stood at 95,92,664 and 19,570 respectively for the period January-June of 2025. DTVs for preceding four years were - 2,35,24,629 (for year 2024); 2,06,79,336 (2023); 1,84,99,332 (2022); 1,13,14,920 (2021) and 25,19,524 (2020). FTVs for preceding four years were - 65,452 (for year 2024); 55,337 (2023); 19,985 (2022); 1,650 (2021) and 5,317 (2020), and for January-June period of 2025 it stood at 19,570. Shekhawat said the Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps or initiatives to promote tourism sector in the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

"After Operation Sindoor, PM Modi's Operation Mahadev to deliver a decisive blow to Pak sponsored terrorism: Chugh Hats off to security forces for gunning down Pahalgam sponsors

GY CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 28
BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh today hailed prime minister Narendra Modi's new initiative, Operation Mahadev to pin down the Pakistan sponsored terrorists. Chugh saluted the Indian Army, CRPF, and J&K Police for the success of Operation Mahadev near Mahadev Peak in Srinagar which resulted in the elimination of three foreign terrorists, reportedly including the mastermind behind the Pahalgam attack. Chugh emphasized that this is not a one-off action but part of the Modi Government's decisive anti-terror doctrine - in



which Pakistan ISI has been a key factor. He went on to highlight Operation Sindoor, which delivered precision strikes on nine terror launchpads deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir. These camps

belonged to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen. Over 100 terrorists were neutralized, proving India's strategic superiority. Speaking on the ongoing

discussion over Operation Sindoor in Parliament and controversial remarks made by opposition leaders Chugh said "Instead of backing our forces, senior Congress leaders like P. Chidambaram and Gaurav Gogoi started raising doubts about the Pahalgam attack. They questioned whether the terrorists were even from Pakistan, casually calling them 'homegrown' and demanding proof, as if the Army, intelligence agencies, and the victims' families needed a certificate from Congress." Tarun Chugh hit out at these remarks, saying Congress leaders today sound less like the

opposition and more like spokesmen and blue-eyed boys of the Pakistani Army. Chugh said the era of impunity in Jammu & Kashmir is over. He reaffirmed that the government will continue dismantling separatist and terror networks with full force. He saluted the valor of Indian security forces and reiterated that protecting sacred spaces like Shri Harmadri, Shri Sahib, Vaishno Devi, and the Amarnath Yatra remains the Modi Government's top priority. Operation Mahadev is a clear message to any terror sponsor. "We don't negotiate. We neutralize."

Poonch Brigade Commemorates Kargil Vijay Diwas 2025 with

Inauguration of Park Memorial and Souvenir Shop at Ajote, Poonch

GY CORRESPONDENT

POONCH, JULY 28

On the solemn occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas 2025, the Poonch Brigade, under the aegis of Operation Sadbhawna organised a series of commemorative events in Ajote village Poonch to honour the supreme sacrifice of local hero Havaldar Abdul Majid Kirti Chakra (Posthumous) and to celebrate the unyielding spirit of the people of the border region. To mark this occasion a Park Memorial dedicated to Hav Abdul Majid was inaugurated by Major General Kaushik Mukherjee SM General Officer Commanding, Ao of Spades Division (HQ 25 Infantry Division). A memorial stone was also unveiled in the park commemorating the valour and heroism of the gallant soldier from Ajote who laid down his life in the line of duty. The park stands as a lasting symbol of courage sacrifice and collective memory. Speaking on the



occasion GOC Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherjee said "The sacrifice of Havaldar Abdul Majid KC (Posthumous) embodies the highest traditions of the Indian Army and the unwavering commitment of the people of Poonch to the nation. This park is not just a tribute to his bravery but also a space for the community to gather, reflect and take pride in their heritage. It reaffirms our promise to honour our martyrs and empower

communities through meaningful initiatives under Operation Sadbhawna. In a significant step to promote local identity and strengthen the civil-military bond the Nishaan-e-Poonch Souvenir Shop was also inaugurated. This initiative aims to showcase local handicrafts, encourage entrepreneurship, and preserve the cultural essence of the region. As part of youth engagement

efforts a Drawing Competition was conducted for students of nearby schools. Children enthusiastically expressed themes of bravery patriotism and peace through their artwork filling the atmosphere with creative energy and youthful enthusiasm. The event was graced by the presence of Vikas Kundra (IAS) Deputy Commissioner Poonch and the Senior Superintendent of Police along with other civil dignitaries and a large number of local residents. Their participation reflected the strong synergy between the civil administration and the Indian Army working together for the development and welfare of the region. These initiatives once again reaffirm the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to honouring its bravehearts fostering peace and promoting the welfare of remote communities through Operation Sadbhawna

