



Indian Railways witnessed massive transformation under PM Modi: LG Sinha

Says dream of connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari realised

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 04: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that Indian Railways witnessed massive transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule during the past 12- years.

While talking to the officer trainees of the Indian Railways Institute of Transport Management, Lucknow, who are on the field visit to Jammu Kashmir the Lieutenant Governor, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) emphasized the key role of Indian Railways in India's transformation. He highlighted the progress achieved over the past 12 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

"Electrification at record levels, the expansion of the dedicated Freight Corridor, the realization of the dream of connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari, the launch of world-class Vande



Bharat trains, and modernization of stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme are hallmarks of this new era. It must be noted by the officer trainees

that Indian Railways is no longer just a passenger transport system but the driving force of economic development, logistics efficiency, and [More on P6](#)

Indian Corporate Law Service cornerstone of country's economic credibility: LG Sinha

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 04: Asserting that Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS) forms a cornerstone of India's corporate governance and economic credibility, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that true economic strength is not measured merely by production, investment, or trade, but by adherence to transparency and accountability.

While interacting with the Officer Trainees of the Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS) at Lok Bhavan here the

Lieutenant Governor in his address to the officer trainees, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "In an era of globalisation, where economies are deeply interconnected through capital, technology, innovation, and trade, India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing economies. However, true economic strength is not measured merely by production, investment, or trade, but by the robustness of institutions, respect for the rule of law, protection of investors' interests, and adherence to [More on P6](#)

J&K achieves full literacy milestone under GoI's ULLAS scheme

LG Sinha congratulates stakeholders

**KT News Desk**

Srinagar, Aug 04: Jammu Kashmir proudly joins the league of Fully Literate States/UTs under the ULLAS scheme of Government of India. With 99.09% success, it stands tall as the largest population region to achieve this milestone. Congratulations to our teachers, administrators and every stakeholder who made this possible. Let us always remember that education is the true force of empowerment and our collective responsibility is to keep advancing [More on P6](#)

Governor wrote: "UT of Jammu Kashmir proudly joins the league of Fully Literate States/UTs under the ULLAS scheme of Government of India. With 99.09% success, it stands tall as the largest population region to achieve this milestone. Congratulations to our teachers, administrators and every stakeholder who made this possible. Let us always remember that education is the true force of empowerment and our collective responsibility is to keep advancing [More on P6](#)

Aug 5: Security tightened across J&K, protests barred in Kmr, Jmu on high alert

Sajid Raina/ Yogesh

Srinagar/Jammu, Aug 04: Security was stepped up across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday ahead of the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, with police in Kashmir barring protests without prior permission and authorities in Jammu placing the region on high alert amid intelligence inputs warning of possible terror strikes.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) in Kashmir, Police in Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Budgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag issued public advisories stating that no protest, rally, procession, demonstration or any other public gathering

would be allowed without prior permission from the competent authority following protest calls by various political parties and organisations.

Officials said elaborate security arrangements had been put in place across the Valley to maintain law and order, public safety and communal harmony. Police in Handwara and Sopore also announced that no protest or demonstration would be permitted without prior approval, warning that any violation would invite legal action.

In separate advisories, Pulwama and Shopian police appealed to people to cooperate with law enforcement agencies, maintain peace, refrain from spreading rumours or unverified information [More on P6](#)

CM urges swift, coordinated action to deliver Budget 2026-27 promises

Directs depts to strengthen coordination, ensure equitable dev across J&K

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat to assess the progress on the implementation of key Budget Announcements for 2026-27 across several major departments.

Emphasising timely execution and effective delivery, he directed departments to expedite implementation, strengthen coordination and ensure that Budget commitments translate into tangible benefits for the people.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education,



Sakina Itoo; Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra

Kumar; Administrative Secretaries of the concerned departments; Director General Budget, Director General Codes and other senior officers.

At the outset, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, gave a comprehensive [More on P6](#)

Kashmir must reclaim its place on India's Golf map: CM Omar

Says J&K to make PGTI event annual, set up golf academy, push cricket infrastructure

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said Jammu and Kashmir must reclaim its position as one of India's premier golf destinations.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating the four-day J&K Open 2026 DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) at the Royal Springs Golf Course here in Srinagar, CM Omar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), shared a series of initiatives to revive the sector, including making the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) tournament



an annual event, establishing a golf academy and strengthening sports infrastructure across the Union Territory.

He said golf tourism forms an integral part of the government's broader strategy to promote [More on P6](#)

Amarnath Yatra crosses 4.67 lakh pilgrim mark

3,289 perform darshan; fresh batch of 964 pilgrims leaves Jammu via Baltal

Umair Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Aug 04: The annual Amarnath Yatra continued on Tuesday, with the total number of pilgrims performing darshan crossing 4.67 lakh, while a fresh batch of 964 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu for the Baltal base camp under tight security arrangements.

Figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said 3,289 pilgrims performed darshan on Tuesday, including 1,876 men, 937 women, 41 children,

22 sadhus, five sadhis, two transgender pilgrims and 406 security personnel.

With this, the cumulative number of pilgrims who have completed the pilgrimage since July 4 has reached 4,67,986.

The 27th batch of pilgrims departed from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas at 3:05 a.m. in a convoy of 39 vehicles, comprising 21 buses, eight medium motor vehicles (MMVs) and 10 light motor vehicles (LMVs).

"The batch included 744 men, 177 [More on P6](#)

India rejects PoJK polls, asks Pak to act against terror infrastructure

Says at least 90 civilians killed in occupied territory since June

Alleges Islamabad using elections to mask repression

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Aug 04: India on Tuesday renewed its demand that Pakistan take credible action against cross-border terrorism and dismissed the second phase of local elections in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) as a "complete farce", alleging that the electoral exercise was aimed at masking a continuing crackdown on civilians in the region.

Addressing the weekly

media briefing here, spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs' Randhir Jaiswal, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Pakistan must dismantle the terrorist infrastructure operating from its territory instead of allowing cross-border terrorism to continue."

"We continue to call upon Pakistan to take strong action against cross-border terrorism and the terrorist infrastructure [More on P6](#)

Govt adopts multi-pronged strategy to curb cross-border infiltration: MMA

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 04: The Union Government on Tuesday said it has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to curb cross-border infiltration along the country's [More on P6](#)

Census 2027 Early headcount in J&K's snow-bound areas from Sep 1

1115 villages, 3 municipalities identified for special census drive

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Aug 04: The headcount exercise of census 2027 will be carried out next month in 1115 villages and three municipalities of Jammu and Kashmir

falling under the snow-bound non-synchronous areas.

