



Youth true bearers of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat': LG Sinha

Says nation's future rests in their hands, calls them face of 'Digital India'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 28: Describing youth as true bearers of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that nation's future rests in their hands.

Addressing aspiring youth and representatives from leading industries at the 77th State-Level Mega Job Fair, held at Amar Singh College, here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "You are not merely job-seekers. You are the makers of India's future. In your hands rests your career as well as the direction of the nation's development. You are the strength of Skill India, the face of Digital India, and the true bearers of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

Pertinently, the Mega Job Fair organised by Desh Bhagat University, Punjab & Cluster University, Srinagar in collaboration with NIELIT, Nations Development Association (NDA)



and MY Bharat aims to directly connect youth with industries. The fair brought together more than 50 reputed companies across diverse sectors including information technology, health-care, banking, financial services,

manufacturing, retail, hospitality, education, logistics, and engineering.

The Lieutenant Governor described the job fair as a powerful means of connecting the aspirations of the youth with

opportunities, and as an important step toward building the nation's bright future.

"This is a platform where dreams meet direction, where education meets industry, and where the foundation of a new Jammu Kashmir is being strengthened," he said.

Highlighting the participation of thousands of registered students, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the greatest value of such initiatives lies in the confidence they instill in young people.

The Lieutenant Governor also outlined six key objectives of the Mega Job Fair. He said the fair will ensure meaningful employment for youth to become self-reliant and contribute to society. It will also pave the way for Industry-academia partnerships to bridge the gap between degrees and workplace skills.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Job Fair will ensure that skill development programmes are aligned | [More on P6](#)

Can't tell youth to look elsewhere, must create opportunities: CM

Hands over appointment letters, advocates stronger startup ecosystem

**KT News Desk**

Srinagar, Jul 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reaffirmed his government's commitment to expanding employment opportunities for the youth, saying that while government

jobs alone are not the solution to unemployment, it is the government's responsibility to create more avenues for youth through private sector recruitment, entrepreneurship and industry partnerships.

The Chief Minister made

these remarks while addressing the valedictory session of the 77th State-Level Mega Job Fair at Amar Singh College, Srinagar. The event was organised by Desh Bhagat University, Punjab, and Cluster University of Srinagar in | [More on P6](#)

'Accelerate CAPEX expenditure, ensure timely utilisation of funds'

KT News Desk

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting on Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) at the Civil Secretariat here and directed all departments to significantly accelerate the pace of expenditure, emphasizing that timely utilisation of | [More on P6](#)

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

Fresh batch reaches Baltal, over 4.35 lakh pilgrims pay obeisance

Pilgrimage surpasses last year's total of over 4.14 lakh devotees

Umair Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Jul 28: A fresh batch of 3,029 Amarnath pilgrims, including 30 foreign male devotees, reached the Baltal base camp on Tuesday after departing from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu under tight security arrangements, officials said.

According to details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the 21st batch left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas at 2:45 am in a convoy of 151 vehicles, comprising 57 buses, 30 medium motor

vehicles (MMVs), 58 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and six two-wheelers. No convoy was dispatched for Pahalgam route.

The batch comprised 2,310 male pilgrims, 590 women, 14 children, 45 sadhus, 40 sadhvis and 30 foreign male pilgrims.

Meanwhile, 9,073 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Tuesday, taking the total number of devotees who have undertaken the pilgrimage since its commencement on July 3 to 4,35,412, officials said.

On Tuesday 5,526 men, 3,090 women, 162 children, 41 sadhus, 12 sadhvis, three transgender devotees and 239 security personnel completed Yatra.

The total number of pilgrims who have departed from Bhagwati | [More on P6](#)

GANDERBAL ACCIDENT

LG visits SKIMS, assures best medical care to injured Amarnath pilgrims

CM Omar deposes Health Minister Sakina Itoo to oversee treatment

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday visited SKIMS Soura to enquire about the health and well-being of the Amarnath Yatra pilgrims injured in a road accident at Ganiwan in Ganderbal district earlier in the day.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) during the visit, the Lieutenant Governor directed the hospital administration to provide the best possible medical care to the injured



pilgrims.

LG Sinha interacted with the injured pilgrims undergoing treatment and their

attendants, enquired about their condition and wished them a speedy recovery. A team of | [More on P6](#)

Cloudburst triggers flash floods in Bandipora; rains lash J&K parts

Srinagar records 31.5 Celsius; MeT forecast wet weather till Aug 4

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 28: Moderate to heavy rainfall lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, while a cloudburst triggered flash floods in North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

According to the MeT Centre Srinagar, moderate to heavy rain was reported from parts of Kupwara, Handwara, Sopore and Bandipora in North Kashmir, while Ganderbal, Kokernag and several areas in South Kashmir Anantnag District also witnessed heavy showers.

The Met Centre, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that in Jammu region, rainfall lashed



Rajouri, Reasi, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar District. CLOUDBURST HITS BANDIPORA DISTRICT

Meanwhile, a cloudburst struck the Nagmarg area in

North Kashmir's Bandipora district, triggering flash floods in downstream villages and causing panic among residents.

Locals said a massive surge of muddy water | [More on P6](#)

NRPC warns legacy shunt capacitors may fail dynamic demands

Says J&K's 570 MVAR capacitor banks deemed obsolete

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jul 28: The Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) has noted that Jammu and Kashmir's 570 Mega Volt-Ampere Reactive (MVAR) shunt capacitor banks are largely legacy installations, with obsolete control systems that may fail to respond effectively to dynamic grid demands.

According to the official documents available with the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer (KNO), JKPTCL in a recent meeting with NRPC has mentioned that at present, the intra-state transmission network of JKPTCL is equipped with shunt capacitor banks aggregating approximately 570 MVAR at various 33 kV Grid Substations.

"Most of these installations were commissioned several years ago and are presently operating with conventional control and protection systems," it reads.

Reviewing the reactive power compensation and voltage profile improvement in J&K Grid, NRPC also said that many installations have become | [More on P6](#)

Mehbooba clarifies: Viral video genuine, but statement taken out of context

Apologises for Jantar Mantar remarks; says meant 'Bahana Banta Hain'

Announces Aug 5 protests for Art 370 restoration

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 28: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday clarified the controversy surrounding her remarks during the Jantar Mantar protest, expressing regret and saying the statement had been taken out of context because of a "slip of the tongue", while maintaining that the viral video of her statement was genuine. Mufti said she had intended to say "Bahana Banta Hain" while referring to militancy, but due to the rush of media interactions, she could only utter "Banta Hain".

"I gave bytes to a lot of people there. In one byte I said there is militancy and intended to say 'Bahana Banta Hain', but I could not utter the word 'Bahana' due to hurriedness. I thought I had



said that," she said, addressing a press conference on the party's 27th Foundation Day here.

Rejecting claims that the clip had been manipulated, the former Chief Minister, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the circulating video was authentic. "I wouldn't say that the video is fake; it is genuine," she said.

Mufti said she has consistently raised issues concerning the | [More on P6](#)

Mehbooba's statement was clarification, not apology: CM Omar

Says those who claimed AI should also express regret

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said those who claimed for the past five days that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti's controversial video was AI-generated should also express regret after she herself acknowledged the



remarks were made by her.

He said there is a clear distinction between | [More on P6](#)

Drug awareness campaign reaches over 1.20 crore people in J&K; 1.03 lakh progs held in 3 years: GoI

'21 addiction treatment facilities, 12 de-addiction centres functional across UT'

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Jul 28: More than 1.20 crore people, including 69.14 lakh youth and 51.20 lakh women, have been sensitised under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) in Jammu and Kashmir, while 8,565 Nasha Mukh Mitras have joined the campaign across the Union Territory.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in a written reply to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha by Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, said the campaign is being implemented through awareness programmes, de-addiction services, rehabilitation and

counselling facilities.

The ministry, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), under which financial assistance is provided to States and Union Territories, NGOs and Government hospitals for preventive education, awareness generation, capacity building, rehabilitation and treatment of persons affected by substance abuse.

It said the scheme supports 344 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA),



45 Community-based Peer Led Intervention (CPLI) programmes, 76 Outreach and Drop-In Centres (ODICs), 155 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Government hospitals and 145 District De-addiction

Centres (DDACs) across the country.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry said assistance is being provided to 1 IRCA, 3 ODICs, 2 CPLIs, 6 DDACs and 21 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs).

The ministry further informed that the 14446 toll-free de-addiction helpline is providing counselling and referral services, with over 4.6 lakh calls received across the country, including more than 11,000 calls from Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharing year-wise details, the Ministry said 18,939 awareness programmes were conducted during 2023-24, sensitising 1,00,02,860 people, while 35,639 drug users were treated and rehabilitated.

During 2024-25, 5,851 awareness programmes were organised, reaching 84,89,948 people, with 39,711 drug users treated and rehabilitated.

In 2025-26, 6,346 awareness programmes were conducted, covering 6,24,867 people, while 28,366 drug users received treatment and rehabilitation.

The ministry also informed Parliament that 3,072 drug traffickers were arrested in 2023, 2,158 in 2024, and 2,500 in 2025.

Regarding monitoring, the Ministry said the implementation of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan is reviewed regularly through monthly review meetings, Chintan Shivirs and national-level conferences with States and Union Territories. State, district and block-level NMBA committees have been constituted | [More on P6](#)

Body of youth retrieved from Jhelum after five days

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Jul 28: The body of a 25-year-old youth, who had jumped into the River Jhelum at Sempora in the Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar, was retrieved on Tuesday after a five-day-long search operation, officials said.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the body of the youth was recovered by teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) during the search operation near Pantha Chowk Srinagar.

They said the operation was jointly carried out by the SDRF Srinagar and | [More on P6](#)

Satish Sharma reviews progress of Science & Technology initiatives

Reaffirms commitment to renewable energy, innovation led development in J&K



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 28: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma on Tuesday reviewed the progress of key renewable energy, science and technology initiatives being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir, reiterating the Government's commitment to accelerate sustainable development, clean energy adoption and scientific innovation across the Union Territory.

The Minister, as per an official statement, had a comprehensive review of the flagship programmes being executed by the Department of Science & Technology, Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) and the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC). These included rooftop solarisation of government buildings, small hydro power projects, PM-KUSUM implementation, biotechnology infrastructure and science outreach initiatives.

Commissioner Secretary Science and Technology Babila Rakwal, CEO JAKEDA P.R.Dhar and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Reviewing the progress under the flagship Solarization of Government Buildings Programme, Satish Sharma expressed satisfaction over the remarkable achievement registered under the CAPEX and RESCO models. He was informed that 8,181 government buildings have already been solarized with a cumulative installed capacity of 85.8 MW, placing Jammu and Kashmir 3rd among

31 States and Union Territories in the country in terms of the number of government buildings solarized.

The Minister was informed that under the CAPEX mode, 65 MW capacity has been allocated for 5,600 government buildings, of which 3,388 buildings have already been solarized with an installed capacity of 46.8 MW. In addition, material for 1,462 buildings has already been supplied while installations in another 800 buildings are in transit. Under the RESCO mode, implementation is progressing with a target capacity of 175 MW covering nearly 8,000 government buildings, with work orders already issued for 1,360 buildings.

Describing the achievement as a significant milestone in Jammu and Kashmir's clean energy journey, Satish Sharma said that expanding renewable energy infrastructure is vital for reducing carbon emissions, lowering electricity costs and making government institutions energy efficient.

"The remarkable progress achieved in rooftop solarisation demonstrates the commitment of the government towards sustainable development. Jammu and Kashmir is steadily emerging as a frontrunner in renewable energy adoption and we will continue to strengthen these initiatives with greater speed and transparency," the Minister said.

Reviewing the implementation of PM-KUSUM Component-B, the Minister was informed that against the sanctioned target of 5,000 solar-powered agricultural pumps, applications have been received for 4,891 pumps, while 4,876 pumps have already been installed and

commissioned, with only 15 installations remaining under implementation. He said the initiative is transforming agriculture by providing farmers with reliable, environment-friendly and affordable irrigation facilities.

