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PMAY-G Awaas...

by the Centre, as the earlier deadline of March 31, 2025, was first pushed to April 30, and now to May 15.

The move aims to ensure comprehensive coverage, particularly in remote and snowbound regions where survey completion has been challenging.

An official communiqué from the Union Ministry stated that the decision was taken after multiple states and Union Territories sought additional time to identify all eligible rural households.

The extension will allow better verification of self-reported cases and ensure no deserving beneficiary is left out.

As of April 30, 2025, a total of 4,74,076 potential beneficiaries have been surveyed across the Jammu and Kashmir. Rajouri district leads with 55,489 surveys followed by Poonch (52,568) and Kupwara (41,629), reflecting significant progress in identifying eligible households under the PMAY-G scheme.

IAS, IFS officers...

Corporation Limited vice Pankaj Magotra, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department. Rahul Yadav, IAS (AGMUT:2014) shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Managing Director, J&K Power Corporation Limited relieving Ch. Mohd. Yasin, IAS (AGMUT:2015) of the additional charge.

"Sandeep Kumar, IFS (AGMUT:2011), I/c Conservator of Forests, TT) Chenab Circle has been transferred and posted as Secretary in Agriculture Production Department. He shall also hold the additional charge of Mission Director, IADDP in addition to his own duties," it stated.

Govt announces caste...

the Constitution, the Census is a Union subject.

Vaishnav said some states have conducted surveys to enumerate castes.

Some states have done this well, while some others have conducted such surveys purely from a political angle in a non-transparent way. Such surveys have created doubts in the society, he said.

"Considering all these facts and to ensure that the social fabric is not disturbed by politics, caste enumeration should be transparently included in the Census instead of surveys," he said, adding that this will strengthen the social and economic structure of our society while the nation continues to progress.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs has decided today (30th April 2025) that caste enumeration should be included in the forthcoming Census," the minister said.

"This demonstrates that our government is committed to the values and interests of our society and country, like in the past when our government had introduced 10 per cent reservation for the economically weaker sections of the society without causing stress in any section of the society," Vaishnav said at the briefing.

PM to inaugurate...

games, VFX, comics, music yo immersive exhibits and masterclasses.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav will also address the inaugural session of the summit, which is expected to witness participation from top actors such as Rajinikanth, Mohanlal, Hema Malini, and Chiranjeevi, among others.

The summit will open with a stirring invocation by M M Keeravaani and a 30-member orchestra and "Sutradhar Reinvited" which is billed as a sensory-rich journey into India's cinematic and storytelling DNA narrated by Sharad Kelkar.

The prime minister will also unveil the Bharat Pavilion, a vibrant tribute to the India's profound legacy of storytelling, based on the theme "Kala to Code".

The Pavilion will have four immersive zones that will take visitors through the continuum of India's storytelling traditions and a deep dive into the media and entertainment growth story.

The summit will feature theme-based plenaries and discussions aimed at shaping the future of the audio-visual industry in India and beyond.

The cultural evening on the opening day will feature a classical ensemble led by legends like Vishiwa Mohan Bhatt, Yella Venkateswara Rao, and Ronu Majumdar, performances by the Tetsuo Sisters, JHAALA, Shreya Ghoshal, KING x Alan Walker, and a cinematic act by Anupam Kher.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is expected to chair the Global Media Dialogue which will see participation from ministers, leaders of the media industry and policymakers from across the world.

The first WAVES Awards to winners of 32 challenges announced in the run-up to the summit will also be given away at the event organised at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai.

Mumbai is expected to be the permanent venue of the WAVES summit, billed as the biggest gathering of the media and entertainment industry, similar to what World Economic Forum meeting at Davos is for the business and economy sectors, officials said.

Day one will open with a high-profile panel discussion titled 'Legends and Legacies: The Stories That Shaped India's Soul', featuring Hema Malini, Mithun Chakraborty, Rajinikanth, Mohanlal, and Chiranjeevi. The session will be moderated by actor Akshay Kumar.

Another highlight will be 'The New Mainstream: Breaking Borders, Building Legends', a panel with filmmaker S S Rajamouli, actors Anil Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and Vicky Kaushal, and music maestro AR Rahman, moderated by producer-director Karan Johar.