According to details available with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the census exercise will be carried out in snow-bound non-synchronous areas of Jammu & Kashmir from September 01 to September 30, with a revisional round from [More on P6](#)

Pulwama accords hero's welcome to MMA star Owais Yaqoob after historic BRAVE CF 107 triumph

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Aug 04: A wave of jubilation swept across South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday as hundreds of people accorded a hero's welcome to international mixed martial arts (MMA) star Owais Yaqoob after his historic victory at BRAVE Combat Federation (BRAVE CF) 107 in Burgas, Bulgaria last week.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) residents from different parts of Pulwama, sports enthusiasts, youth, social activists, friends and well-wishers assembled



in large numbers to receive the 27-year-old fighter, whose

remarkable triumph over previously unbeaten Bulgarian fighter and two-time IMMAF World Champion Delyan Georgiev has been hailed as one of the biggest achievements by an Indian MMA athlete on the international stage.

The atmosphere turned festive as supporters showered Owais with flower petals, garlands and cheers while raising slogans in his honour.

A grand victory procession passed through different areas, with people waving the national flag and celebrating what they described as a proud moment not only for Pulwama and Kashmir but for the entire

country.

The celebrations continued for several hours as locals congratulated the champion, clicked photographs with him and praised his dedication, discipline and perseverance that carried him from a small village in Pulwama to one of the world's biggest MMA platforms.

Owais thanked the people for the overwhelming love and support. "I am deeply humbled by this incredible reception. This victory belongs to every person who believed in me, prayed for me and stood by me throughout my journey. Representing India and Jammu and Kashmir on the global stage is [More on P6](#)

Zero tolerance policy against drug traffickers in force: Centre

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 04: The Centre on Tuesday said it has adopted an intelligence-led, technology-driven and "zero tolerance" approach to tackle drug trafficking, unveiling a three-year roadmap that focuses on dismantling organised narcotics networks, curbing online drug trade and creating drug-free campuses across the country.

In separate replies to questions in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the government is strengthening

anti-narcotics surveillance, interstate coordination and financial investigations while enhancing action against organised drug syndicates under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Rai said interstate narcotics trafficking is continuously monitored through intelligence gathering, operational surveillance and coordination among the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), state anti-narcotics agencies and other central and state enforcement bodies.

He said trafficking routes remain dynamic and no state can be categorised as a permanent transit route, with enforcement

agencies continuously reviewing evolving trends and sharing actionable intelligence through the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism.

The minister said the government has strengthened coordination through a four-tier NCORD mechanism, an integrated NCORD portal, Joint Coordination Committee meetings and the National Integrated Database on Arrested Narcotics Offenders (NIDAAN) to facilitate intelligence sharing and coordinated enforcement.

He said financial investigations have been intensified to identify and attach proceeds of crime. [More on P6](#)

VC JKLCMA visits Brari Nambal, Khushalsar lakes to oversee progress of restoration works

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: The Vice Chairman (VC), J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Tuesday conducted an inspection visit to Brari Nambal and Khushalsar lakes to oversee the progress and quality of the conservation and restoration works being executed by JKLCMA.

Collector, Executive Engineer, Lake Division 1st and 2nd, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, Enforcement Officer, AEEs and Scientists of JK LCMA accompanied the officer during the visit.

During the visit to Brari Numbal, the Vice Chairman, as per an official statement, inspected the ongoing works, reviewed the physical progress on the ground and assessed the effectiveness of the measures being undertaken for the rejuvenation of these water bodies. The shoreline cleaning of Brari Nambal was reviewed during the inspection. The progress of the cleaning operations was assessed and the field staff were directed to ensure thorough removal of weeds, solid waste and other debris along the shoreline.

Emphasis was laid on maintaining regular cleaning activities to preserve the

ecological health and aesthetic appeal of the water body. Directions were issued to the concerned officers and executing agencies to ensure timely completion of all works while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

While visiting the Khushalsar lake, the Vice Chairman checked the dredging of two main channels leading from Saidapora bridge to Firdousa Abad and Sazgaripora using the departmental Water Master. He emphasized the need for expediting restoration activities, including desilting, cleaning of water channels, removal of encroachments and strengthening of lake embankments. He also stressed the importance of maintaining uninterrupted coordination among the engineering, field and enforcement wings to achieve the objectives of the conservation programme.

The accompanying officers apprised the Vice Chairman of the progress achieved, challenges encountered and the action plan for completion of the remaining works. He directed that all bottle-necks be removed on priority and that regular monitoring be undertaken to ensure the successful restoration and long-term ecological sustainability of these water bodies

FDA conducts 106 inspections across UT

152 food samples collected during special enforcement drive



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: Continuing its efforts to strengthen food safety surveillance and safeguard public health, the Food Safety & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K conducted a special inspection-cum-sampling drive across the districts of J&K.

The enforcement drive, as per an official statement, focused on sweets, prepared

food, particularly meat and meat products, and other high-risk food commodities to verify compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations framed thereunder.

During the drive, Food Safety Officers conducted 106 inspections of food business establishments and collected 152 food samples, comprising 66 samples of

sweets, 71 samples of prepared food, mainly meat and meat products, and 15 samples of other food commodities.

The samples have been forwarded to NABL-accredited food testing laboratories for analysis to ascertain their conformity with the prescribed food safety standards.

Food Business Operators have been advised to comply with the food safety and hygiene requirements prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and maintain the standards of sanitation and quality.

It is pertinent to mention that the FDA has recently prohibited certain affected batches of Ghee, Tea and Sauce. The general public is being requested to remain vigilant and report the sale or availability of such affected batches, or any suspected case of unsafe, adulterated or misbranded food, through the Toll-Free Helpline 104 or by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the account holder of J&K Bank, Alamgari Bazar Branch, namely Farhana, has applied for correction of her name to Farhana Jeelani, D/o Shri Ghulam Jeelani Bala, R/o Amda Kadal, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, as the earlier entry was incomplete and her correct name is Farhana Jeelani.

Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit the same in writing to the Branch Manager, J&K Bank, Alamgari Bazar Branch, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, along with supporting documentary evidence.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ayat Bano, D/o Rafaqat Ahmed Malik, R/o Gupt Ganga, Ishber, Nishat, Srinagar, was admitted to LKG (Pre-Primary) under Admission No. 59 at Government Upper Primary School, Tarboni, Karnah. My original Discharge Certificate, No. 030 dated 12-06-2026, duly signed by the Headmaster and countersigned by the ZEO, Tangdhar, was partially damaged by rainwater while in transit. As directed by the concerned education authorities, I have applied for a duplicate Discharge Certificate. Any person having any objection may submit it to the Headmaster, Government Upper Primary School, Tarboni, Karnah, ZEO Tangdhar, or CEO Kupwara within 7 days of this publication, failing which no objection shall be entertained and the duplicate certificate may be issued.

Sd/-
Ayat Bano
D/o Rafaqat Ahmed Malik
R/o Gupt Ganga, Ishber, Nishat, Srinagar

DC Srinagar inaugurates Foundation Course, Workshop for specially abled

Distributes AI-enabled assistive devices at VMS Bemina

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday inaugurated Foundation Course in Computers and Employability for persons with visual impairment related challenges and Special Workshop for students with speaking & hearing challenges organized by Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS), at its Bemina campus in collaboration with EnAble India and the University of Kashmir.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, attended the inaugural ceremony as a Chief Guest, while Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Dean, Students Welfare, Kashmir University, Prof. Seema Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tahir Sajad District Social Welfare Officer, Mohammad Yousuf, Tehsildar Shalteng, Rayees Ahmad, President, Voluntary Medicare Society, Dr Mir Mohammad Maqbool, Vice President, VMS, Prof. Masooda Yasin were present on the occasion.

After inaugurating the Workshop and Foundation Course for



persons with visual impairment challenges, the Deputy Commissioner visited the various sections of the VMS campus including rehabilitation, education, therapy and vocational units where he interacted with students, beneficiaries and staff members.

Addressing the workshop, the DC said that the persons with special abilities possess immense talent and potential and deserve equal opportunities to contribute meaningfully to society. He emphasized the need to strengthen facilities and support systems

for persons with special abilities and assured the district administration's full support in addressing their educational, vocational and developmental needs, enabling them to lead lives of dignity and independence.

The DC underlined that the District Administration is exploring the establishment of higher education facilities, vocational training and skill development programmes to expand educational opportunities and improve employment prospects for persons with special abilities. He also emphasized the need to strengthen accessibility infrastructure, enhance inter-departmental coordination, expand support services for children with hearing and speech impairment related challenges, promote recreational opportunities and ensure the availability of sign language resource persons to foster greater inclusion and empowerment.

The DC commended the Voluntary Medicare Society for its longstanding contribution towards the rehabilitation, education and empowerment of persons with special abilities. He also appreciated the organization's collaboration with EnAble India in introducing

innovative, technology-driven interventions.

Earlier, VMS President Dr. Mir Mohammad Maqbool highlighted the Society's five-decade journey of serving persons with special abilities and underscored the importance of partnerships in promoting inclusive rehabilitation and education. VMS Vice President Prof. Masooda Yasin reaffirmed the Society's commitment to creating equal opportunities through innovation, collaboration and inclusive practices while appreciating the support extended by the District administration and the University of Kashmir. Speakers from EnAble India and the University of Kashmir emphasized the significance of capacity-building initiatives and IT-based training for students with disabilities.

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 & phevgsgr@gmail.com Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 8th.

Subject: 1. Repair to the Departmental Vehicles and Compressors including POL by way of (M. Oil Change to Elgi-Compressor 575-200) of PHE Ground Division Srinagar).
Reference: This office Fresh e-NIT No. 12-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./ 1011-20, dated: 05-05-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_308664_1.
Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 04-08-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	12-08-2026 Up-to 11:00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	13-08-2026 01:00 PM

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

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE)
Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.
No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./6395-405
Dated: 04-08-2026.

DIPK-4123/26 Dated: 04-08-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT TRAL

01933-451975

Public Notice

No: -CDPO/POSHAN/Estt/IT/2026/399-404

Dated: - 03 .08.2026

Subject: - Submission of documents by Candidates who had applied for the honorary post of Anganwadi Worker (AWW) advertised during 2015-16 for Dar Mohalla Larkipora (Near Graveyard) vide No: CDPO/IT/2014/257-60 dated 25-08-2014, public notice thereof.

Ref: MD/Poshan/Lit/26/26557-59 dated 21-07-2026 & DPO/Posha n/2026/1351-52

dated 23-07-2026.

In compliance with above referenced letters and in light of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of J&K, and in order to provide a chance of hearing to the candidates falling in the merit panel above the petitioner namely Aneesa Jan, it is hereby notified for the information of the below mentioned candidates who had applied for the honorary post of Anganwadi Worker (AWW) against the advertisement issued during the year 2015-16 for the Anganwadi Centre, Larkipora (Near Graveyard) vide No: CDPO/IT/2014/257-60 dated 25-08-2014 that they are required to submit their original documents along with self-attested photocopies for verification.

Sr.No	Index No	Name of the Candidate	Parentage/ Spouse Name	Residence	Approved Location	Marks obtained in 10th	Marks @85%	CDPO	DSWO	DPO	TOTAL
1	24	Azrah Majid	D/o:-Ab Majid Sofi	Dar Mohalla Larkipora	Dar Mohalla Larkipora	319/500	54.23	2	2	2.5	60.73
2	31	Shaista Manzor	W/o:-Moysair Hussain Khan	Dar Mohalla Larkipora	Dar Mohalla Larkipora	223/500	37.91	2	3	2.5	45.41
3	34	Gulmeenah Majeed	D/o:-Ab Majeed Bhat	Mohalla Larkipora	Dar Mohalla Larkipora	217/500	36.89	2	1	1.5	41.39
4	67	Aseena Akhter	D/o:-Mohd Yousuf Wani	Dar Mohalla Larkipora	Dar Mohalla Larkipora	222/500	37.74	1	1	1.5	41.24
5	64	Aneesa Jan	D/o:-Ab Gani Dar	Dar Mohalla Larkipora	Dar Mohalla Larkipora	216/500	36.72	2	1	1	40.72

The candidates shall report to the office of the undersigned by or before 13-08-2026, Thursday during office hours, carrying the following documents:

1. Date of Birth Certificate.
2. Academic Qualification Certificates.
3. Domicile/Residence Certificate.
4. Panch Ward Certificate of the candidate in case not married yet, and if married, Panch Ward Certificate of Parent.
5. Aadhaar Card.
6. Category Certificate (if applicable).
7. Any other relevant document in support of eligibility. Candidates who fail to submit the required documents within the stipulated time shall be deemed to have forfeited their claim, and further action shall be taken as per the applicable rules and guidelines.