The Minister also reviewed the status of renewable energy infrastructure across the Union Territory. He was informed that around 250 MW rooftop solar capacity has either been installed or is under installation across government buildings, while 125 MW of grid-connected solar power has been added by JAKEDA. Besides, 33 MW rooftop solar systems have been installed under the MNRE scheme across nearly 5,500 households, over 70,000 solar street lights and 15,000 solar home lights have been installed during the last three years and 2,214 government schools have been solarized with an installed capacity of approximately 8 MW. The department has also commissioned seven small hydro projects with a cumulative capacity of 35.25 MW.

Reviewing the small hydro power programme, Satish Sharma was informed that 58 hydro power projects with a cumulative potential of 323.90 MW have already been identified through finalized DPRs across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. He was further informed that 32 hydro project sites with a capacity of 62 MW have already been awarded during 2025, while additional projects are planned for implementation during 2026-2030.

The Minister emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir possesses enormous hydro power potential. He directed the concerned agencies

to expedite execution of the identified projects so that remote and hilly regions receive reliable, locally generated clean energy.

Satish Sharma also reviewed the progress of infrastructure projects being implemented by the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC).

The Minister was informed that construction of the Sub-Regional Science Centre at Lal Mandi, Srinagar has reached nearly 85 per cent completion, while work is also progressing on the Science Innovation Dissemination Centre (SIDC), which is being developed to provide world-class facilities for innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs.

Reviewing the biotechnology infrastructure, the Minister was informed that the Industrial Biotechnology Park at Kathua has been completed and operationalization has commenced in collaboration with IIIM Jammu, while construction of the Industrial Biotechnology Park at Handwara has reached around 85 per cent completion. He directed the concerned authorities to resolve pending issues so that the project is completed and dedicated to the youth and scientific community at the earliest.

The Minister also reviewed initiatives relating to science popularization, sponsored research programmes, science talent promotion, bio-farms and other innovation-driven schemes being implemented by JKSTIC.

"Our vision is to build a technologically advanced, environmentally sustainable and innovation-driven Jammu and Kashmir. Investments in renewable energy, scientific research, biotechnology and innovation infrastructure will not only strengthen the public service delivery but also generate employment opportunities, promote entrepreneurship and contribute significantly towards economic growth," the Minister said.

The Minister directed the officers to maintain strict timelines for all ongoing projects, ensure effective utilization of public resources and continuously monitor implementation so that the benefit of these initiatives reach the people in a timely and efficient manner.

Sakeena Itoo visits SKIMS Soura, reviews treatment of injured Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims

‘Government committed to providing highest standard of healthcare to every injured pilgrim’



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 28: On the directions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Tuesday visited the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, to enquire about the health condition of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims who sustained injuries in a road accident in Ganiwan, Ganderbal.

During the visit, the Minister, as per an official statement, met the injured pilgrims undergoing treatment and interacted with them individually to enquire about their well-being and recovery. She also

spoke to their attendants and assured them of the Government's full support.

The Minister reviewed the treatment being provided to the injured pilgrims and held a detailed interaction with the doctors and senior officers of the hospital regarding their medical condition and progress.

Emphasising that the health and well-being of the pilgrims is the Government's foremost priority, Sakeena Itoo directed the hospital administration to ensure that all the injured receive the best possible medical care, specialised treatment and every required facility for their speedy recovery.

"The Government is

committed to providing the highest standard of healthcare to every injured pilgrim. There should be no compromise in treatment, and all necessary medical assistance and support must be extended to them," the Minister said.

She also instructed the hospital authorities to closely monitor the condition of each patient and ensure round-the-clock availability of specialist doctors, medicines and other essential healthcare services.

Director SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganie informed the Minister that all injured pilgrims are under constant medical supervision and are being provided comprehensive treatment by teams of specialists.

Strengthening Horticulture Sector J&K explores global best practices to modernise horticulture sector, enhance farmer income

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 28: A high-level delegation from Jammu and Kashmir, led by Minister for Agriculture Production Department Javid Ahmad Dar, has recently concluded an official visit to Europe aimed at strengthening the Union Territory's horticulture sector through adoption of advanced technologies, modern production systems and strategic international collaborations.

The delegation, as per an official statement, was comprised of Vikas Anand, Director Horticulture, Kashmir; Nodal Officer, JKICP/HADP; Professor Haroon Rashid Naik, former Director

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

FDA bans sale of unsafe 'Nirmal Fruits Products' snack dressing across J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 28: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has prohibited the sale of an unsafe batch of Snack Dressing (Sauce) marketed under the brand "Nirmal Fruits Products" across the Union Territory and ordered its immediate withdrawal and recall from the market in the interest of public health.

The action, as per an official statement, has been taken under Section 30(2)(a) read with Section 18(1)(f) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, after the product was declared Unsafe and Misbranded by the National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad.

The affected product is Snack Dressing (Sauce) of Nirmal Fruits Products, Batch No. 02, Manufacturing Date: 02.05.2026, Expiry Date: 01.05.2027, Pack Size: One Litre, manufactured by M/s Nirmal Fruits Products, Industrial Estate, Akhnoor, Jammu.

The sample was lifted on May 16, 2026 by the Food Safety Officer, Akhnoor, from the premises of the manufacturer and forwarded to the

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GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 1ST

Subject: Construction of Bore well at District Jail Anantnag.
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 27/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/3838-51, dated: 06-07-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_314814_1

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 27-07-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	07-08-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	07-08-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.

DIPK-3809/26
Dated: 28-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Public Works (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO:T-1/EEA/3773-77

Dated:28/07/2026

Extension Notice

Subject: - 1. Macadamization of Panner Kathwar Gujjar Basti Road.

Reference: -

1. This office e-NIT No.21/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/1563-73 Dated: 02-06-2026

The critical dates for the above noted Work is hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	03-08-2026 up to 4. 00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	04-08-2026 up to 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/-
Technical officer

DIPK-3808/26
Dated: 28-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, (JAL SHAKTI) PHE, MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SGR.

Gist of e-Tender.

E-N.I.T. No: - PHE/MRD/TS/ 19 of 07/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar invites e-tenders on item rate basis in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work: -

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Rs.	Cost of Tender Doc. Rs.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	Repairs/ Servicing to 125 KVA DG Set	Chuntwariwar 2nd	0.35	700/-	50/-	03 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Publishing Date	28-07-2026 (5:00 PM)		
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	28-07-2026 (5:00 PM)	to	04-08-2026 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	28-07-2026 (5:00 PM)	to	04-08-2026 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	04-08-2026 at (12:00 P.M)		
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar			
6.	Document Cost: Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)			
7.	Bid Validity Period: 90 Days			
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/ bank guarantee from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal shakti PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar. In case the e-NIT is cancelled, the EMD submitted for this e-NIT shall remain valid and will be considered for fresh e-NIT.			
9.	Note:- The Date of cost of tender document fee and Earnest money must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as non-responsive.			

No: -PHE/MRD/TS/1371-75
DT: - 28-07-2026

DIPK-3815/26
Dated: 28-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural
Division Srinagar.

From The Parliament

J&K sees 39 e-zero FIRs post-launch



Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Jul 28: The Central government on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that 39 e-Zero FIRs have been registered in Jammu and Kashmir since the rollout of the e-Zero FIR system in July 2026, making the Union Territory one of the 18 States and UTs where the facility has been implemented to ensure faster action in cyber financial fraud cases.

Replying to a question raised by Dr. Raj Kumar Chhabewal, Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the Centre has provided a common platform to States and Union Territories for registering e-Zero FIRs in cyber financial fraud cases reported through the National

Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) or the 1930 cyber fraud helpline.

The minister said that under the new mechanism, complaints involving the financial loss threshold fixed by the respective State or UT are automatically converted into an e-Zero FIR at the State or UT e-Crime Police Station and are then transferred to the concerned territorial cyber crime police station. The complainant is required to visit the police station within three days to convert the Zero FIR into a regular FIR. According to the data tabled in Parliament, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 39 e-Zero FIRs after implementing the system in July 2026. Other States and UTs where the system has been introduced include Delhi, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh,

Rajasthan, Goa, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Haryana, Gujarat, Tripura, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Bihar and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The minister also informed the House that under Section 173(1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, information relating to a cognisable offence can be provided orally or electronically irrespective of where the offence was committed. He added that while the Centre has provided the technology platform, registration of FIRs, investigation, arrests and filing of charge sheets remain the responsibility of the respective State and Union Territory law enforcement agencies—(KNO)

J&K records decline in cybercrime cases in 2024

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Jul 28: Jammu and Kashmir recorded a decline in cybercrime cases in 2024 compared to the previous two years, while Ladakh reported only one such case during the year, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar informed that the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) maintains data on cybercrimes, while States and Union Territories are primarily responsible for preventing, investigating and prosecuting such offences. The Centre supports them through financial assistance, advisories and capacity-building initiatives.

According to the official data, Jammu and Kashmir registered 173 cyber crime cases in 2022, 185 in 2023 and 114 in 2024. Police disposed of 123, 130 and 94 cases, respectively, while courts disposed of 7, 9 and 8 cases during the three years. In Ladakh, three cyber crime cases were registered in 2022, one in 2023 and one in 2024.

The minister informed the House that the Centre has strengthened cyber crime prevention through the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), cyber forensic laboratories, the Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) scheme, and nationwide awareness campaigns. These include caller tune alerts, SMS campaigns, social media outreach, school programmes, television and radio campaigns, as well as awareness drives at railway stations, airports and other public places—(KNO)

J&K Kharif sowing slightly below normal: GoI

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Jul 28: The Central government on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that Kharif sowing in Jammu and Kashmir is marginally below the normal area this season, while a series of contingency measures, including seed re-serves, climate-resilient farming practices and water conservation initiatives, have been put in place to mitigate the impact of deficient rainfall.

Replying to a question raised by Rakesh Rathor, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ramnath Thakur

said Kharif sowing operations for 2026-27 are still underway and the first advance estimates of production have not yet been released. He added that rainfall data for all States and districts is available on the India Meteorological Department (IMD) website.

According to the statement tabled in Parliament, Jammu and Kashmir has a normal Kharif sowing area of 5.90 lakh hectares. As on July 13, 2026, sowing had been completed over 3.46 lakh hectares, compared to 3.85 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year, registering a decline of 0.39 lakh hectares from

the normal area.

The minister said the Centre has advised States and Union Territories to undertake advance planning for optimum use of reservoir water, promote micro-irrigation under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (Per Drop More Crop) and strengthen water conservation through works such as farm ponds, check dams and canal desilting under rural development programmes. He said support is also being extended through Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), National Food Security and

Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) and other agriculture schemes.

The government further informed the House that it is continuously monitoring the monsoon situation in coordination with the IMD, ICAR, Central Water Commission and State Governments. It said adequate seed stocks have been maintained, contingency plans have been updated for drought-prone districts, and farmers are being encouraged to adopt short-duration and drought-tolerant crops, micro-irrigation, crop diversification and other climate-resilient farming practices to minimise the impact of deficient rainfall—(KNO)

Mehbooba's apology came with excuses, not regret: Tanvir Sadiq



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jul 28: National Conference (NC) chief spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq on Tuesday said PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's explanation over her controversial Jantar Mantar remarks was an "excuse, not regret."

Talking to reporters here Sadiq said that Mehbooba should offer an unconditional apology to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly pellet victims and their families.

He said the PDP Chief's clarification failed to address the real issue. "The people expected a simple and unconditional apology. Instead of admitting her mistake directly, she tried to justify what she had said. This was not an apology; it was an excuse," he said.

Referring to the controversy over the viral video, Sadiq accused Mehbooba of first allowing PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra to defend her by questioning the authenticity of the clip and later contradicting him by admitting that the video was genuine.

"You threw your own MLA under the bus to cover up the controversy created by your own remarks and then publicly contradicted him when the damage could no longer be controlled," he said, adding that leaders who face such public humiliation should introspect about their political future.