A much-anticipated chat between Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone and Karan Johar, titled 'The Journey: From Outsider to Ruler', will delve into the inspiring careers of the two actors.

Key issues on the agenda include regulating broadcasting in the digital age, copy-right for audio-visual performers and content creators, the role of artificial intelligence in media, the future of theatrical releases, and the evolution of the AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality) sector:

CM reviews progress...

to ensure time-bound and efficient execution of vital infrastructure works.

The Chief Minister was briefed on the status of major infrastructure projects being executed by NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO and the PWD. Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Bhupinder Kumar gave a comprehensive presentation, informing that approximately a dozen major highway corridors and one expressway, spanning over 1,800 kilometers, are currently in various stages of execution. These include strategically important routes such as National Highway 44 (Jammu-Srinagar), NH-144A (Jammu-Rajouri- Poonch) and the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway (NE-5), among others.

The meeting also reviewed 12 major tunnel projects, including the Zoji La Tunnel, Z-Morh Tunnel, Panthal-Magarkote Tunnel, and other projects, many of which are in the advanced stages of construction.

Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Vikramjit Singh briefed the meeting on the availability of construction material and mining permissions, highlighting recent improvements and unresolved issues requiring attention at the appropriate forums.

Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani flagged key traffic congestion points and suggested practical mitigation measures. He emphasised incorporating long-term traffic management features into the ongoing highway designs.

Omar Abdullah took detailed stock of project-specific challenges and enquired about persistent bottlenecks, particularly those falling within Jammu and Kashmir's territorial jurisdiction. He emphasized the need to resolve procedural hurdles and recurring loopholes, calling for time-bound clearances and proactive administrative facilitation.

"These projects hold not just developmental but strategic importance. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that there are no unwarranted delays or procedural gaps. The Centre is also closely monitoring these corridors, and our progress must reflect seriousness and coordination," the Chief Minister observed.

Expressing concern over delays caused by land acquisition, forest clearances and shifting of Utilities, the Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to streamline these processes. He called for enhanced inter-departmental synergy, particularly between the executing agencies and the district administrations.

On the issue of public displacement and property acquisition, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of fair and well-planned rehabilitation and resettlement.

"Those affected must be given substantial reassurance through timely and fair rehabilitation measures," he said.

He also reviewed security-related constraints in certain stretches and instructed the concerned departments to ensure that project activities remain on schedule with adequate coordination with security agencies.

"These projects are the main road arteries for Jammu and Kashmir's future economic development. The timely and quality execution of these projects must remain a top priority," the Chief Minister added.

Pak troops resort...

The Indian Army troops responded swiftly and proportionately, the spokesper-

son added.

Similar incidents of unprovoked small-arms fire were also reported from Pakistani posts across the LoC in Baramulla and Kupwara districts in the Kashmir Valley, and across the IB in the Pargwal sector.

Initially, the firing began in Kupwara and Baramulla districts and then spread to the Poonch and Akhnoor sectors. It further escalated to the Sunderbani and Naushera sectors in Rajouri district, followed by firing along the IB in Jammu's Pargwal sector.

Since the night of April 24, shortly after India suspended the Indus Water Treaty in response to the killing of 26 people in the Pahalagam terror attack, Pakistani troops have been engaging in unprovoked firing at various locations along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir, starting from the Kashmir valley.

On the same day, Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian airlines, suspended trade and closed the Wagah border crossing, and warned that any attempt to divert water under the Indus Water Treaty would be considered an "Act of War".

India and Pakistan had agreed to a renewed ceasefire in February 2021 when the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both countries reaffirmed their commitment to the 2003 ceasefire agreement.

India shares a 3,323-km-long border with Pakistan, comprising the International Border (IB), approximately 2,400 km from Gujarat to Akhnoor in Jammu; the 740-km-long LoC from Jammu to Leh; and the 110-km Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in the Siachen region.

Govt notifies ITR...

section-wise details with regard to TDS deductions.

Once the utility for filing ITR is made available by the I-T department, people can start filing ITR for income earned in 2024-25 fiscal. The last date for filing ITR for individuals and those who do not have to get their accounts audited is July 31.

Usually, the ITR forms are notified before the end of the fiscal, mostly around February/March. This time, however, the ITR forms and the filing utility got delayed as revenue department officials were pre-occupied with the new Income Tax Bill, which was introduced in Parliament in February.