DIPK-4077/26
Dated: 04-08-2026

Child Dev. Project Officer Poshan Project Tral

GOVERNMENT OF UNION OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR

MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | | website: www.medkashmir.org |

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2026-27/21
Date	03 .08.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on percentage (%) basis from eligible contractors for the below mentioned work____

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)
1	2	3	4
Face lifting & repair of workshop bays and other allied civil works at Erstwhile Mechanical workshop Pampore.	500/-	9,55,000/-	47,750/-

__Position of AA: AA accorded by SE vide order No. SEMHK/TS-26/AA/04 of 2026-27 Dt.21.07.2026.

Position of TS: TS accorded vide No. MDSK/TS/14 of 2026-27 Dt. 03-08-2026.

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01	Publish date	03-08-2026 (18:00hrs)
02	Date of start of downloading of bid document	03-08-2026 (18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	03-08-2026 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	13-08-2026 (18:55 hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	14-08-2026 (14:00 hrs)

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar

No: MDSK/ TS/1799-1802
Dated: - 03 -08-2026.

DIPK-4106/26
Dated: 04-08-2026

From The Parliament

J&K reports 29 disaster deaths in 2023-24

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 04: Jammu and Kashmir reported 29 human deaths, 229 cattle losses and 229 houses/huts damaged due to hydro-meteorological disasters during 2023-24, while no human deaths, cattle losses, house damage or cropped-area impact were reported from the Union Territory during 2024-25 and 2025-26, according to provisional data furnished by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Lok Sabha. The data was provided by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in reply to an unstarred question raised by BJP MP Suresh Kumar Kashyap. The MP had sought details about losses caused by heavy rainfall, cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods in hilly States, including details of deaths, missing and injured persons, damaged houses, roads, bridges, agriculture, horticulture and public infrastructure, besides Central financial assistance and measures for disaster risk reduction.

As per the annexure, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 29 human lives lost, 229 cattle lost and 229 houses/huts damaged in 2023-24, with the cropped area affected shown as nil. In 2024-25, all four categories—human lives lost, cattle lost, houses/huts damaged and cropped area affected—are shown as nil. In 2025-26, J&K again recorded zero human deaths, zero cattle losses, zero houses/huts damaged and zero



cropped area affected.

Ladakh, meanwhile, reported no losses under the four categories in 2023-24. During 2024-25, the UT recorded 28 human deaths, 73 cattle losses, 1,069 houses/huts damaged and 0.02 lakh hectares of cropped area affected.

During 2025-26, Ladakh reported 192 human deaths, 11,828 cattle losses, 11,864 houses/huts damaged and 0.78 lakh hectares of cropped area affected, according to the provisional figures.

The Ministry clarified that it does not centrally maintain data regarding loss of lives and property due to disasters across the country. However, the annexure contains damages reported by State Governments and Union Territories due to various hydro-meteorological disasters during the last three years, covering 2023-24 to 2025-26.

Rai said the primary

responsibility for disaster management, including disbursement of relief assistance at the ground level, rests with the concerned State Governments. The States undertake relief measures through the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and other available resources, while the Centre supplements their efforts with logistics and financial support. In disasters of a severe nature, additional assistance is provided from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) based on the recommendations of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team.

The Centre said the National Disaster Management Plan and guidelines issued by the National Disaster Management Authority cover landslides, cloudbursts, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, forest fires and earthquakes, to which the Himalayan region is particularly vulnerable.

The government has also

approved the National Landslide Risk Mitigation Project for implementation in 15 States, while the National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Mitigation Programme has been approved for Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

An integrated SACHET warning system based on the Common Alerting Protocol has also been operationalised to disseminate geo-targeted early warnings by integrating alerts from the India Meteorological Department, Central Water Commission, Geological Survey of India, INCOIS, Defence Geo-informatics Research Establishment and Forest Survey of India. The Ministry further said multi-disaster early-warning systems, disaster-resistant infrastructure, community preparedness and capacity building are being strengthened through initiatives including Aapda Mitra and Yuva Aapda Mitra—(KNO)

GoI highlights infrastructure, tourism, healthcare push for J&K, Ladakh

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 04: The Centre has highlighted a series of infrastructure, connectivity, tourism, healthcare, industrial and renewable-energy initiatives undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as part of efforts to accelerate economic development in the Union Territories.

The details were provided by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in reply to an unstarred question raised by BJP MP Gopal Jee Thakur in the Lok Sabha. Thakur had sought details of steps taken for economic development of the Union Territories, initiatives to promote renewable and green energy and the benefits of such measures to the people.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, strategic infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel,



Z-Morh Tunnel and Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), including the iconic Chenab Rail Bridge, have been completed.

The Centre said these projects form part of wider efforts to improve regional connectivity and strengthen infrastructure in the Union Territories. In Ladakh, construction of new motorable bridges has been undertaken, while helipads and hangars have also been completed to improve connectivity to

difficult terrains and facilitate medical emergencies, including during winter months.

Tourism has also been identified as a key sector for economic growth and livelihood generation. The government said winter tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and astro tourism in Ladakh are among the niche tourism activities being promoted according to the geographical potential of the two Union Territories.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

J&K reports 3 heatstroke cases, zero deaths

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 04: Jammu and Kashmir has reported three heatstroke cases but no confirmed death during the current year up to 26 July 2026, according to data furnished by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The data was provided by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in response to an unstarred question by BJP MP Anoop Pradhan Valmiki, who sought details on heatwave conditions, heatwave-related deaths and health impacts, and whether the government was considering declaring heatwaves a natural disaster.

As per the data, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a cumulative three heatstroke cases since

1 March 2026, while no confirmed heatstroke death was reported during the period. Ladakh, meanwhile, reported zero heatstroke cases and zero confirmed deaths.