Sadiq said Mehbooba should not only apologise for her recent remarks but also for her earlier "Doodh & Toffee" statement.

"If today's remarks were merely a slip of the tongue, then what about the 'Doodh & Toffee' remarks? She owes the people an apology for those as well," he said.

He also reiterated that Mehbooba should apologise to pellet victims, grieving families and the people of Jammu and Kashmir who, he said, were hurt by her comments.

The NC leader castigated the PDP's alliance with the BJP, saying Mehbooba should also apologise for "bringing

the BJP to power in Jammu and Kashmir."

"The people have not forgotten that decision," he said.

Reacting to the PDP's announcement of August 5 protests seeking the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A, Sadiq dismissed the programme as "political drama."

He alleged that the parties now protesting against the developments of August 5, 2019, had themselves created the circumstances that led to those decisions.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir understand the reality. These protests are nothing but political drama aimed at diverting attention from the real issue," he said.

Earlier, in a post on X, Sadiq wrote, "What a weak, selfish, and ungrateful leader. You pushed your own MLA, Waheed, under the bus to clean up the mess created by your own remarks, only to publicly humiliate him when the damage couldn't be contained. But @parwahid, you can say what she said is also AI."

He further wrote that there was no ambiguity in Mehbooba's remarks and that people across Jammu and Kashmir were "appalled" by the statement.

"There is no 'if' or 'but' here. People across Jammu & Kashmir were appalled by your statement. The only appropriate response is a clear and unconditional apology to every Kashmiri who was hurt, especially the victims of pellet injuries," he wrote.

Referring again to Mehbooba's "Doodh & Toffee" remark, Sadiq wrote, "And while you're at it, apologise for your 'Doodh & Toffee' remark as well. If today's statement was merely a slip of the tongue, are you suggesting those remarks reflected your actual position?"

He added that Mehbooba should also apologise for "bringing the BJP to power in Jammu and Kashmir" and alleged that "everything else said today was simply an attempt to divert attention from the real issue: your original remarks."—(KNO)

MHA okays ad-hoc gazetted promotions for Ladakh

Raja Syed Rather

Leh, Jul 28: In a significant step that would address the shortage of Gazetted officers in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has conveyed its approval for filling vacant Group 'B' Gazetted Administrative Service posts through "ad-hoc promotions", as an interim measure.

A communication stated that while necessary steps are being taken to establish a long-term solution to overcome the shortage of officers, the Union Territory Administration may, as a short-term measure, fill the available vacancies under the promotion quota through ad-hoc promotions until a regular promotion mechanism is put in place.

An official said that the MHA's decision follows the intervention of the Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, who had taken up the matter with the Ministry, highlighting the acute shortage of officers in Group 'B' Gazetted Administrative Service posts. "LG Saxena had highlighted that regular promotions to these posts have remained pending as the relevant Recruitment Rules are yet to be notified, resulting in a shortage of Gazetted officers and affecting administrative functioning across various departments," he said, adding, "The decision will provide immediate relief to officials awaiting promotion and also to various departments facing shortages of Gazetted officers, ensuring continuity in governance, faster decision-making and improved public service delivery across the Union Territory."

LG Saxena said this decision by the MHA would strengthen governance in Ladakh and would address the genuine aspirations of the officials awaiting promotion. "It will help overcome the shortage of Gazetted officers, improve administrative efficiency and ensure

Continued on
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Rana vows swift action on concerns raised by MLA's, contractors

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 28: Multiple deputations, including Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from different constituencies today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed a wide range of public welfare issues.

The legislators who met the Minister included Hilal Akbar Lone, Sajjad Shaheen, Irshad Rasool Kar, Pyare Lal Sharma, Saifuddin Bhat, Randhir Singh and Zafar Ali Khatana.

During the interaction, the MLAs apprised the Minister of



the developmental needs and public concerns of their respective constituencies. They highlighted

issues related to drinking water supply, irrigation infrastructure, flood protection measures, road connectivity, healthcare, education and other sectoral requirements, while also seeking timely execution of ongoing development works.

The legislators urged the Minister to ensure early completion of projects of public importance and called for effective coordination among the departments to address the aspirations of the people.

Giving a patient hearing to each of the legislators, Javed Rana assured them that all their genuine issues projected during the

meetings would receive due attention. He directed the concerned officers to examine the matters on priority and take appropriate action wherever required.

The Minister reiterated that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to strengthen the public service delivery, ensuring that developmental benefits reach every region in a fair and transparent manner. He said the government remains focused on responsive governance, prompt resolution of public grievances and accelerated implementation

Continued on
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2 held on rape charges, recording assault

Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Jul 28: Police have arrested two men for allegedly gang raping a 21-year-old woman, recording the assault on a mobile phone and threatening her into silence in Baramulla district.

Addressing a press conference here in North Kashmir, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla Gurinderpal Singh said the woman approached Police Station Baramulla on July 25 and lodged a written complaint alleging that the incident had taken place on July 3 at Jalsheeri Drangbal.

According to the complaint, the woman had gone to Jalsheeri Drangbal with a male friend for an outing when two unknown men allegedly approached them, harassed them and started recording videos on their mobile phones.

The SSP said the accused allegedly assaulted the victim's companion before chasing him away. They then allegedly overpowered the woman and sexually assaulted her one after the other while recording the act on a mobile phone. The accused later fled from the spot.

During the incident, the complainant told police, the accused addressed each other as "Shakir" and "Ashraf." The SSP said this was the only clue available to investigators initially, making the case

particularly challenging.

He said the woman delayed approaching the police as she had allegedly been threatened by the accused. Police have since provided security to the victim.

Following the complaint, Police Station Baramulla registered FIR No. 112/2026 under Sections 70(1) and 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The investigation was entrusted to PSI Menakshi under the supervision of the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Headquarters Baramulla and the Station House Officer (SHO) Police Station Baramulla.

The SSP said investigators launched sustained searches and employed technical analysis, human intelligence and scientific investigative methods to identify the accused.

"Since the victim knew the accused only by their first names, we relied on technical and human intelligence to establish their identities. The two accused were arrested yesterday," Singh said.

The accused have been identified as Shakir Ahmad Lone, 22, son of Abdul Gani Lone, and Mohammad Ashraf Dar, 27, son of Abdul Hamid Dar, both residents of Jalsheeri, Baramulla. Police said Ashraf works as a driver.

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DALGATE SRINAGAR BARBAR SHAH ROAD SRINAGAR

Tele/Fax: 2477073

Dated: 25-07-2026

No: EE/DAL/ADM/4667-71
Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Bhat
S/o: Ab Aziz Bhat
R/o: New Theed Harwan, Srinagar
Subject: Renovation/up-gradation of observation Home at Har-wan Srinagar.
Reference: 1. The office Allotment No: EE/DAL/ADM/10830-37 Dated: 23-12-2025
2. Assistant Executive Engineer (R&B) Boulevard Sub-Division Notices No.
1. 1268/AEE/BLD Dated: 02-02-2026
2. 1430-31/AEE/Bid Dated: 31-03-2026
3. 22/AEE/BLD Dated: 10-04-2026

Final NOTICE

Whereas, the aforementioned work was allotted to you vide reference No.01 for an allot- ted cost of Rs. 15,79,498/-
Whereas, the period of completion of said work was 90 days.
and reportedly you have stopped the work for the reasons best known to you. Whereas, you were time and again directed to resume the said work, howbeit, served upon you, wherein, you have been repeatedly directed to commence the execution of work, howbeit, you have neither paid any heed to these notices nor
bothered to respond any of the notice Whereas, due to your lackadaisical approach to-wards this important work, this department has to cut a sorry figure before the intending department. Whereas, the progress of this work is being monitored at highest level.
tantamount to breach of contract from your side and attract strict action.
Therefore, In view of the above you are directed through the medium of this final notice to resume the work instantaneously and complete the same within the shortest possible time. In case of failure from your end to fulfil the contractual obligations, penalty under relevant clauses of NIT/ SBD/GFR will be imposed and the action as warranted under rules shall be against you which include forfeiture of security deposit and suspension of your enlistment card.

DIPK-3810/26
Dated: 28-07-2026

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Dalgate Srinagar

EDITORIAL

Ethical Tourism Must Be J&K's Guiding Light

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's call for ethical tourism to be the guiding principle of Jammu and Kashmir's future is both timely and necessary. His emphasis on responsible, sustainable, and inclusive tourism is a moral imperative for a region whose identity is inseparable from its natural and cultural heritage. Kashmir has long been celebrated as "heaven on earth", a title earned through the unique

harmony between its breathtaking landscapes and its rich cultural traditions. Yet, this harmony is fragile. Unchecked development, environmental degradation, and the exploitation of natural resources threaten to erode the very essence of what makes Kashmir special. Development must proceed in balance with conservation is a crucial acknowledgement of this reality. The proposal for certification standards for

eco-friendly homestays is a welcome step. It encourages healthy competition while ensuring that tourism infrastructure develops with minimal ecological impact. Equally significant is the emphasis on inclusivity, ensuring that boatmen, pony owners, artisans, and families running homestays are not mere spectators but equal stakeholders in the tourism journey. Profits must not remain confined to large enterprises; they

must reach the last village, the last family, and the last citizen. Sustainable tourism is not just about preserving nature; it is about creating dignified livelihoods for local communities. When youth are trained to become protectors of nature and guardians of culture, tourism becomes a force for social transformation. When technology is linked with culture, and innovation with environmental conservation, Kashmir can emerge

as a model of sustainable tourism for the entire nation. The true success of tourism lies not in numbers alone but in ensuring that prosperity reaches local communities and contributes to social inclusion. Every visitor should depart with cherished memories, and natural resources should thrive. That is the essence of ethical tourism—a vision that Kashmir must now embrace with urgency and purpose.

The Making Of A Sporting Nation Khelo India And The Road To International Excellence

As the Commonwealth Games return to Glasgow, India begins another chapter in its sporting journey. Sport carries immense power to transform a nation—building character and confidence in citizens while announcing a nation's arrival as a sporting superpower. India's greatest sporting asset is its youth, with around 65 per cent of the population below 35 years of age. The Union Budget 2026–27 allocated a record 4,479.88 crore to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, up from 1,219 crore in 2013–14.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

The Spirit of a Sporting India

As the Commonwealth Games return to Glasgow from 23 July to 2 August 2026, India begins another chapter in its sporting journey. This is India's 19th Commonwealth Games (CWG) appearance, continuing a legacy that began in 1934. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has already opened India's gold medal account in Glasgow, securing her third consecutive CWG title.

Such moments capture something larger than medals alone. Sport carries immense power to transform a nation, shaping individuals and elevating countries onto the world stage. It builds character and confidence in citizens, while announcing a nation's arrival as a sporting superpower. Victory on the field brings immense national pride, uniting people beyond caste, creed and religion. This shared pride helps build a happier, healthier and more cohesive society.

India's greatest sporting asset is its youth. Around 65 per cent of the population is below 35 years of age. Recognising this immense potential, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports continues to strengthen youth development and promote sporting excellence across the country. The Union Budget 2026–27 allocated a record 4,479.88 crore to the Ministry, up from 1,219 crore in 2013–14.

At the heart of this transformation stands the Khelo India programme, complemented by several other key initiatives. Together, they promote mass participation and sporting excellence across rural and urban India alike. They provide crucial infrastructure and financial support to identify, train and nurture talent at every level. These efforts are shaping a generation ready to carry India's colours with pride on the world's biggest stages.

The Khelo India Vision

Launched in 2017 to create a strong foundation for Indian sport, the Khelo India Scheme brought together three existing programmes. It merged the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan, Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme and National Sports Talent Search Scheme into a unified framework for sports development.

The scheme follows a comprehensive approach to strengthen every stage of the sporting ecosystem. Its five key pillars are: establishing training centres at different levels to identify talented athletes and guide them towards professional excellence; building the capacity of coaches and support staff through dedicated development programmes; expanding the use of sports science and advanced technology to improve athlete performance; organising competitions and leagues to promote a vibrant sporting culture and provide competitive opportunities; and developing sports infrastructure to support both training and competitive events.