ITR forms 1 and 4 for assessment year (AY) 2025-26 are to be filed by individuals and entities with total income of up to Rs 50 lakh a year.

Now, salaried individuals and those under presumptive taxation scheme, having long-term capital gains (LTCG) of up to Rs 1.25 lakh in a fiscal year will be able to file ITR-1 and ITR-4, respectively. Earlier, such persons/entities were required to file ITR-2.

Under I-T law, LTCG of up to Rs 1.25 lakh from sale of listed shares and mutual funds are exempt from tax. Gains exceeding Rs 1.25 lakh/ annum are subject to 12.5 per cent tax.

EY India Tax Partner Samir Kanabar said allowing those with minimal LTCG to continue using ITR-1 or ITR-4 reduces the burden of navigating more complex forms.

"This move reflects a clear shift towards enhancing taxpayer services by simplifying the return filing process for individual taxpayers. The change is expected to encourage greater voluntary compliance, reduce filing-related stress, and make the system more user-friendly for small taxpayers," Kanabar said.

Like last year's form, ITR-1 also seeks detail from individuals if they have incurred expenditure exceeding Rs 2 lakh for travel to a foreign country for yourself or for any other person. It also seeks detail on whether an assessee has incurred an expenditure exceeding Rs 1 lakh on consumption of electricity during the previous year.

ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are simpler forms that cater to a large number of small and medium taxpayers.

Sahaj can be filed by a resident individual having annual income up to Rs 50 lakh and who receives income from salary, one house property, other sources (interest) and agricultural income up to Rs 5,000 a year.

Sugam can be filed by individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms (other than Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs)) having total annual income up to Rs 50 lakh and income from business and profession.

ITR-2 is filed by individuals and HUFs not having income from profits and gains in business or profession.

Sandeep Jhunjhunwala, Tax Partner at Nangia Andersen LLP said so far salaried individuals having income under the head capital gains were required to file form ITR-2 even where the capital gains were exempt by virtue of the threshold limit prescribed under Section 112A, resulting in elaborate disclosure requirements including information about accrual or receipt of capital gain, details of securities etc.

This inconvenience is reduced with the new form ITR-1 for AY 2025-26 incorporating a small section for reporting the income in the nature of LTCG on which tax is not payable by virtue of the exemption limit provided in Section 112A.

"However, in cases, where the taxpayer earns LTCG under Section 112A in excess of Rs 125,000 or where the taxpayer earns any other LTCG other than that taxable under Section 112A or earns short term capital gains or has carried forward or brought forward capital losses or derived income from any combination of the above, the salaried individual would have to resort to Form ITR-2 for filing return of income," Jhunjhunwala said.

A similar change has been made to form ITR-4 which applies to taxpayers resorting to presumptive taxation for their business income. The new ITR-4 form for AY 2025-26 subsumes reporting of LTCG subject to tax under Section 112A of the IT Act within the limit of Rs 1.25 lakh.

AKM Global Partner-Tax Sandeep Sehgal said, "this change streamlines the tax filing process, making it more accessible and less burdensome for small investors and salaried individuals, thereby encouraging timely and accurate compliance".

Pahalagam attack: PM...

dismissed them. "Where is he missing? I know he is in Delhi," he said.

The former J&K Chief Minister strongly condemned Pakistan for repeated terror attacks on Indian soil. "There was the Mumbai attack, and it was proven they did it. The Pathankot attack, they did it, the Uri attack, they did it. They attacked in Kargil, and I was the chief minister at that time. They said they were not involved, but when we took strong action, they ran to the US President asking for help."

"If they want friendship, then such things cannot continue. It must stop. But if they want hostility, we are ready, and so are they," Abdullah said.

Govt debunks claims...

and Islamabad following the recent terror attack in Pahalagam in Jammu and Kashmir: On April 22, terrorists shot dead 26 people, mostly tourists, at a meadow in Baisaran of south Kashmir's Pahalagam.

Lt Gen Kumar had assumed charge as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Udhampur-based Northern Command of the Indian Army in February 2024.

"Several pro-Pakistan social media accounts falsely claim that Northern Commander Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar has been removed from his post after the Pahalagam incident #PIBFactCheck The claims being made in these posts are #fake," it wrote on the microblogging platform.