The Ministry said the National Heat-Related Illness and Death Surveillance (NHRIDS) has been activated across more than 51,000 reporting units, including PHCs and hospitals above that level, across the country.

Rai said the 16th Finance Commission has recommended inclusion of heatwaves and lightning in the list of notified natural calamities for the 2026-31 award period. Based on these recommendations, the Ministry of Home Affairs has included heatwaves and lightning in the list of notified natural calamities under

Continued on
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J&K generates 44.4 million person-days under MGNREGS

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 04: Jammu and Kashmir generated 444.41 lakh person-days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during 2025-26, while 49.98 lakh person-days were generated under MGNREGS and VB-G RAM G combined during 2026-27 up to July 31, 2026, according to data furnished by the Ministry of Rural Development in the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan in reply to an unstarred question raised by Murari Lal Meena, who sought details regarding increasing migration from rural areas, rural labour migration, person-days generated under VB-G RAM G and other rural employment schemes, and measures to prevent migration from drought and agrarian distress-affected areas.

As per the official data, Jammu and Kashmir generated 444.41 lakh person-days under MGNREGS in 2025-26 and 49.98 lakh person-days under MGNREGS+VB-G RAM G in 2026-27 as on July 31, 2026.

Ladakh generated 21.71 lakh person-days under MGNREGS during 2025-26 and 3.87 lakh person-days under MGNREGS+VB-G RAM G during 2026-27 up to July 31, 2026.

Paswan said the Ministry of Rural Development does not maintain data on rural

labour migration, including migration attributable to drought, agrarian distress or limited rural employment.

He said the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-G RAM G, is a demand-driven wage employment programme aimed at strengthening livelihood security by guaranteeing wage employment to rural households while creating durable and productive rural assets.

The Act provides 125 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every willing rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work. The programme follows a whole-of-government approach through convergence with other rural development and allied schemes.

Paswan said the programme gives priority to works related to water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood infrastructure and mitigation of extreme weather events, thereby promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities and reducing distress conditions that may contribute to migration.

He further said VB-G RAM G contains comprehensive provisions to strengthen rural livelihoods and generate additional employment in areas affected by drought, agrarian distress, natural disasters and other extraordinary circumstances.

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J&K gets boost in high-density apple farming

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 04: High-density apple plantation is being promoted across Jammu and Kashmir, including North Kashmir, under the High-Density Plantation (HDP) Scheme of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP), the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The information was provided by Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ramnath Thakur in response to an unstarred question raised by Baramulla Lok Sabha MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh. The MP had sought details of proposals for development of apple orchards and walnuts in North Kashmir to meet global standards, GI tagging and export promotion of products in Baramulla constituency, cold storage infrastructure in Baramulla, and statistics of high-density plantations in the constituency.

According to information provided by the Government of Jammu and



Kashmir, high-density apple plantation is being promoted through quality planting material, trellis support systems, micro-irrigation, anti-hail nets, land development, plant protection measures, and machinery. The initiative aims at early bearing, improved fruit quality, and enhanced productivity to enable growers to meet wider market requirements and global standards.

Under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), assistance is provided at 40 per cent in general areas and 50 per cent for Himalayan States/UTs, up to two hectares per

beneficiary, as per approved cost norms for planting material and other input costs. The support includes high-density plantation and rejuvenation of existing orchards, along with add-on components such as fruit bagging, weed mats, anti-hail protection, and fencing.

On export promotion, the Centre said the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has undertaken several initiatives to promote exports of scheduled agricultural products from Jammu and Kashmir, including Baramulla district. These include apples, black carrots, GI-tagged Kashmir saffron,

walnuts, and almonds in international markets such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

APEDA has also organised International Buyer-Seller Meets and trade interactions in Srinagar and Jammu to connect exporters, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and overseas buyers. Financial assistance was provided for upgrading the food testing laboratory at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) to strengthen testing, quality assurance, and traceability infrastructure. Applications for GI tags have been submitted for apples and walnuts from Baramulla.

Regarding cold storage infrastructure, the Centre said Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage units have been established in Baramulla under MIDH. The five units listed in the official annexure have a combined capacity of 18,500 metric tonnes.

The units are: M/s Kachroo, established in 2012-13 with a capacity of 3,500 MT; M/s Alpine Fresh Art, Baramulla,

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J&K milk production rises to 2.97 MT in 2024-25

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 04: Jammu and Kashmir's milk production increased from 2.82 million tonnes in 2022-23 to 2.97 million tonnes in 2024-25, while per capita milk availability rose from 572 grams per day to 595 grams per day during the same period, according to data furnished by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the Lok Sabha.

The information was provided by Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh in reply to a starred question raised by BJP MP Geniben Nagaji Thakur. The MP had sought State/UT-wise details of milk production and per capita availability, schemes to increase dairy farmers' income, expenditure incurred under such schemes, measures to strengthen dairy infrastructure and details of any proposed new schemes for animal disease prevention, quality feed and artificial



insemination.

As per the official data, Jammu and Kashmir recorded milk production of 2.82 million tonnes in 2022-23, 2.87 million tonnes in 2023-24 and 2.97 million tonnes in 2024-25.

Its per capita milk availability stood at 572 gram/day, 577 gram/day and 595 gram/day, respectively.

Ladakh, meanwhile, recorded milk production of 0.03 million tonnes in 2022-23,

0.03 million tonnes in 2023-24 and 0.02 million tonnes in 2024-25. Per capita milk availability stood at 280 gram/day in 2022-23, 267 gram/day in 2023-24 and 214 gram/day in 2024-25.

The Centre said the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing six major schemes across the country: Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), Supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organisations engaged in dairy activities (SDCFPO), Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), National Livestock Mission (NLM), and Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP).

For Jammu and Kashmir, releases under RGM were Rs 0 crore in 2023-24, Rs 61.20 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 14.13 crore in 2025-26. Under NPDD, the releases were Rs 24.31 crore, nil and Rs 1.40 crore, respectively.

Under Ladakh, RGM releases stood at nil in 2023-24, Rs 0.42 crore in 2024-25 and Rs

0.11 crore in 2025-26, while NPDD releases were nil, Rs 0.50 crore and Rs 11.58 crore, respectively.

Under AHIDF, Jammu and Kashmir received Rs 0.02 crore in 2023-24, Rs 0.09 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 0.05 crore in 2025-26. Ladakh received nil in all three years. Under SDCFPO, both J&K and Ladakh recorded nil releases in each of the three years.