The Mission envisions one Khelo India Training Centre in every district through State and Union Territory plans. It also promotes structured athlete pathways supported by sports science, psychology and nutrition. Data driven platforms enable real time athlete tracking. This integrated approach aims to position India among the world's leading sporting nations by 2036.

Key achievements of the Khelo India Scheme as of July 2026 include: 349 new sports infrastructure projects approved, with a total investment of 3,176 crore; 1,067 Khelo India Centres (KICs) established to strengthen grassroots training and athlete support; 267 academies supported to nurture sporting talent across disciplines; and 2,745 Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) supported with coaching, equipment, medical care and a monthly out of pocket allowance.

Through sustained investment and a clear



long-term vision, Khelo India is creating a strong pipeline of champions for India.

Khelo India Games: A Stage for Future Champions

The Khelo India movement entered a new phase with the launch of the Khelo India School Games in 2018. Held in New Delhi, the event brought young sporting talent from across the country onto one platform.

Later that year, the Indian Olympic Association joined the initiative. From 2019, the event was renamed the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG). It continues to serve as the flagship competition under the Khelo India umbrella.

The Khelo India Games have steadily expanded to create more opportunities for athletes across disciplines. Annual competitions now bring together participants representing their States and universities, helping them compete, excel and prepare for higher levels. Since 2018, more than 63,000 athletes have participated in the Khelo India Games.

The Khelo India University Games (KIUG) and the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) were introduced in 2020. The Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) followed in 2023. The expansion continued in 2025 with the launch of the Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) and the Khelo India Water Sports Festival. The Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) made their debut in 2026.

The Khelo India Games continue to strengthen India's sporting culture by giving young athletes a national stage to pursue excellence.

Enabling India's Sporting Success

India's sporting rise extends beyond infrastructure and competitions. Several focused initiatives strengthen athlete development, identify emerging talent and build long term sporting capacity. Collectively, these efforts are creating a stronger pathway from grassroots participation to global success.

Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS):

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) in September 2014 to improve India's performance at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The scheme was

revamped in April 2018 with a dedicated technical support team to provide holistic assistance to athletes. TOPS supports athletes through foreign training, international competitions, coaching camps, specialised equipment and a monthly stipend of 50,000. A Development Group was also introduced to support junior athletes with a monthly stipend of 25,000. As of April 2026, the scheme currently supports 51 Core Athletes, 52 Para Core Athletes and 130 Development Athletes. TOPS played an important role in India's medal winning performances at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

KIRTI:

The Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) initiative identifies and nurtures sporting talent among children between 9 and 18 years of age. It uses Talent Assessment Centres, standardised assessment protocols and advanced IT tools, including Artificial Intelligence and data analytics, to ensure transparent and merit-based selection. At present, 174 Talent Assessment Centres operate across 3 States and Union Territories, with 1,87,921 assessments completed. KIRTI aims to build a sustainable talent pipeline to help India become a top 10 sporting nation by 2036 and a top 5 sporting nation by 2047.

Sports Goods Manufacturing:

The Union Budget 2026–27 announced a dedicated initiative for sports goods manufacturing with an allocation of 500 crore. The initiative seeks to strengthen India's position as a global hub for high quality and affordable sports goods. Its key objectives include expanding domestic manufacturing capacity, promoting research and innovation in equipment design, advancing material sciences, strengthening India's presence in global sports supply chains and generating employment across manufacturing and allied sectors.

These initiatives are strengthening India's sporting ecosystem and preparing athletes to compete with confidence on the global stage.

India's Rise on the Global Sporting Stage

The investments made in India's sporting

ecosystem are delivering results on the global stage. India's performances at major international sporting events reflect the country's growing strength across Olympic, Paralympic and multi-sport disciplines. Stronger athlete development, better training support and sustained investment have translated into consistent improvements on the world stage. The steady rise in participation and medal tallies highlights India's emergence as an increasingly competitive sporting nation.

Olympic Games:

India's Olympic journey witnessed a remarkable transformation between 2016 and 2024. The country progressed from two medals at Rio 2016 to seven at Tokyo 2020. India maintained this momentum with six medals at Paris 2024. Neeraj Chopra became India's first Olympic athletics gold medallist at Tokyo 2020. Mirabai Chanu also emerged as one of India's most consistent Olympic medallists. At Rio 2016, India sent 117 athletes and won two medals. At Tokyo 2020, India sent 119 athletes and won seven medals. At Paris 2024, India sent 117 athletes and won six medals.

Paralympic Games:

India's Paralympic performances have witnessed exceptional growth over the last three editions. The medal tally increased from four at Rio 2016 to 19 at Tokyo 2020. Paris 2024 marked India's best ever Paralympic campaign with 29 medals. Avani Lekhara, Sumit Antil and Pramod Bhagat have been among the country's standout performers. Programmes such as TOPS and the Khelo India Para Games have strengthened support for para-athletes. At Rio 2016, India sent 19 athletes and won four medals including two gold, one silver and one bronze. At Tokyo 2020, India sent 54 athletes and won 19 medals including five gold, eight silver and six bronze. At Paris 2024, India sent 84 athletes and won 29 medals including seven gold, nine silver and 13 bronze.

Asian Games:

India has consistently raised its performance at the Asian Games through larger contingents and stronger medal winning displays. The country won 57 medals at

Incheon 2014 and improved to 69 at Jakarta 2018. Hangzhou 2023 became a landmark edition as India recorded its highest ever medal tally of 107. Neeraj Chopra, Lovlina Borgohain, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were among the leading contributors. At Incheon 2014, India sent 541 athletes and won 57 medals including 11 gold, nine silver and 37 bronze. At Jakarta 2018, India sent 570 athletes and won 69 medals including 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze. At Hangzhou 2023, India sent 655 athletes and won 107 medals including 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze.

Commonwealth Games:

India has remained one of the strongest performers at the Commonwealth Games. The country won 64 medals at Glasgow 2014 and improved to 66 at Gold Coast 2018. India followed this with 61 medals at Birmingham 2022. Wrestling, weightlifting, table tennis, badminton and athletics have consistently contributed to India's success. PV Sindhu, Vinesh Phogat and Achinta Sheuli have been among the country's notable performers. At Glasgow 2014, India sent 215 athletes and won 64 medals including 15 gold, 30 silver and 19 bronze. At Gold Coast 2018, India sent 218 athletes and won 66 medals including 26 gold, 20 silver and 20 bronze. At Birmingham 2022, India sent 210 athletes and won 61 medals including 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze.

India's growing global success reflects the strength of its sporting ecosystem and the determination of its athletes to excel on the world stage.

Commonwealth Games 2026

The Commonwealth Games 2026 are being held in Glasgow from 23 July to 2 August 2026. The Games have brought together athletes from 74 countries across a 10-sport programme, including six fully integrated Para Sports, hosted at four venues.

India is represented by a 124-member contingent, comprising 78 male and 46 female athletes. The contingent reflects the country's growing depth of talent across multiple sporting disciplines.

As of 27 July 2026, India has won four medals, comprising one gold, two silver and one bronze. Jhandu Kumar opened India's medal account with a bronze in para powerlifting. Rishikanta Singh became the first able bodied Indian medallist after winning silver in the men's 60 kg weightlifting event. He also set a new Commonwealth Games record in the snatch. Mirabai Chanu delivered another historic moment by winning India's first gold medal in Glasgow. The victory marked her third consecutive Commonwealth Games title. Muthupandi Raja also added to India's medal tally with a silver in the men's 65 kg weightlifting event.

With several events still to be contested, Indian athletes continue to compete with determination and confidence. The nation looks forward to more memorable performances as the Tricolour flies high in Glasgow.

The Pursuit of Sporting Excellence

India's sporting journey continues to gather momentum. Sustained investment, stronger support systems and focused athlete development are creating a lasting foundation for success. Rising participation and improved performances at international competitions reflect the impact of these efforts. With the Commonwealth Games 2026 still underway, Indian athletes continue to compete with determination and pride. Every performance inspires the next generation to dream bigger and aim higher. As India looks to the future, the nation remains committed to building champions and strengthening its place among the world's leading sporting nations.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

Javid Dar meets delegations, assures early redress of public grievances

Visiting delegations, individuals, raise issues including blacktopping, upgradation of roads, improvement of civic amenities, augmentation of basic infrastructure, service-related matters, pension cases

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 28: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar on Tuesday met several delegations and individuals from different parts of the Union Territory and listened to their grievances and developmental concerns.

During the interaction, the Minister, as per an official statement, heard a wide range of issues raised by the visiting delegations and individuals, including the blacktopping and upgradation of roads, improvement of civic amenities, augmentation of basic



infrastructure, service-related matters, pension cases, employment issues and other public welfare concerns.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to take immediate cognisance of the

genuine grievances and ensure their timely redress in accordance with the established rules and procedures.

A deputation of the Junior Rural Stewards (JRS) also called on the Minister and apprised

him of issues concerning their service conditions. The deputation particularly urged the Minister to consider enhancing their monthly stipend in view of their increasing responsibilities in the implementation of various Rural Development programmes across the Union Territory.

Giving a patient hearing to the deputation, Javid Dar appreciated the significant role being played by the Junior Rural Stewards in strengthening the rural governance and ensuring effective implementation of flagship development programmes. He assured the deputation that their genuine demand would be examined and redressed.

Sakeena Itoo visits family of Martyr Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, assures Govt support

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, JULY 28 Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday visited the residence of Martyr Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi at Lalpora, Beerwah to express solidarity with the bereaved family following his supreme sacrifice in the line of duty during the recent terror attack in Anantnag.

The Minister, as per an official statement, was accompanied by MLA Beerwah, Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, MLA Khansahib, Saif-ud-Din Bhat, and MLA Tangmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah and other concerned officers.

The Minister offered heartfelt condolences to the family and paid rich tributes to the martyred constable.



Interacting with the family members, the Minister conveyed that the Government stands firmly beside them during this difficult time. She assured them that every possible assistance and welfare support will be extended to

ensure the family's well-being and dignity.

The family members expressed their gratitude to the Minister for visiting them and for conveying the government's support and solidarity in their hour of grief.

Nizam-ud-Din Bhat chairs Ethics Committee meeting

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 28: A meeting of the Ethics Committee of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held Tuesday at Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Secretariat, here, under the Chairmanship of its Chairman MLA Nizam-ud-Din Bhat.,

The meeting was attended by Members of the Committee including MLA, Gh. Mohi-ud-Din Mir; MLA, Salman Sagar; MLA, Hilal Akbar Lone; MLA, Zafar Ali Khatana; MLA, Peerzada Feroz Ahmad; MLA, Satish Kumar Sharma; MLA, Surinder Kumar; MLA, Randhir Singh and MLA Arvind Gupta.

The Chairman briefly highlighted the role and importance of the Ethics Committee. He said that the Committee has been constituted to uphold the dignity, decorum and prestige of the House by ensuring that the highest standards of parliamentary ethics, conduct and discipline are maintained by the Members.

The Chairman, as per an official statement, emphasized that the Committee bears a significant responsibility in promoting accountability, transparency, integrity and ethical values in public life, thereby strengthening the public confidence in democratic institutions. He further impressed upon the Members that it is the collective responsibility of the Committee to preserve the sanctity of the Legislature by fostering exemplary standards of conduct among public representatives.

The Chairman further proposed that, with a view to create greater awareness about parliamentary ethics and democratic values, the Committee should undertake interaction programmes with the

students and faculty members of the Departments of Law and Political Science of the University of Kashmir and the University of Jammu. He observed that such interactions would provide an opportunity to obtain valuable feedback and perspectives from the academic community regarding the role, conduct and responsibilities of legislators in a democratic system.