A ceremonial public reception and felicitation ceremony was organized to honor BJP State Secretary Pawan Sharma

GY CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 28

A grand public reception was organised today at Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar, Jammu, to felicitate Pawan Sharma, former ABVP State Organising Secretary. The event was hosted by ex-activists of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and witnessed enthusiastic participation from all across Jammu and Kashmir. The programme was presided over by Shri Ashwani Padha, former State President of ABVP, Jammu and Kashmir. The atmosphere was emotionally charged as many speakers fondly recalled their experiences and the valuable time spent under the leadership and guidance of Pawan Sharma. Pawan Sharma, a distinguished former student leader, has dedicated over 25 years to the empowerment of the student community. He



successfully led various student movements and agitations, becoming a symbol of dynamic leadership. Under his mentorship, a strong cadre of youth leaders emerged, many of whom are now contributing to different sectors of society and actively participating in nation-building. Prominent among those present at the event were: Ishwar Sharad and Dr. Rakesh Sharma both former State Presidents of

ABVP, J&K. Ajeet Katerwal, Maan Singh, and Parveen Singh Mian - all former State Vice Presidents. Raghuvar Kesar and Shri Deepak Gupta, both former State Secretaries of ABVP, J&K. Prominent among those who shared their views include Anchal Singh, Paawan Vivek, Raghuvar Kesar, Navneet Sudhan, Maan Singh, Lokendra Singh, Vikas Sanyal, Naresh Raina, Vipin Sharma and Gurdev

Sharma. The gathering expressed immense pride and extended their heartfelt wishes to Pawan Sharma on his recent appointment as State Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu and Kashmir. The event concluded with a strong message of unity, gratitude, and commitment to continue contributing to society under his leadership. The whole program was conducted by Akshay Bharti.

Sikh United Front condemns denial of entry to Sikh girl to Rajasthan exam center for wearing Sikh Kakaar Kirpan and Kara.

GY CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 28

An Emergency meeting of Sikh United Front and various Sikh organizations held under the Chairmanship of S. Suresh Singh Wazir Chairman Sikh United Front J&K in which he condemns denial of entry to Amritdhari Sikh girl Gurpreet Kour candidate who was allegedly stopped from appearing in the Rajasthan High Court (Jodhpur) Civil Judge recruitment exam in Jaipur because she was wearing Sikh kakaar kirpan and kara. While reacting to the incident Wazir said that this is a big violation of country's constitution and an act of religious discrimination against the Sikhs.

Mr Wazir said the entire world knows that Amritdhari Sikhs wear a kirpan as a mandatory article of faith, yet they were being repeatedly targeted in India for their distinct identity and beliefs. Expressing grave concern over growing incidents of disrespect and discrimination against the sacred symbols of Sikh religion, he said the incident was a gross violation of her constitutional rights under Article 25 of the Constitution, which guarantees Fundamental Right to Freedom of Religion. Article 25 of the Constitution specifically mentions Kirpan among other symbols of Sikh religion, which are exempt from any bar even in flights. He said if a Sikh lawyer or judge can perform duties in court

with religious symbols, why can not a Sikh student appear in an exam? He further said that for some time now, Sikh candidates are being targeted in all over the country and also such incidents often come to light in Jammu & Kashmir also where Amritdhari Sikhs are asked to remove the religious symbol Kakaar and if they protest, they are not allowed to enter competitive examinations. He termed this phenomenon as a big discrimination against Sikhs in his own country. He said that despite everyone knowing that the Kirpan is part of the five pillars of Sikhism and that it represents Sikh identity and fundamental rights, it is highly condemnable to target Sikhs with hatred. Mr Wazir warned that if such challenges to Sikh

identity and beliefs continue, the consequences will be more serious in the future and demanded the Union Government and the Chief Minister of the Rajasthan Government to intervene immediately in this matter and said that they should take strict action against the guilty officials who prevented the Gurpreet Kour candidate from appearing in the exam. He demanded that the student be given another opportunity to appear for the exam. The other Sikh organisations and leaders who participated in the meeting are S. Darinder Singh President Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Mohinder Singh Chieff Organizer Bhat Kanhiya Nishkam Sewa Society and Ex member DGP, S. Rajinder Singh Gen Sect

Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Smt. Kuldeep Kour, President Istri Akali Dal J&K, Kulwant Singh Khajuria Joint Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Charan Singh Bali, Convenor, Kashmir Province Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Harpreet Singh Chhotu President Youth Akali Dal J&K, Dheeraaj Singh, S. Surjeet Singh, S. Kulkoo Ex-President Sikh Nauwara Sabha, S. Manmohan Singh Chairman Gurdwara Singh Sabha Gole Gujral Jammu, S. Jagmohan Singh, President Gurdwara Sahib-14 Nanak Nagar Jammu, S. Surinder Singh Dutt General Secretary Gurdwara Mata Gujral Kaur Trikuta Nagar Jammu, S. Kulwant Singh, S. Kulkarni Singh, S. Paramjit Singh, S. Tejpal Singh, S. Charanveer Singh (Laad).