Under LHDCP, J&K received Rs 18.85 crore in 2023-24, Rs 20.37 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 16.50 crore in 2025-26, while Ladakh received Rs 0.60 crore, Rs 2.45 crore and Rs 2.72 crore, respectively.

Under NLM, J&K received Rs 1 crore in 2023-24, Rs 2.50 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 9.10 crore in 2025-26. Ladakh received nil in 2023-24, Rs 0.28 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 2.30 crore in 2025-26.

The Minister said these schemes aim to improve bovine milk productivity.

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EDITORIAL

Auqib Nabi’s Selection A New Chapter For Kashmir’s Cricket

When Auqib Nabi stepped onto the cricket field as a young boy in a remote village of Baramulla, he probably dreamed of representing his country. But for a fast bowler from Kashmir, where sporting infrastructure is limited and opportunities scarce, that dream must have seemed distant. Today, that dream has become a reality. Nabi's selection to India's Test squad for the Sri

Lanka tour is a historic milestone for Jammu and Kashmir. He becomes the first cricketer from the Kashmir valley to earn a Test call-up, joining the ranks of Parvez Rasool and Umrان Malik, who represented India in limited-overs cricket. But this is different. Test cricket is the ultimate challenge, and Nabi has earned his place through sheer determination and outstanding performance. The numbers speak

for themselves. One hundred and four wickets across the last two Ranji Trophy seasons, including 60 in the 2025-26 campaign, played a pivotal role in Jammu and Kashmir's maiden Ranji Trophy triumph. This was not luck. This was the result of years of hard work, sacrifice, and an unyielding belief in his abilities. Auqib Nabi is a symbol of what is possible when talent meets perseverance. His selection is a

proud moment not just for his family or his village, but for every young sportsperson in Kashmir who has been told that their dreams are too big for their circumstances. It sends a powerful message: geography does not define destiny. With the right support, dedication, and opportunity, talent from every corner of the country can shine on the national stage. As Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha rightly said, this is a moment of immense pride for Jammu and Kashmir. It is also a reminder that the region is brimming with potential that awaits discovery and nurturing. Auqib Nabi has shown the way. Now it is up to the system to ensure that his journey is not an exception but the beginning of a new chapter for Kashmiri cricket.

The Making Of A Sporting Nation

Khelo India And The Road To International Excellence

The Union Cabinet's approval of the revamped Khelo India Scheme marks a major step in India's sporting journey. This features an enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations, with a combined outlay of 36,441 crore for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31. Through stronger talent identification, wider opportunities and sustained athlete support, the programme seeks to create a clear pathway from grassroots participation to global podiums.

The Spirit of a Sporting India Sports carry 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.

India's greatest sporting asset is its youth. Around 65 per cent of the population is 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.

At the heart of this transformation stands the Khelo India programme, which has now entered a significantly expanded phase. From school playgrounds and village fields, young athletes will now have a clearer path forward through early identification, quality coaching, scientific support and regular competition.

The Khelo India Vision Launched in 2017, the Khelo India Scheme merged the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan, Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme and National Sports Talent Search Scheme into a unified framework. The scheme follows five key pillars: establishing training centres, building coach capacity, expanding sports science and technology, organising competitions and leagues, and developing sports infrastructure.

The Mission envisions one Khelo India Training Centre in every district and aims to position India among the world's leading sporting nations by 2036.

Growing Investment in Khelo India: - 2017-18 to 2019-20: 1,756 crore approved for three years



- 2020-21: 328.77 crore allocated
- 2021-22 to 2025-26: 3,790.50 crore for five years

- 2026-27: 924.35 crore allocated
Key Achievements (As of July 2026):

- 349 new sports infrastructure projects approved with 3,176 crore investment
- 1,067 Khelo India Centres established
- 267 academies supported
- 2,745 Khelo India Athletes supported with coaching, equipment, medical care and monthly allowance

Revamped Khelo India Scheme: A Pathway from Grassroots to Global Excellence

The revamped scheme for 2026-27 to 2030-31 has a combined outlay of 36,441 crore including enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations.

A Comprehensive Athlete Development Pathway: For the first time, young sportspersons will receive structured support at every stage through National Centres of Excellence, Khelo India Centres of Excellence, SAI Training Centres, Khelo India Accredited Academies, Khelo India Centres, and Youth Sports Companies of the Armed Forces.

The scheme also introduces Khelo India Feeder Schools and Khelo India Utkrishta

Vidyalayas to integrate sports with mainstream education.

Expanding India's Athlete Pool: The new Emerging Khelo India Athletes category will expand the structured athlete pool nearly ten-fold, creating a clear pathway from grassroots competitions to Khelo India and TOPS.

More Competitions and Wider Opportunities: School, university, regional and sport-specific leagues will provide regular competitive exposure. Greater opportunities will be created for women, para-athletes and indigenous sports.

Fitness, Coaching and Technology: The expanded Fit India Movement will promote active lifestyles. A National Coach Accreditation Board will strengthen coaching standards, while a unified digital platform will integrate athlete data, infrastructure and competitions.

Partnerships for Sporting Excellence: Partnerships with private academies and corporate institutions will bring investment and expertise. Enhanced support to National Sports Federations will strengthen coaching, sports science and international exposure.

Khelo India Games: A Stage for Future Champions

The Khelo India School Games were launched in 2018. From 2019, the event was renamed the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG). Since 2018, more than 63,000 athletes have participated.

The Khelo India University Games and Winter Games were introduced in 2020, followed by Para Games in 2023. The Beach Games and Water Sports Festival launched in 2025, and Tribal Games made their debut in 2026.

Enabling India's Sporting Success Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS): Launched in September 2014, TOPS supports athletes through foreign training, international competitions, coaching camps, and a monthly stipend of 50,000. As of April 2026, the scheme supports 51 Core Athletes, 52 Para Core Athletes and 130 Development Athletes.

KIRTI: The Khelo India Rising Talent Identification initiative identifies talent among children aged 9-18. At present, 174 Talent Assessment Centres operate with 1,87,921 assessments completed.

Sports Goods Manufacturing: The Union Budget 2026-27 allocated 500 crore for sports goods manufacturing to strengthen India's position as a global hub.