The Chairman also suggested that the Committee should pay a visit to the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to interact with the Chief Justice and other Judges for an exchange of views on ethical standards in public life. He said that such interactions would be beneficial in enriching the Committee's understanding of ethical governance and in strengthening ethical values, not only within the Legislature but also in the conduct of public representatives and public servants.

After detailed deliberations, the Committee unanimously endorsed the proposals of the Chairman. The Committee further resolved to undertake a study visit to the Kerala Legislative Assembly for interaction with its Ethics Committee, which has been widely acknowledged for its effective functioning and best practices. It was decided that the study visit to the Kerala Legislative Assembly shall be undertaken during the third week of the ensuing month, subject to the approval of the competent authority and completion of the requisite administrative formalities.

The meeting was also attended by Shabir Ahmad Wani, Under Secretary LA, Naeqeb Jeelani, Incharge Committees and other officials of the Legislative Assembly.

DC Srinagar reviews progress under TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Vay Vandana enrolment

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR JULY 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting in his Office Chamber to evaluate the implementation of key health schemes in District, with a focus on expanding outreach of Vay Vandana Yojana to achieve 100% senior citizens (Above 70 years) coverage and reviewing the progress under TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, District TB Officer Dr Abdul Rouf, Medical Superintendents of SMHS Hospital, JLNH Hospital and CD Hospital, Block Medical Officer Hazrabal, all Zonal Medical Officers of Srinagar District, CSC District Manager and other concerned.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on



dedicated outreach efforts in all tertiary care hospitals and all Medical Block/Zones of the district to achieve 100% enrolment of eligible individuals aged 70 and above so that they receive the additional benefit of Rs 5 lakh free health treatment. He directed Block and Zonal Medical Officers, along with other concerned Officials to organize outreach camps to mobilize beneficiaries in their respective jurisdiction to ensure that no eligible individual is deprived of

affordable and free healthcare services in the district.

The DC also assessed the Tuberculosis (TB) control measures and implementation of TB presumptive testing, surveillance and initiatives to enhance screening and treatment across the District.

The DC called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and stronger community outreach under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

The DC also reviewed the initiatives undertaken to strengthen patient care and enhance healthcare delivery across the District.

Stressing the need for a patient-first approach, he directed health Officers to ensure the delivery of quality, accessible and responsive healthcare services at all health institutions. He emphasized maintaining high standards of service delivery to ensure timely and efficient medical care for every patient.

KU begins 5-day capacity building workshop for Urdu teachers

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 28: The Centre for Distance & Online Education (CDOE), University of Kashmir (KU) in collaboration with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi, commenced a five-day 'Capacity Building Workshop for Urdu Teachers in the light of NEP 2020' at the

Main Campus.

The workshop, as per a KU statement, has been organised for school Urdu teachers with the objective of enhancing their pedagogical and professional competencies in line with the provisions of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It aims to familiarise participants with learner-centric teaching approaches,

innovative classroom practices, curriculum reforms and the effective use of digital tools in Urdu language education.

In her inaugural address, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, emphasized the importance of continuous professional development for teachers in a changing educational landscape.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo reviews implementation of JKCIIP across J&K Directs DCs to institute roster-based mechanism for regular field inspections by designated officers

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 28: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a comprehensive review meeting on Tuesday to assess the implementation of the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIIP) being implemented by the Agriculture Production Department across the districts of the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department; VC, SKUAST-Kashmir/SKUAST-Jammu; Secretary (Technical), APD; Mission Director, JKCIIP; MD, Horticulture Planning & Marketing; Directors of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry; Convenor, UTLBC besides senior officers of the Agriculture Production Department.

Emphasising that agriculture continues to be one of the most critical sectors of Jammu & Kashmir's economy, the Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, said that JKCIIP has been conceived as a transformational initiative aimed at

enhancing farmers' incomes through climate-smart agriculture, promotion of niche crops, value addition, entrepreneurship development, market integration and sustainable livelihood generation.

He observed that the project has created a strong institutional framework for modernising the agriculture and allied sectors and stressed that every implementing agency must now shift its focus from approvals to tangible outcomes on the ground by ensuring timely establishment of beneficiary units and measurable improvement in rural livelihoods.

Regarding enhancing the participation of women and youth as envisaged under the programme, the Chief Secretary directed the Agriculture Production Department to reach out to the women registered under the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of the Rural Development Department (RDD) and utilise the database of Mission YUVA to effectively engage the aspiring young entrepreneurs across Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasised that convergence with these flagship initiatives would significantly broaden the programme's outreach and ensure



greater inclusion of eligible beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary further directed the Deputy Commissioners to institute a roster-based mechanism for regular field inspections by designated officers to assess the quality of implementation, verify the functionality of beneficiary units established under JKCIIP, and obtain first-hand feedback from applicants. He instructed that the field visits should also focus on identifying implementation bottlenecks and addressing the challenges faced by beneficiaries in a timely manner to ensure effective execution of the programme.

The Chief Secretary further observed that the implementation

of the programme must concentrate on improving the pace of establishment of sanctioned units, strengthening field-level supervision and ensuring that approved beneficiaries are provided all necessary support for timely completion of their enterprises.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, observed that farmer participation under JKCIIP has witnessed remarkable growth since the last review, reflecting the increasing confidence of the farming community in the programme.

While expressing satisfaction over this incremental progress,

he maintained that considerable scope still exists for further improvement. He called upon all implementing agencies to intensify awareness campaigns, strengthen grassroots outreach, and ensure that every eligible farmer, youth and aspiring agri-entrepreneur is able to avail the benefits of the project through proactive facilitation and effective last-mile delivery.

While providing the details the MD, JKCIIP, Dr. Sagor Doido Dattatray stated that the number of registered farmers has increased to 60,283, reflecting an increase of nearly 189 per cent over the past. Similarly, he gave out that the number of applications received under various

project interventions has risen to 67,579, while 43,168 applications have been approved with 7,501 beneficiary units already been established across Jammu & Kashmir.

A detailed department-wise review revealed substantial progress under Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture Planning & Marketing and SKUASTs. The Agriculture Department as the principal implementing agency has made large-scale interventions in vegetable cultivation, aromatic rice, saffron, protected cultivation, water management systems, medicinal and aromatic plants, honey production, mushroom cultivation and other niche agricultural enterprises.

Similarly, the Horticulture Department has expanded interventions relating to orchard rejuvenation, apple, walnut, kiwi, citrus, mango, guava, litchi, and other niche agricultural enterprises. While providing the details the MD, JKCIIP, Dr. Sagor Doido Dattatray stated that the number of registered farmers has increased to 60,283, reflecting an increase of nearly 189 per cent over the past. Similarly, he gave out that the number of applications received under various

Reviewing the progress under Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) development, the meeting was informed that almost the entire project target relating to registration and identification of FPOs has been achieved.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for 2026-27 and directed all implementing agencies to ensure timely execution of approved activities, optimum utilisation of available financial resources and strict adherence to implementation schedules. He emphasised that financial progress must be closely aligned with physical achievements to maximise development outcomes and avoid delays in project execution.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary also reviewed district-wise implementation bottlenecks, scheme-wise progress and project monitoring mechanisms. He directed all implementing agencies to strengthen field verification, maintain complete transparency in beneficiary selection, intensify awareness generation at the grassroots level and regularly review district-wise performance so that implementation gaps are identified and addressed promptly.

Youth true bearers

with digital literacy and technical capabilities and a roadmap will be created for simplified recruitment through on-the-spot interviews and direct hiring.

He said the Job fair will also ensure entrepreneurship promotion to encourage job creators alongside job seekers and it will prepare a future-ready workforce to strengthen India's development journey.

The Lieutenant Governor urged students to embrace three guiding principles- never make dreams small, never stop learning, and always embrace innovation.

"Dream big and focus on new discoveries. The future belongs to those who seek new solutions, develop new thinking, and lead change. Success is meaningful only when achieved with ethics and responsibility," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that colleges and universities must evolve into institutions that prepare students for life beyond examinations.

"Education should not be confined to classrooms. It must prepare every student to begin life's journey with confidence, skills, and practical understanding," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon industry representatives to act as recruiters, mentors and partners in shaping the future workforce.

"If industry and education work together, we can create an environment where knowledge and experience strengthen each other, and innovation and employment advance together," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor underscored the growing interest of youth in entrepreneurship, citing that since 2020, lakhs of youth became entrepreneurs. He recalled that the Union Territory led the country in PMEGP in 2021-22, and expressed confidence that the UT will carve a new identity in innovation, startups, and modern industries.

He further emphasized that unemployment cannot be solved through government jobs alone, as government vacancies are limited. Instead, he outlined three priorities- aligning skills with industry needs, promoting private sector job creation through MSMEs and SMEs, and bridging the transition from college to workplace through internships, mentorships, and career guidance.

"Let us resolve that this 77th Mega Job Fair will mark the beginning of a new chapter in the employment history of Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education Department; Prof. Mohammad Mobin, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Srinagar; Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST; Dr. Sandeep Singh, President of Desh Bhagat University; Prof. Tehmina Yousuf, Principal, Amar Singh College, senior officials, representatives of leading industries, heads of educational institutes, and youth in large number were present. (KNO)

Can't tell youth

collaboration with NIELIT, Nations Development Association (NDA) and MY Bharat.

Minister for Education Sakina Itoo, Commissioner Secretary School Education Ram Niwas Sharma, Vice Chancellor Cluster University of Srinagar, Vice Chancellors of several universities from Jammu and Kashmir, President Desh Bhagat University Punjab Dr. Sandeep Singh, Principal Amar Singh College, principals and deans of various colleges, members of the teaching fraternity and students were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that institutions of higher learning have a responsibility that extends beyond awarding degrees. He observed that universities and colleges must actively support students in transitioning from education to employment through continuous engagement and career facilitation.

He noted that for decades, educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir had largely considered their responsibility fulfilled once students graduated. Appreciating the initiative taken by Cluster University Srinagar and Desh Bhagat University in organising the mega job fair, he described it as a significant step towards bridging the gap between education and employment.

The Chief Minister highlighted the encouraging outcome of the job fair, stating that of the nearly 5,300 registered candidates, around 470 youth secured job offers, while another 430 candidates reached the final stages of recruitment, requiring only the completion of interview formalities. He said that nearly 900 young men and women had either secured employment or were on the verge of being employed, describing it as an impressive success rate for an initiative that is still in its early stages.

He expressed confidence that with more such employment drives, the number of placements would continue to rise. Calling the event a landmark initiative for Cluster University Srinagar, he said it demonstrated the immense potential of structured campus recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to institutionalise campus recruitment across all universities and colleges in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that universities, including the University of Kashmir, Islamic University of Science and Technology, University of Jammu, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology and other higher educational institutions, should organise recruitment drives regularly so that students get employment opportunities before completing their studies.

Stating that merely asserting government jobs are not the solution to unemployment is not enough, Omar Abdullah said the government cannot abdicate its responsibility after making such a statement. "If we cannot provide government employment to every young person, then it becomes our duty to open more doors of opportunity. We cannot simply tell our youth to look elsewhere; we must create opportunities for them through private sector engagement, skill development and industry partnerships," he said.

Emphasising the immense talent among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister said that what they require is greater exposure

and wider opportunities.

The Chief Minister also underscored the importance of promoting entrepreneurship alongside employment. Referring to the government's recent initiatives to strengthen the startup ecosystem, he said efforts were underway to connect young entrepreneurs with venture capital fund and handholding of startups so that those wishing to establish their own enterprises receive the necessary institutional support.

He reiterated that the government would continue making every possible effort to ensure that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir receive opportunities comparable to those available elsewhere in the country and abroad.

Congratulating the candidates who secured placements during the recruitment drive, the Chief Minister wished them success in their professional careers. He also extended his best wishes to those who had reached the final stage of the recruitment process, expressing hope that they too would soon secure employment.

Earlier, the Chief Minister handed over offer letters to students who were selected during the campus recruitment process. Congratulating the newly recruited candidates, he expressed confidence that they would excel in their respective careers and serve as an inspiration for other aspiring youth.