Lt Gen Kumar is attaining superannuation on April 30. And Lt Gen Pratik Sharma will be appointed as the new Northern Army Commander, it said.

Lt Gen Kumar had earlier served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

The PIB had on Monday flagged that some pro-Pakistan social media accounts are falsely claiming that 'confidential documents' related to the preparedness of the Indian Army have been "leaked".

In a post on X, PIB Fact Check dubbed these documents as "fake".

PIB Fact Check in its post had said, "Pro-Pakistan social media accounts are falsely claiming that confidential documents related to the preparedness of the #IndianArmy have been leaked. #PIBFactCheck These documents are #FAKE Please avoid sharing unverified information and rely only on official sources from the Government of India for accurate information".

The Ministry of Defence on Sunday cautioned that a "misleading" message is doing the rounds on WhatsApp claiming that the government has opened a bank account seeking donations for the modernisation of the Indian Army.

In a statement, the ministry had debunked the message and urged people to "remain cautious and not fall prey to such fraudulent messages".

The PIB Fact Check had also alerted people about this "misleading" message with a post on X on Sunday.

Lt Gen Kumar...

tension between India and Pakistan following the April 22 terror attack in south Kashmir's Pahalagam that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead.

"Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar, Army Commander Northern Command laid wreath to honour the supreme sacrifice of the bravehearts at Dhruva War Memorial, Udhampur on superannuation and relinquishing command of the Northern Command," Army said in a post on X.

Lt Gen Kumar had taken over the command -- responsible for security and operations along India's northern borders, including J-K, parts of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh -- from Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, the present army chief, in February last year and his tenure lasted for 15-months.

Govt revamps NSAB...

The NSAB is an advisory body that provides inputs to the National Security

Council Secretariat.

The new members appointed to the NSAB are former Western Air Commander Air Marshal PM Sinha, former Southern Army Commander Lt Gen A K Singh and Rear Admiral (ret'd) Monty Khanna, people familiar with the matter said.

Former diplomat B Venkatesh Varma and retired IPS Rajiv Ranjan Verma have also been appointed to the NSAB as its members, they said.

786 Pakistanis exit...

of the Pahalagam terror attack, officials said on Wednesday.

A total of 1,465 Indians, including 25 diplomats and officials, besides 151 Pakistani citizens with long-term Indian visas have crossed over to India from Pakistan through the international border crossing located in Punjab since April 24.

The 'Leave India' notice to the Pakistani nationals was issued by the government after 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed by Pakistan-linked terrorists in Pahalagam in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22.

The deadline for exiting India for those holding SAARC visas was April 26.

For those carrying medical visas, the deadline was April 29.

The deadline for 12 other categories of visas was April 27. These were visas on arrival and visas for business, film, journalist, transit, conference, mountaineering, student, visitor, group tourist, pilgrim and group pilgrims.

Three Defence/Military, Naval and Air Advisors in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi were declared Persona Non Grata on April 23 and they were given one week to leave India.

Five support staff of these defence attaches were also asked to leave India. India has also withdrawn its defence attache from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

However, those having long-term, diplomatic or official visas were exempted from the 'Leave-India' order.

The officials told PTI that altogether 94 Pakistani nationals, including 10 diplomats, left India through the Attari-Wagah border crossing point on April 29; 145 Pakistanis, including 36 diplomats, their dependents and support staff, left on April 28; a total of 237 Pakistanis, including nine diplomats and officials, left India on April 27; 81 left on April 26; 191 on April 25 and 28 on April 24.

Eight Indian nationals with Pakistani visa have also left India through the international border crossing point on April 29, the sources said.

Similarly, altogether 469 Indians, including 11 diplomats and officials, returned from Pakistan through the same route on April 29; 146 Indians returned on April 28; 116 Indians, including one diplomat, on April 27; 342 Indians, including 13 diplomats and officials, came back on April 26; 287 Indians crossed over from Pakistan on April 25 and 105 Indians returned on April 24, the officials said.

A total of 22 Pakistani nationals with long-term Indian visas came to the country through the Attari-Wagah border on April 29 and 129 more Pakistanis with the same category of the visas entered India on April 28.