India's Rise on the Global Sporting Stage

Olympic Games: India progressed from two medals at Rio 2016 to seven at Tokyo 2020 and six at Paris 2024. 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 medal tally increased from four at Rio 2016 to 19 at Tokyo 2020 and 29 at Paris 2024. At Rio 2016, India sent 19 athletes and won four medals. At Tokyo 2020, India sent 54 athletes and won 19 medals. At Paris 2024, India sent 84 athletes and won 29 medals.

Asian Games: India won 57 medals at Incheon 2014, 69 at Jakarta 2018, and a record 107 at Hangzhou 2023. At Incheon 2014, India sent 541 athletes. At Jakarta 2018, India sent 570 athletes. At Hangzhou 2023, India sent 655 athletes.

Commonwealth Games: India won 64 medals at Glasgow 2014, 66 at Gold Coast 2018, and 61 at Birmingham 2022. At Glasgow 2014, India sent 215 athletes. At

Gold Coast 2018, India sent 218 athletes. At Birmingham 2022, India sent 210 athletes.

Commonwealth Games 2026 The Commonwealth Games 2026 were held in Glasgow from 23 July to 2 August 2026, bringing together athletes from 74 countries. India delivered a strong performance securing fourth place with 39 medals – 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze.

India was represented by a 124-member contingent. Jhandu Kumar opened India's medal account with a bronze in para powerlifting. Rishikanta Singh won silver in weightlifting. Mirabai Chanu won India's first gold, her third consecutive Commonwealth Games title. Muthupandi Raja added a silver in weightlifting.

Boxing became the highlight with 10 medals, including seven golds. Sakshi Chaudhary was among the gold medallists, while Lovlina Borgohain secured silver. Asmita Dey became India's first Commonwealth Games gold medallist in judo, followed by Harsh Tokas. Gulveer Singh became the first Indian track and field athlete to win two individual medals at one edition. Tejaswin Shankar earned India's first decathlon medal. Neeraj Chopra won silver in javelin throw.

From Khelo India to Glasgow Glory: Arundhati Choudhary, who won three consecutive Khelo India gold medals, won the women's 70 kg boxing title at Glasgow 2026. Asmita Dey, a Khelo India University Games champion, became India's first Commonwealth Games judo champion.

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 reflect the impact of these efforts. As India looks to the future, the nation remains committed to building champions and strengthening its place among the world's leading sporting nations.

Disclaimer: This is an abridged version of the original PIB article. All significant points and key messages have been retained. For complete details, please refer to the full release on the PIB website.

The Purpose Of Laughter

Across societies and cultures, laughter is a universally recognized language

William A. Haseltine

Long before humans built cities, wrote laws, or argued about politics, they laughed. Across societies and cultures, laughter is a universally recognized language.

A new review, "The Neural Basis of Laughter," asks what happens in the brain when this ancient sound breaks through the body. The paper argues that laughter has two purposes. One relates to emotion, play, bonding, and the body's deep social instincts. The other belongs to conversation, timing, manners, and voluntary control. The laugh that erupts from the belly and the laugh used to smooth a conversation may sound related, but the brain appears to build them through different routes.

A Sound Older Than Speech Spontaneous laughter is the kind that bursts out during play, delight, embarrassment, or contagion. Someone else laughs, and the sound pulls us along. This type of laughter has ancient roots. Other animals produce play sounds that help signal friendliness and prevent rough play from turning into aggression. Human laughter also carries that social message.

The review places this spontaneous laughter in a network centered on emotional and social regions of the brain. One important hub is the pregenual anterior cingulate cortex, a brain region involved in emotion, bodily awareness, social behavior, and pain regulation. When doctors have stimulated



this area during clinical procedures, some patients have smiled, laughed, felt mirth, or experienced a sense of relief. In some cases, stimulation even produced laughter during negative memories, as if the brain had opened a hidden door to positive feelings.

The temporal pole, another region linked to social and emotional meaning, also plays a role in this type of laughter. Stimulation there can produce laughter that feels natural and contagious. Together, these two regions seem to form a gateway for laughter that carries feeling, bodily change, and social warmth.

This system also reaches deeper structures in the brain that help shape the physical act of laughing. These areas help create the whole event of laughter: the breath, the

face, the sound, the bodily rush, and the feeling that laughter has taken possession of us.

The Social Laugh

Humans also laugh when nothing is especially funny. We laugh to show agreement, to ease tension, to keep a conversation moving, or to signal that we understand the social rules of the moment. This laugh belongs to culture as much as biology. It must fit the timing of speech: at the end of a sentence, after a joke, during an awkward pause, or when politeness demands a signal of warmth.

The paper argues that this voluntary laughter depends more on motor and speech-related regions. These include areas in the brain involved in the mouth, tongue, face, and voice. When doctors stimulate these

areas, patients may smile, produce laughter-like sounds, or experience changes in speech. Often, the laughter lacks genuine amusement. It resembles the machinery of expression without the emotional drive behind it.

Spontaneous laughter tends to be more stereotyped and less shaped by the tongue and mouth. Voluntary laughter, by contrast, can be sculpted. It can be polite, ironic, strategic, charming, or forced. A person can also laugh simply because the conversation requires it, and the brain seems to make a distinction between the two laughs.

When Laughter Becomes A Symptom

The paper's clinical examples reveal how powerful this distinction can be. Some people experience gelastic seizures, sudden episodes of laughter caused by abnormal brain activity. The laughter may sound natural, even when it does not match the person's emotional state.

In another condition called cataplexy, often associated with narcolepsy, strong emotions can trigger a sudden loss of muscle tone. Laughter is one of the most common triggers. Cataplexy seems to involve the loss of neurons important for wakefulness and bodily control.

Then there is pseudobulbar affect, sometimes called pathological laughing and crying. People with this condition may laugh or cry abruptly, intensely, and out of proportion to what they feel. It can occur after brain injury, stroke, or neurodegenerative disease. Such cases show that laughter depends on delicate coordination between emotional networks and motor control systems. When that

coordination breaks, laughter can become detached from the inner life it usually expresses.

To Laugh Is To Bond

Shared laughter has also been shown to raise pain thresholds. The anterior cingulate connects with brain regions involved in descending pain control, including pathways that can dampen the emotional burden of pain.