On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between Cluster University of Srinagar and Desh Bhagat University, Punjab in presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, aimed at strengthening academic collaboration, skill development initiatives and enhancing employment opportunities for students.

The mega job fair brought together more than 50 reputed employers from various parts of the country, including companies with operations in the Gulf and Middle East.

The event offered direct employment opportunities to graduates, postgraduates, diploma holders and skilled youth through on-the-spot interviews, screening and recruitment, while also providing career guidance and valuable industry exposure.

'Accelerate CAPEX

available funds is critical for infrastructure development, public service delivery and sustained economic growth.

The Chief Minister underscored the need for focused attention on departments lagging in expenditure and cautioned against the practice of delaying spending until the closing months of the financial year.

"To have money and not spend it is incompetence. This is very difficult to justify. Not having money is easier to explain, but it is impossible to explain when funds are available and remain unutilized," the Chief Minister said while addressing the meeting.

He said the review was intentionally convened at the beginning of the financial cycle rather than towards the end of the year so that corrective measures could be taken in time and departments could utilize the remaining working season effectively.

"There is still ample working season available in both the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu plains. There should be no reason why funds already released are not spent appropriately. Every department must give this focused attention," he said.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javid Ahmed Dar and Satish Sharma.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, all Administrative Secretaries, Director General Budget, Director General Codes, Heads of Departments and other senior officers attended the meeting. Outstation officers participated through video conferencing.

Reviewing the implementation of the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), the Chief Minister directed departments to ensure full utilization of allocations under the scheme, warning that any unspent amount during the current financial year would reduce Jammu and Kashmir's allocation in the next fiscal.

He stressed that every rupee available under SASCI Part-I must be utilized and instructed departments to identify eligible projects without delay. He also directed ministers to personally review reform-linked targets under the scheme on a fortnightly basis so that Jammu and Kashmir could qualify for additional financial assistance under the reform component of SASCI.

"The earlier we implement the specified reforms, the sooner we receive additional funds and the more time we will have to utilize them productively," he observed.

The Chief Minister asked departments to immediately begin work on projects where administrative approvals and tendering had already been completed, stating that such projects could initially be funded through the CAPEX budget and later shifted to the reform-linked component of SASCI once additional funds become available.

He further directed departments to prepare a robust pipeline of projects for the next financial year instead of waiting for funding before identifying development works.

Expressing concern over the inability of some departments to identify projects despite the availability of financial resources, the Chief Minister remarked that the government's challenge had shifted from shortage of funds to inadequate project preparedness.

He advised departments to revisit the development priorities submitted by Members of the Legislative Assembly during the Budget consultations and utilize proposals, particularly projects exceeding the 2 crore threshold, for inclusion under future SASCI funding.

The Chief Minister also instructed departments to initiate administrative approvals and other statutory formalities well in advance so that projects for the 2027-28 financial year remain implementation-ready as soon as funds are sanctioned.

Highlighting the need to improve expenditure under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Chief

Minister directed departments to closely monitor utilization levels and ensure that funds released under all development programmes are spent efficiently and within stipulated timelines.

He also took note of suggestions made by ministers regarding simplification and streamlining of the tendering process and directed the concerned departments to evolve an appropriate mechanism to make procurement procedures more efficient while maintaining transparency and accountability.

Expressing confidence that departments would respond with urgency, the Chief Minister said the next review would assess tangible improvements in expenditure performance across sectors.

Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, gave a detailed presentation on the Capital Expenditure position for the financial year 2026-27, covering expenditure under UT sector, District CAPEX and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. He also highlighted departments where expenditure remained below expected levels and outlined the factors contributing to slow utilization of funds.

LG visits SKIMS,

doctors briefed the Lieutenant Governor about the treatment being provided to the injured pilgrims. He reviewed the medical care and instructed the hospital administration to ensure the best possible treatment for all the injured.

LG Sinha also directed senior officials to extend all necessary assistance and personal care to the pilgrims and ensure arrangements for their safe return to their hometowns after recovery.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said all 39 yatris admitted to SKIMS following the accident were in stable condition and responding well to treatment.

He said directions had been issued to provide the highest standard of medical care and ensure every possible assistance to the injured pilgrims.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V.K. Birdi, and other senior civil and police officials.

CM DEPUTES HEALTH MINISTER TO PERSONALLY OVERSEE TREATMENT

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed deep concern over the accident and directed the Health and Medical Education Department to ensure that injured pilgrims don't face any problems.

The Chief Minister deputed Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo to SKIMS Soura to personally oversee the treatment of the injured.

Acting on his directions, the Minister visited the hospital, met the injured pilgrims, enquired about their well-being and interacted with the attending doctors and hospital authorities to assess their condition and the treatment being provided.

Sakina Itoo directed the hospital administration to spare no effort in ensuring the best possible medical care and speedy recovery of the injured pilgrims.

The Chief Minister also wished the injured pilgrims a speedy recovery and reaffirmed the government's commitment to extend every possible assistance to them and their families during this difficult time.

Pertinently, at least 40 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims were injured after the bus they were travelling in skidded off the road and overturned near Ganiwan in Ganderbal district on Tuesday morning. The injured were initially shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Kangan before being referred to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment. Officials said 39 pilgrims were admitted to SKIMS, where all were reported to be in stable condition. (KNO)

Fresh batch reaches

Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu for the annual pilgrimage this year has reached 1,30,355, officials added.

Every year, thousands of devotees from across the country undertake the pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine, situated at an altitude of 3,880 metres nestled in the Himalayas, traversing steep mountain trails, glaciers and iced streams. The two main base camps for the pilgrimage are Baltal in Central Kashmir and Nunwan (Pahalgam) in South Kashmir.

With 4,35,412 pilgrims having paid obeisance so far this year, the Yatra has already surpassed last year's total of over 4.14 lakh devotees. In 2024, around 5.12 lakh pilgrims performed the pilgrimage. The highest-ever footfall was recorded in 2011 and 2012, when 6.35 lakh and 6.22 lakh pilgrims, respectively, visited the holy cave shrine. (KNO)

Cloudburst triggers

and debris rushed down from the upper reaches, inundating low-lying areas and threatening residential houses, agricultural land and local infrastructure. Water levels in streams rose sharply within a short span, forcing residents in vulnerable areas to move to safer locations.

Officials said the situation was being monitored and an assessment of the damage was underway. There were no immediate reports of any loss of life.

The MeT Department cautioned that intense showers over Handwara, Sopore, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Rajouri, Reasi, Doda and Kishtwar could trigger localized flash floods, mudslides and landslides. It also warned of shooting stones and rockfalls at vulnerable stretches in the hilly districts and advised people to stay away from nallahs, streams and landslide-prone areas.

SRINAGAR RECORDS 31.5 C

The weather office said Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 31.5 degrees Celsius, which was 1.6 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 20.0 degrees Celsius, 1.2 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 30.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 18.6 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam registered 27.9 degrees Celsius and 16.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 31.6 degrees Celsius, Kukernag 30.5 degrees Celsius, Jammu 34.0 degrees Celsius, Banihal 29.6 degrees Celsius, Batote 26.6 degrees Celsius, Katra 29.5 degrees Celsius, and Bhaderwah 30.5 degrees Celsius.

Among the stations, Gulmarg received 7.4 mm rainfall between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm, while Katra recorded 22.4 mm rainfall during the same period and 45.2 mm over the previous 24 hours ending at 8:30 am. Most other weather stations recorded no significant rainfall during the official observation period despite showers occurring later in the day.

MET PREDICTS SHOWERS

For July 29, the MeT Department has forecast one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places during the early morning and late afternoon or evening hours, with heavy rainfall and brief intense showers likely at a few districts of the Jammu division.

For July 30 and 31, the weather office said Kashmir division is likely to witness one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at most places, with the possibility of brief intense heavy showers at a few locations, mainly during the morning and evening hours.

In the Jammu division, light to moderate rain is expected at most places, while a few districts may receive heavy to torrential rainfall and brief intense showers. The MeT Department said Udhampur and adjoining areas are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall, with peak activity expected during the night of July 30.

The weather is expected to remain generally wet on August 1 and 2, with light to moderate rain at many places and brief intense showers at isolated locations. On August 3 and 4, many places are likely to receive light to moderate rain, while a few districts in the Jammu division may witness heavy rain, torrential showers and intense downpours.

The MeT Department warned that heavy rainfall between July 28 and August 1 could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides at vulnerable locations, particularly in the Jammu division, and advised the general public, tourists, travellers and transporters to follow advisories issued by the administration. (KNO)

NRPC warns legacy

technologically obsolete and require refurbishment, replacement and modernization, including associated switchgear, protection systems and control equipment.

In addition, reactive power support is also available through various ISTS substations connected with the Northern Grid. "However, a comprehensive assessment of the adequacy of existing reactive compensation, both at ISTS and intra-state levels, has not been undertaken in recent years in view of changing network conditions."

MVAR is a unit of measurement for reactive power in AC electrical systems.

NRPC said that JKPTCL stated that there is a need for a detailed system study to assess the present voltage profile across the J&K transmission network and reactive power flow patterns under various operating scenarios.

It also said that there is a need for a detailed system study to assess the existing and future reactive power compensation requirements and the requirement of capacitor banks, reactors, dynamic reactive compensation devices and other voltage control measures.

The committee also said that in order to address the identified gaps, JKPTCL has formulated a programme for refurbishment, replacement and augmentation of reactive power compensation facilities within its transmission network. (KNO)

Mehbooba clarifies

rights, dignity and democratic aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir throughout her political career and that the remark did not reflect her intended message.

She reaffirmed her party's commitment to the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A, announced peaceful protests across Jammu and Kashmir on August 5. Mehbooba said the PDP had adopted a comprehensive political resolution reaffirming the vision of its founder, late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, centred on "peace with dignity", democratic engagement, reconciliation and political dialogue.

She said the party had planned district-level Foundation Day celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir, but scaled them down in view of the recent heavy rains and the loss of lives and property, particularly in Rajouri and Poonch.

Congratulating party workers, Mehbooba said the PDP had survived repeated political attacks during its 27-year journey and that its workers had remained committed to the party's ideology despite hardships and political pressure.

Reading out the party's political resolution, Mufti said the PDP would continue its constitutional struggle for the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A and all constitutional guarantees that protected the identity, special status and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The only way to establish lasting peace is through dialogue, reconciliation and confidence-building measures. That remains the vision of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and the commitment of the PDP," she said.

Announcing the party's future political programme, Mehbooba said the PDP would hold peaceful protests across Jammu and Kashmir on August 5 to press for the restoration of the erstwhile constitutional position of the region and oppose what she termed the erosion of democratic and federal principles.

Referring to the developments after August 5, 2019, she said the PDP leadership and workers had been subjected to intimidation, detentions and political targeting because of their stand on Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite the pressure, she said, the party would continue to speak for the people and would not compromise on its principles.

Describing Jammu and Kashmir as a natural gateway between South and Central Asia, Mehbooba urged the Centre to reopen the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote Cross-LoC routes for trade and travel, saying the links would strengthen commerce, tourism and people-to-people contact.

She also sought the reopening of access to Sharda Peeth for Kashmiri Pandits and reiterated that dialogue and reconciliation remained the only viable path to resolving the Jammu and Kashmir issue.

The PDP president demanded the release of

political detainees, undertrials and those booked under preventive detention laws, urging the Government of India to review their cases and ensure justice.

She also called for the gradual withdrawal of security forces from civilian areas where terrorism had substantially declined, saying if the Centre maintained that normalcy had returned, the reduced security footprint should also be visible on the ground.

Mehbooba also demanded a greater share of Jammu and Kashmir's natural resources, seeking either adequate compensation or the transfer of at least two major hydroelectric power projects to the Union Territory. She also reiterated the demand for separate divisional administrative units for the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley regions to ensure balanced development and better governance.