BJP Holds Massive Public Meeting in Bharda Kalan Panchayat

Senior Leaders Sham Lal Sharma, Mohan Lal, and Others Address the Gathering

GY CORRESPONDENT

AKHNOOR, JULY 28

A large-scale public meeting was organised in Bharda Kalan Panchayat under the leadership of Sarpanch Jagdish Sharma, showcasing unity and strength among BJP workers and local representatives of the Akhnoor Assembly constituency.

Prominent BJP leaders including Jammu North MLA and former minister Shri Sham Lal Sharma, Akhnoor MLA Mohan Lal, District BJP President Kuldeep Banotra, Akhnoor Mandal President Depesh Singh, and Jourian Mandal President Neeraj Sharma graced the event and addressed the enthusiastic gathering. Speaking on the occasion, MA Mohan Lal reiterated his



commitment to development and welfare of the region. He interacted with the public and assured timely redressal of their concerns. Former Minister Sham Lal Sharma emphasized the significance of grassroots workers in strengthening the organisation and called for continued public

outreach to spread the party's vision. Jagdish Raj Sharma, while welcoming the guests, highlighted the development initiatives undertaken at the Panchayat level and expressed gratitude towards the party leadership and the people for their support. Also present at the event were DDC Member

Bhushan Baral, Devinder Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Manga Ram Sharma, Shamsher Singh, Rampal Sharma, Sai Das Sharma, Satpal Sharma, Dimple Sharma, Jagdish Raj, Tulsiadas, Kevla Takaiya, Ramesh Kumar, Rajveer Singh, Former JMC Jourian President Sham Chaudhary, Madan Lal, and Rakesh Malhotra, among others.

Dogra Sadar Sabha J&K organized a felicitation function

GY CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 28

Dogra Sadar Sabha J&K (Regd.) organized a felicitation function today on 28th July 2025 in the premises of Oriental Academy, Jammu, to recognize the active participation of the school's students in the annual campaign "Aao Pakshion Ko Pani Pilaen" held every year on 5th May. The Executive Representatives of DSS-JS, Gambhir Dev Singh (Vice President), Jb. Amanat Ali Shah (Joint Secretary), Dr. Arvind Singh Annn (Additional General Secretary), and Vidya Sagar Sharma-were present as special invitees along with Sh. Vivek Chouhan, Principal of

Oriental Academy. While interacting with the students, Sh. Gambhir Dev Singh Charak appreciated their enthusiastic participation, particularly commending Ms. Jivika Gupta, a student of Class 8th, for presenting a poem on "Aao Pakshion Ko Pani Pilaen."

He expressed hope that students would go beyond mere participation and cultivate a regular habit of caring for birds by providing water and other essentials, especially during summer and throughout the year. He also lauded the positive approach of Sh. Vivek Chouhan, Principal of Oriental Academy, for supporting DSS activities and providing his best efforts towards campaigns



like "Save Birds, Save Water." Dr. Arvinder Singh Annn, in his address, conveyed gratitude on behalf of Sh. Gulchain Singh Charak, President of Dogra Sadar Sabha, and applauded the talented students of Oriental Academy for their consistent participation in preserving and promoting regional art and culture.

He encouraged the students to strive for academic excellence at the global level while staying rooted in their mother tongue and cultural heritage to preserve their ethnic identity. Principal Vivek Chouhan, in his remarks, expressed heartfelt thanks to Sh. Gulchain Singh Charak for his selfless service to humanity, transcending barriers of caste,

creed, or religion through the platform of Dogra Sadar Sabha. He assured continued support for future initiatives of the Sabha. Jb. Amanat Ali Shah, Joint Secretary, DSS, also addressed the gathering and blessed the students, urging them to become responsible citizens and serve the nation and the world with passion

and integrity.

The event proceedings were conducted by Ms. Neelam Gupta, a senior faculty member of the Academy, in a befitting manner.

The vote of thanks was presented by Ms. Seerat Abrol (Class 8th), while the welcome address was delivered by Anshika Singh (Class 8th). Ms. Jivika Gupta and Aastha Lone also shared their thoughts on pollution, environmental issues, and the "Save Birds, Save Water" campaign. A memento was presented by DSS executive members to Principal Vivek Chouhan as a token of appreciation for the students' participation and the Academy's continued support.