Officials said some of the Pakistanis might have left India through airports too, pointing out that since India does not have direct air connectivity with Pakistan, they might have left for a third country.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on April 25 called up the chief ministers of all states and asked them to ensure that no Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline set for leaving the country.

After Shah's telephonic conversations with the chief ministers, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan also held a video conference with the chief secretaries and asked them to ensure that all Pakistani nationals whose visas were revoked must leave India by the deadline fixed.

The already strained relations between India and Pakistan nosedived further after the horrific Pahalagam terror attack, with New Delhi announcing a raft of measures, including the cancellation of visas, against Islamabad, which hit back with a string of tit-for-tat measures.

DDC Poonch inspects developmental projects

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal on Wednesday asked the executing agencies to expedite pace of work on the Major Bridges on NH144A and the Minor Bridge at Sukha Katha.

He was inspecting progress of work on different projects, including road projects in different parts of the district. The DDC was accompanied by OC GREF, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Tehsildar Haveli and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner received detailed briefings on the construction progress by OC GREF and reiterated the need for acceleration.

The DDC also directed ACP and staff of RDD to expedite various Rural Development Works and ensure quality.

Flood damage assessment on in 49 Patwar Halqas of Ramban District

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, who is also as the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), has deputed Loss Assessment Teams across 49 Patwar Halqas in the district to evaluate the extent of damage caused by the flash floods, hailstorm, and cloudburst on April 19-20, 2025.

The assessment teams are tasked with documentation of losses in Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock, private residential and commercial properties, public infrastructure, and utilities. The Deputy Commissioner is personally monitoring the entire process and issuing necessary directions to ensure thorough and accurate reporting.

So far, Assessment Supervisory Officers, along with officials from all line departments, have conducted spot visits and organised assessment camps in 38 Patwar Halqas. These teams are preparing detailed damage and loss reports for submission to the District Administration to facilitate appropriate relief and restoration measures.

Tehsildars and BDOs are also actively overseeing the assessment activities being carried out in their respective jurisdictions. The assessment drive, which commenced on April 29, will conclude on May 1, 2025.

The designated officers stayed overnight in their assigned Halqas to ensure comprehensive on-ground reporting.

The extensive drive has been carried out in collaboration with local residents and all concerned departments.

The remaining 11 Patwar Halqas of the district would be covered by assessment Supervisory Officers on May 1, 2025.

PM Modi on 3-state tour for next two days

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Mumbai on Thursday and Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport in Kerala on Friday.

A statement said Modi will be on a tour of three states, including Andhra Pradesh, over the next two days.

Modi will lay the foundation stone of and inaugurate multiple development projects worth over Rs 58,000 crore in Amaravati. He will also be addressing audiences at the events in the three states.

The PMO said the WAVES 2025 is a first-of-its-kind summit in India. The four-day event is poised to position India as a global hub for media, entertainment, and digital innovation by bringing together creators, startups, industry leaders, and policymakers from across the world, it added.

WAVES 2025, which has a tagline of "Connecting Creators, Connecting Countries", will witness participation from over 90 countries, with more than 10,000 delegates, 1,000 creators, over 300 companies, and over 350 startups.

The summit will feature 42 plenary sessions, 39 breakout sessions, and 32 masterclasses spanning diverse sectors including broadcasting, infotainment, AVGC-XR, films, and digital media, it added.

The seaport worth Rs 8,900 crore in Kerala is the country's first dedicated container transhipment port that represents the transformative advancements being made in India's maritime sector as part of the unified vision of Viksit Bharat, it said.

The strategically important Vizhinjam Port has been identified as a key priority project that will contribute to strengthening India's position in global trade, enhance logistics efficiency, and reduce reliance on foreign ports for cargo transhipment.

Its natural deep draft of nearly 20 metres and location near one of the world's busiest sea trade routes further strengthens India's position in global trade, the statement added.

It said in line with his commitment to ensure world-class infrastructure and connectivity across the country, Modi will inaugurate seven National Highway projects in Andhra Pradesh.

He will also launch railway projects aimed at enhancing connectivity and boosting capacity.

Among other projects, he will also lay the foundation stone of a missile test range at Nagayalanka in Andhra Pradesh worth around Rs 1,460 crore. It will comprise a launch centre, technical instrumentation facilities, indigenous radars, telemetry and electro-optical systems enhancing the country's defence preparedness.