The PDP chief also sought transparent recruitment to fill more than one lakh government vacancies, greater political representation for women and continued efforts for the dignified rehabilitation and return of Kashmiri Pandits. (KNO)

Mehbooba's statement

expressing regret and apologising and also questioned a PDP MLA's stand on the issue.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Mega Job Fair at Amar Singh College here, Omar, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said Mehbooba Mufti's statement could not be termed an apology.

"When someone says 'if anyone was hurt', it is not an apology. There is a difference between regret and forgiveness," he said.

The Chief Minister said the bigger question was about those who spent five days claiming the controversial video was AI-generated.

"For five days people were told it was AI. Today their own party president admitted she herself made those remarks. Those who misled the people should answer for it."

Taking a swipe at a PDP MLA, Omar said the party's own president had disproved the AI claim. "Her own party president has exposed that claim. He kept saying for five days that it was AI-generated, but today Mehbooba Ji herself has admitted there was no AI. Those people should also express regret. Even if they don't apologise, they should at least express regret," he said.

Highlighting the outcome of the Mega Job Fair, CM Abdullah said around 5,300 youth had registered for the event, with nearly 470 receiving on-the-spot job offers while another 430 were shortlisted for further interviews.

"If the shortlisted candidates are also selected, around 900 youth will get jobs. It is a significant achievement. We hope more such Mega Job Fairs are organised as our continuous effort is to reduce unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The CM said more than 60 recruiting companies from Jammu and Kashmir, other parts of the country and firms with overseas offices participated in the event, creating employment opportunities for local youth.

On the National Testing Agency (NTA) Bill introduced in Parliament, the Chief Minister welcomed the move and said it was the students' protests that had pushed the Centre to strengthen the examination system. "If the examination system improves because of the students' protest, it is a positive outcome. Let Parliament pass the Bill," he said.

Responding to the PDP's proposed August 5 protest seeking restoration of Article 370, Omar said the party itself was responsible for the present political situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Had they not brought the BJP to power in Jammu and Kashmir, we would not have reached this stage. If they now realise their mistake and want to rectify it, that is their decision," Abdullah said. (KNO)

Body of youth

local volunteers. The deceased was identified as Sajad Ahmad Mir (25), a resident of Balhama, Srinagar.

The officials said the body has been handed over to the police for medico-legal formalities and further necessary proceedings. (KNO)

Drug awareness campaign

to ensure coordinated implementation and regular review.

The ministry stated that the campaign has strengthened awareness generation, community participation, inter-departmental coordination and outreach for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of persons affected by substance abuse.

As per the reply, the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, launched on 15 August 2020, initially covered 272 vulnerable districts and was extended to all districts of the country from August 2023, with a special focus on higher educational institutions, universities and schools.

The ministry said 21 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) have been established in Government hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir at GMC Anantnag, District Hospital Bandipora, GMC Baramulla, District Hospital Budgam, GMC & Hospital Doda, District Hospital Ganderbal, GMC Jammu, GMC Kathua, District Hospital Kishtwar, District Hospital Kulgam, District Hospital Kupwara, District Hospital Poonch, District Hospital Pulwama, District Hospital Ramban, Government Medical College & Hospital Rajouri, District Hospital Samba, District Hospital Shopian, the Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences at GMC Srinagar, SKIMS Srinagar, GMCH Udhampur and District Hospital Reasi.

The ministry further said 12 NGO-supported de-addiction centres are functional in the UT, including J&K Students Welfare Mission (DDAC) in Bandipora, Cultural Educational and Environmental Organization (DDAC) in Budgam, Himalaya Sewa Sang (CPLI) in Jammu, J&K Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses operating an IRCA and an ODIC in Jammu and a DDAC in Kulgam and Samba, National Educational Society and Social Welfare Organization operating an ODIC in Kupwara and a CPLI and an ODIC in Srinagar, Concerned About Universal Social Empowerment (CAUSE) (DDAC) in Pulwama, and National Educational Society and Social Welfare Organization (NESSWO) (DDAC) in Rajouri. (KNO)

India, China underline importance of maintaining peace, tranquillity in border areas

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 28: India and China discussed ways to deepen bilateral ties during Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit to Beijing, echoing the shared vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping that both nations are development partners.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said both sides acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas.

Misri is on a two-day visit to China from Monday. He has held talks with a number of Chinese leaders, including Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying and Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Sun Haiyan.

In the last few months, New Delhi and Beijing unveiled a series of measures to normalise their ties that came under



severe strain during the over four-year eastern Ladakh border standoff.

"Both sides discussed bilateral relations in its entirety and discussed means of advancing the vision of the two leaders (Modi and Xi) that India and China are partners and development opportunities for each other, including through mutually beneficial outcomes across trade and economic ties, cul-

ture and people-to-people exchanges," Jaiswal said at a media briefing.

On India and China deciding to resume border trade through Nathu La, Jaiswal said: "This is matter which was agreed between two side last year. In August 2025, Both sides agreed to the re-opening of border trade through the three designated trading points, namely Lipulekh Pass,

Shipki La Pass and Nathu La Pass."

Following a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides withdrew their troops from several friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

In October 2024, the two sides firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Days after the agreement was finalised, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan and took a number of decisions to improve ties.

In August last year, Modi travelled to the Chinese city of Tianjin to attend the annual SCO summit. Modi and Xi held extensive talks on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

In the meeting, Modi said India is committed to taking forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity.

Everyone in South Asia knows who is stymieing cooperation under SAARC: India

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 28: India on Tuesday sought to hold Pakistan responsible for "stymieing" cooperation under the framework of the SAARC grouping and said New Delhi favours strong regional co-operation.

The remarks by External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal came in response to a question on Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu pitching for reviving the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

In an address on Sunday, Muizzu called for resolving differences between the SAARC member nations through dialogue.

"India favours strong regional cooperation and has been working towards it for several decades," Jaiswal said at his bi-weekly media briefing.

"Everyone in South Asia is aware of which country and what activities are responsible for stymieing SAARC. After all,



cooperation does require goodwill," he added.

The SAARC is a regional bloc comprising India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The grouping has not been very effective since 2016 as its biennial summits have not taken place since the last one in Kathmandu in 2014.

The 2016 SAARC Summit was to be held in Islamabad. But after the terrorist attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir on September 18 that year, India

expressed its inability to participate in the summit due to "prevailing circumstances".

The summit was called off after Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan also declined to participate in the Islamabad meet.

In the last few years, India has made concerted efforts to make BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) a vibrant forum for regional cooperation as initiatives under SAARC were not moving forward.

CYBER FRAUD CASES

Delhi records highest number of e-Zero FIRs among 18 states, UTs



PTI

New Delhi, Jul 28: Delhi has recorded the highest number of e-Zero FIRs among the 18 states and Union territories that have implemented the system for cyber financial fraud cases, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday.

In a written response in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the Central government has provided a platform to states and UTs to register e-Zero FIRs in cyber financial fraud cases.

"Under this system, complaints involving a particular financial loss thresholds (as decided by respective State/UT) registered on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) or through helpline 1930, will automatically result in the registration of an e-Zero FIR at the State/UT e-Crime Police Station, which is then promptly transferred to the concerned territorial cyber

crime police station," he said.

"The complainant is required to visit the respective police station within three days to convert the Zero FIR into a regular FIR," the minister said.

He added that Section 173(1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 mandates that information relating to the commission of a cognisable offence, irrespective of where the offence is committed, may be given orally or through electronic communication to the officer in charge of a police station.

The minister said the e-Zero FIR system has been implemented in Delhi, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan 251, Assam 223, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Haryana, Gujarat, Tripura, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Bihar and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Delhi has registered the highest number of e-Zero FIRs at 6,115 since implementing the system in May 2025, followed by Chandigarh with 4,174, he said.

Uttarakhand has recorded 552 e-Zero FIRs, Goa 446, Rajasthan 251, Assam 223, Haryana 165 and Maharashtra 131, while the remaining states and UTs have reported lower numbers.

The minister said that the 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

He added that cyber financial fraud complaints reported on the NCRP, their conversion into FIRs and subsequent action, including filing of chargesheets, arrests and resolution of complaints, are handled by the concerned state and UT law enforcement agencies in accordance with the provisions of law.

Sharad Pawar dismisses merger buzz



PTI

Baramati, Jul 28: NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday once again dismissed speculation over a possible merger of the two factions of the Nationalist Congress Party.

Responding to a reporter's question about the buzz about the two NCP factions coming together, Pawar said, "It has no relevance."

NCP (SP) leaders had claimed earlier that then NCP chief and Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who died in an air crash in January, was firm on merging both the factions.

To another question, Pawar said the BJP-led state government had promised to release the list of farmers eligible for its latest crop loan waiver scheme in phases. "We will wait for another 15 days and only after that will we comment," he added.

Bombay HC says equality requires husband, wife to share home and child expenses



PTI

Mumbai, Jul 28: Equality cannot be claimed selectively, and both earning partners must contribute to household and child's education expenses to maintain a lifestyle, the Bombay High Court has said while granting relief to a man seeking reduction in monthly maintenance for his estranged wife and minor son.

A single bench of Justice M M Sathaye, in the order passed last week, set aside the January 2025 order of a family court directing the man to pay Rs 50,000 monthly maintenance to his estranged wife

and son, and reduced the amount to Rs 25,000.

It noted that the man was paying EMIs towards two houses - one in Mumbai's Andheri area where his wife and son are staying and the other at Panvel in Navi Mumbai, while he himself lived in Bihar.

The wife was not contributing anything towards the EMIs, the court noted in the order, a copy of which was made available on Tuesday.

The man had, in his plea, urged the HC to reduce the monthly maintenance he has to pay his wife and son from Rs 50,000 to Rs 25,000. He had requested his wife to

either live with him in Bihar or at least shift to the Panvel house so he could sell the Andheri home to reduce his financial burdens. The wife, however, refused.

The court said no fault can be found with the man's requests.

In a matrimonial dispute, if the wife expects the luxury of staying at a premium location like Andheri without paying EMI or contributing to it from her own pocket, then it cannot be expected from the husband, who is already paying the entire EMI, not to plead the same as a reason to seek reduction in the maintenance amount, the bench said.

"Equality cannot be claimed selectively and certainly not when both parties are earning. If lifestyle is to be maintained, then both parties must contribute," the court observed. When both husband and wife are earning and want their child to get the best education, then both are expected to contribute towards the expenses, it added.

The man said he had lost his job during the COVID-19 pandemic, and was now working at a much lower salary and was under financial pressure.

The court noted that the COVID-19 pandemic affected several people's professional careers and also businesses, and hence there was an explanation for the reduction in the man's earnings.

Mobile alert system issues disaster warnings in regional languages: Govt

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 28: From avalanches in the Himalayas to industrial and man-made disasters in urban centres, India's mobile-based disaster alert system issues geo-targeted warnings in regional languages that reach users across all mobile networks, including those in remote and vulnerable areas, the government informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

In a written response, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that the Cell Broadcast Alert System is used to provide timely warnings for disasters with very short lead time, including cyclones, tsunamis, heavy rainfall, lightning, flash floods, thunderstorms, hailstorms, avalanches, cloudbursts and industrial or man-made disasters, besides other events requiring immediate public alerting.

Warning-generating agencies provide geo-targeted warnings, which are then disseminated to people in the affected areas.

Rai said the system operates through the Integrated Alert System based on the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), implemented by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The platform integrates five warning-generating agencies - the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Water Commission (CWC), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE) and Forest Survey of India (FSI) - along with the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs).

Gold drops Rs 2,640 per 10 g, silver slides Rs 5,200



PTI

New Delhi, Jul 28: Gold prices retreated by Rs 2,640 to Rs 1.47 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, and silver dropped Rs 5,200 per kg, tracking weak global trends and a firm rupee.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated by Rs 2,640 to Rs 1,47,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Monday's closing level of Rs 1,49,640 per 10 grams, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Silver also witnessed selling and tumbled Rs 5,200 to Rs 2,24,800 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal had settled at Rs 2,30,000

per kg in the previous session.

Traders said a stronger rupee reduced the landed cost of imported bullion in the domestic market, while weak global trends and caution ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision kept investors' sentiment subdued.

"Gold edged lower on Tuesday, retreating from the previous session's gains as investors turned cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision," said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities.

Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, the precious metals traded lower despite crude oil prices extending the decline to the third day on hopes of Iran and the US

resuming their peace talks over other critical matters.

The two nations extended their pause in hostilities for the fourth day, while Oman and Iran continue their discussions over the Strait of Hormuz issue.

According to reports, Oman cited some progress, and may announce a positive development leading to a possible breakthrough, though nothing is certain.

In the global markets, spot gold fell USD 53.30, or 1.31 per cent, to USD 4,023.50 per ounce and silver dropped 2 per cent to USD 57.24 per ounce.

"Spot gold and silver saw renewed declines in the international market, slipping to USD 4,030 and USD 57 per ounce respectively, as the dollar surged to a fresh one-month high of 101.57 ahead of Wednesday's Federal Reserve decision," said Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research, Kotak Securities.

She added that lingering uncertainty around the durability of the US-Iran de-escalation added a layer of caution, with President Donald Trump saying the talks with Iran were progressing but warned that strikes would resume if negotiations failed to deliver.

Centre orders sugar dealers to limit stocks to 30 days; stock limit at 4,000 quintals

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 28: The government on Tuesday directed that no dealer of sugar should hold stock for more than 30 days and also imposed a stock limit of 4,000 quintals as part of its efforts to keep prices of sweetener under control.

The order would come into force with effect from August 1, 2026, and would remain in force up to November 30, 2026.

In a gazette notification, the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs imposed this restriction using powers under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and the Sugar (Control) Order, 2025.

"...Central Government hereby directs that no dealer of sugar shall hold any stock for a period exceeding thirty days from the date of receipt of such stock and shall not keep sugar in stock at any time and in any place throughout the country in excess of 4,000 quintals," the notification said.

To keep prices under check amid a forecast of a deficit



monsoon, the Centre has already banned sugar exports.

The order would not apply to sugar stocks held on the government account, or by dealers nominated by the State Government or an officer authorised by it to hold stock for distribution through fair price shops under the Public Distribution System.

The ministry said that the state governments or Union territory administrations should fix the stock holding and turnover limits, subject to the condition that the stock holding limit and the turnover period shall not be higher than the limit or period as specified herein.

Netanyahu at White House for first Trump talks during Iran war



AFP

Washington, Jul 28: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived Tuesday at the White House for his first in-person talks with President Donald Trump since the Iran war began, as the leaders seek to patch over public disagreements on the conflict.

The meeting is expected to be dominated by the war, which began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February but has seen a recent pause in the fighting as Washington says it wants to give negotiations a chance.

Israel has not taken part in the latest round of hostilities between the United States and Iran, which flared earlier this month as an April ceasefire collapsed.

The meeting is the eighth between the leaders since Trump's return to office in early

2025 and comes ahead of key electoral tests later this year for both Netanyahu and the US president: national elections in Israel and midterm polls in the United States.

"We will discuss all the issues on the agenda, first and foremost Iran. Naturally, our goal is to safeguard our security and also to expand the circle of peace around us," Netanyahu said before departing from Israel.

Upon arriving in Washington, Netanyahu attended a private memorial dinner on Monday evening in honor of the late senator Lindsey Graham, his office said.

He was also scheduled to attend the memorial service for Graham later Tuesday.

Relations between Trump and Netanyahu reached a low point in April during negotiations on the ceasefire with Iran, with Trump unleashing profanity-laced tirades against

his Israeli ally.

Trump later described Netanyahu in an interview as a "very difficult guy."

Netanyahu downplayed the exchanges as "tactical disagreements," saying they were aligned on the goals of the war.

On Tuesday, the leaders were expected to discuss the implementation of a US-sponsored framework deal signed by Israel and Lebanon last month, whose application on the ground has been challenging.

The talks were also expected to touch on Gaza, as diplomatic efforts to kickstart the devastated Palestinian territory's reconstruction are at a standstill.

Nearly three years after the war between Israel and Hamas broke out, the humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire, and Israel continues to regularly target people the military says are militants.

Iran executes two men over charges related to Jan protests

REUTERS

Dubai, Jul 28: Iran has executed two men who were sentenced to death for their part in protests in Isfahan during nationwide unrest that rocked the country in January, the Judiciary's Mizan News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Abolfazl Sepahi Badjani and Amirhossein Safari Hosseinabadi were among 12 men sentenced to death on charges of taking part in the killing of security force members in Alikhani Square in Isfahan on January 8. Another two in the same trial had already been executed.

Nationwide anti-government protests rocked the country in January and were repressed in the biggest crackdown in the history of the Islamic Republic, during which security forces killed thousands of protesters.

On Monday UN experts said at least 24 people have been executed in connection with the January protests so far in 2026.

Iran has been at war with the United States since February 28 when the US and Israel began airstrikes on Iran, though this paused with a truce agreement in June.

Washington abruptly suspended a two-week campaign of renewed airstrikes on Iran on Saturday but President Trump has warned US attacks would resume if negotiations fail to deliver an agreement.

Atiq Mir produces moments of brilliance in Sweden, finishes P7



PTI

Kristianstad (Sweden), Jul 28: Indian racing prodigy Atiq Mir displayed moments of brilliance in qualifying and the opening heat race before an untimely crash spoiled the remainder of her weekend at Champions of the Future Euro Series Round 4 here. Considering it was her debut at the Kristianstad Kart Track here, the 11-year-old hardly took any time to get up to speed.

Fresh off a pole position in

Italy, Atiq turned heads by qualifying only 0.17 seconds off the fastest time in her Qualifying group for a commendable 10th place and 29th overall out of 86 drivers. Atiq, the first Indian to be backed by Formula 1 Academy, qualified second overall among the wildcard entries.

In the round held as a prelude to the high stakes FIA European Championship here this weekend, Atiq got much needed track time for an invaluable experience. In the races, her seventh place in heat 1 was her best result of the weekend

and came ahead of many established drivers on the grid. Against all odds, Atiq fought hard and gave a good account of her rare talent. After the impressive show in heat 1, Atiq did not have much going her way.

Starting on the outside row was a big disadvantage before a crash and two penalties marred her smooth start to the weekend.

Atiq qualified for the all-important Super Heats and finished 21st on road but got another penalty for an aggressive overtake.

"This is a fabulous track and very easy for overtaking, I tried all my moves and got some penalties as well for being over aggressive. I was quick all weekend and I feel prepared for the big FIA event next weekend," she said.

Atiq's father Asif Mir, who is India's first national karting champion, said the weekend was good preparation for the FIA round starting in couple of days.

"It was an eventful weekend with learning the track and all the overtaking opportunities. Atiq lost places due to inexperience on this track compared to others, but now she feels prepared for the FIA event here next week. She has surprised everyone by her speed and poise," he said.

FDA suspends food licences of Cricket Club of India, MIG Cricket Club in Mumbai

PTI

Mumbai, Jul 28: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has suspended the food business licences of the Cricket Club of India (CCI), MIG Cricket Club in Bandra East, and three other clubs in the city for alleged violations of food safety and hygiene norms, officials said on Tuesday.

The CCI's kitchen lacked segregation between vegetarian and non-vegetarian food preparation areas, and FDA inspectors also found a large number of cockroaches and flies near food handling and waste disposal areas, said an official statement.

The FDA under its newly appointed commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has taken action against several famous eateries and food establishments in the city and elsewhere in the state over the last two months.

At the CCI, water was found dripping on stored food inside



cold storage, drains were clogged, cutting boards were unhygienic, rotten vegetables, overripe mushrooms and expired food items were stored, and FIFO/FEFO ('First In, First Out' and 'First Expired, First Out') practices and proper food labelling were not followed, it said.

Utensils were placed directly on the floor, and grease, sludge and stagnant water was found accumulated around food preparation areas, the statement further claimed. It also cited the

absence of colour-coded chopping boards which increases the risk of cross-contamination. These violations warranted immediate suspension of the club's food licence under the Food Safety and Standards Act and related regulations, the authority said.

The food licence of MIG Cricket Club was suspended as an unauthorised catering agency without a valid FSSAI licence was operating from the premises, the FDA said.

Uganda declares end to latest Ebola outbreak

REUTERS

Nairobi, Jul 28: Uganda's health minister declared the country Ebola-free on Tuesday following the East African nation's latest outbreak of the viral hemorrhagic disease that infected 20 people and killed two of them.

Uganda has suffered multiple outbreaks of Ebola since 2000, when it recorded its first epidemic, and officials say over the years the country gained expertise it has used to bring recent infections under control quickly with limited community spread. Fifteen people in the latest outbreak, declared in mid-May, were infected in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo — the epicenter of the epidemic, where the number of confirmed cases now stands at more than 3,000.

The last Ebola patient in Uganda, a Congolese national, was discharged on June 22. That is short of the 42-day waiting period required by the World Health Organization to declare the end of an outbreak.

But Health Minister Chris Baryomunsi said the announcement follows the "successful completion of the mandatory 42-day monitoring period which begun after the discharge of the last Ugandan national, a locally transmitted patient, on the 16 of June, 2026."

Amateur cricket match goes viral after cheating allegation

AP

London, Jul 28: An amateur cricket match in England has become a viral sensation after allegations of cheating were shared on social media.

A video, which claims to show a fielder clicking his fingers to imitate the sound of a bat connecting with the ball before a player is called out, has been viewed millions of times on X. The poster of the video described it as "about the worst case of cheating I've ever seen in cricket."

The video of a match involving North Yorkshire and South Durham Cricket League team

Saltburn, has been greeted with outrage online and generated headlines around the world.

TV presenter Piers Morgan weighed in, describing the player involved as the "biggest cheat in cricket history" and wondered how many batsmen's days "has he ruined?" A cricket umpire could be fooled into calling a player out if they believed they heard the sound of the ball clipping the edge of a bat before being caught.

The league said in a statement on X that it had received a formal complaint regarding a game on Saturday, but did not reveal which teams were involved.

Chess World C'ship match between Gukesh, Sindarov in Geneva in Nov-Dec



PTI

Geneva (Switzerland), Jul 28: The FIDE World Championship Match 2026 between reigning champion Gukesh D and challenger Javokhir Sindarov will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 25 to December 15.

Both Gukesh of India and Uzbekistan's Sindarov will be just 20 years old when the match begins, making it the youngest World Championship contest in history.

The clash also signals a generational shift in world chess, with

two of the game's brightest young stars battling for its biggest prize after emerging from an era dominated by seasoned champions..

FIDE Interim President Viswanathan Anand welcomed the announcement.

"Several countries expressed a strong interest in hosting the FIDE World Championship Match, including India, the United States and Cyprus," said Anand.

The World Championship match will be contested over 14 classical games, with the first player to reach 7.5 points crowned world champion. If either player reaches the

winning mark before all 14 games are completed, the remaining games will not be played.

However, if the score is tied 7-7 at the end of the classical portion, the title will be decided through a series of tiebreak games, ensuring a definitive winner.

"After carefully considering all the proposals, FIDE has decided to stage the match on neutral soil and bring it to Geneva, a city with a historic tradition of bringing nations and cultures together," said Anand, the five-time world champion.

"We look forward to welcoming the global chess community to Switzerland. The local chess fans will have the opportunity to experience world-class chess in person, while millions of fans around the globe can follow the battle online as the duel for the highest title in chess unfolds," he added.

As reigning champion, Gukesh will defend the crown he won in Singapore in December 2024. At the age of 18, he defeated China's Ding Liren, securing victory in the 14th and final classical game to become the 18th World Champion and the youngest player ever to hold the title.

Sindarov earned his opportunity to challenge for the crown by winning the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 in Cyprus. The Uzbek GM secured first place with a round to spare, adding another major achievement to his victory at the 2025 FIDE World Cup.

INOX

—SRINAGAR—

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