This gives laughter an almost medicinal quality. It binds groups while also changing how the body feels. Across human history, a group that could play, bond, and endure discomfort together had an advantage. Humans do not merely think together. We have the capability to regulate one another's nervous systems.

Modern people often treat laughter as entertainment, a pleasant side effect of jokes, comedy, and amusement. However, this paper shows that laughter becomes a bridge between ancient mammalian play and modern human conversation.

To understand laughter is to understand one of humanity's earliest social technologies. Before contracts, before alphabets, before philosophy, there was this shared sound. The brain built laughter to connect fragile creatures to one another, to soften pain, to signal belonging, and to turn the solitary nervous system into something that thrives in society.

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Deputy CM unveils roadmap to transform JKML into profit-making PSU

Chairs 176th BoDs meet of JKML, says Mineral Wealth of J&K for People of J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: In a major push to harness the mineral wealth of Jammu and Kashmir for economic growth and employment generation, the 176th Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoDs) of Jammu & Kashmir Minerals Limited (JKML) was held Tuesday at Civil Secretariat here under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary.

Speaking during the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister said that JKML has a critical role in the industrial development of J&K and it must emerge as a model, vibrant and financially self-reliant public sector undertaking. He added that the mineral wealth of J&K belongs to the people of J&K and its proper utilization through scientific practices will open up new avenues of employment and revenue generation.

Surinder Choudhary, as per an official statement, directed the management of Corporation to ensure time-bound execution of all ongoing and new projects. He stressed on optimum utilization



of mineral resources, transparency in functioning, and rationalization of manpower at coal mines in Kalakote as key pillars for making JKML profitable.

Taking stock of expansion plans, the Deputy Chief Minister directed for immediate steps to operationalize the Limestone Mine at Khrew, additional Gypsum Blocks in Ramban District, and the Fuel Pump at Khrew, Pulwama. He observed that these projects will not only enhance JKML's production capacity but will also give a major boost to the industrial and infrastructure development across

Jammu and Kashmir.

Reiterating the government's commitment to empowerment of youth, Surinder Choudhary instructed JKML management to expedite the operationalization of new mining projects on priority to create maximum employment opportunities for local youth.

During the meeting, the Board undertook a comprehensive review of the progress of various ongoing projects and held detailed deliberations on strategies to augment mineral production, expand business operations, and institutionalize sustainable

and scientific mining practices across all mining areas.

In addition, the Board accorded approval to several financial and administrative proposals aimed at improving operational efficiency, strengthening governance, and enhancing the overall performance of the Corporation.

The meeting, among others was attended by ACS, Mining Department, Ashwani Kumar; Director, Geology & Mining, MD, J&K Minerals Limited, and other senior officers concerned departments and J&K Minerals Limited.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of developmental projects

KT News Desk

KULGAM, AUGUST 04: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of ongoing, newly approved and proposed development projects being executed under UT CAPEX, NABARD, Archives & Archaeology, and other key sectors, including Tourism and Education.

The meeting focused on expediting the execution of developmental works, addressing implementation bottlenecks and ensuring the timely completion of projects for the benefit of the public.

During the review, the DC, as per an official statement, took a detailed appraisal of the physical and financial progress of projects being implemented by the concerned executing agencies. Stressing the importance of timely execution, he directed all executing agencies, particularly the officers of the Public Works Department, to maintain the required pace of work and ensure that all ongoing projects are completed within the stipulated timelines.



The Deputy Commissioner further instructed that work on all newly approved projects should commence without delay after the completion of all codal formalities. He directed the concerned officers to furnish a definite timeline to the District Administration regarding tendering, allotment and commencement of each project to facilitate close monitoring and timely intervention wherever required.

The DC emphasized that quality, transparency and strict adherence to prescribed

timelines must remain the guiding principles during project execution.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Altaf Ahmad Khan; Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department; Fayaz Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Suhail Malik; Executive Engineers; Assistant Executive Engineers of all PWD divisions, and other concerned officers from the Tourism, Education, Archives & Archaeology and allied departments.

SWD Bandipora holds awareness programme on maintenance, welfare of parents

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 04: An awareness programme on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was organised under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVAY) at Community Hall Nowgam, Sumbal by the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

The programme, as per an official statement, witnessed the participation of a large number of senior citizens, members of the local community, and other stakeholders.

The resource persons from the Tehsil Legal Services Authority (TLSA), Sumbal highlighted the key provisions of the Act, explaining the legal rights of senior citizens, the responsibility of children and relatives towards their maintenance, and the legal remedies available to elderly persons in cases of neglect or abandonment.



Speaking on the occasion, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Sumbal, stressed the importance of ensuring dignity, care, and social security for senior citizens. He also briefed the participants about various welfare schemes and services being implemented by the Social Welfare Department under AVAY for the well-being and empowerment of the elderly.

The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, where participants shared their concerns and received guidance from the speakers regarding the provisions of the Act and the support available to senior citizens.

DDC Shopian calls for expedited execution of Capex Works

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 04: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, SE, PHE, Nazia Nazir, SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, CPO, Mudasir Ahmed Dar, officers from all executing departments and other concerned.

During the meeting, the DDC conducted a detailed review of approved works, tendering status, ongoing projects and financial progress under the District Capex Budget.

Stressing the need for timely implementation, the DDC directed all executing agencies to expedite the tendering process and ensure that approved



works are taken up immediately and completed well before the onset of the winter season.

The DDC, as per an official statement, reviewed the status of CDS and directed the concerned departments to take up and complete the works within timeline. He also instructed officers to expedite all required approvals, clearances and other procedural formalities so that no project is delayed.

The DDC emphasized strict

adherence to financial guidelines, calling for efficient utilization of available funds and timely completion of projects to avoid delays and ensure maximum public benefit.

Highlighting the recent allocation of an additional Rs 3 crore to the district under the Capex Budget, the DDC instructed all district officers to identify urgent and high-priority developmental works in their respective sectors.

SKUAST-K conducts free veterinary camps, farmer awareness drive in Gurez

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 04: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) conducted a series of awareness and free veterinary clinical camps in Tulail, Bagtore and Dawar villages of Gurez Valley under the DBT-sponsored project, "Socio-economic Upliftment of Marginal Farmers of Gurez Valley through Scientific Livestock Rearing."

The initiative, led by the faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, aimed to improve livestock health and promote scientific animal husbandry practices in the remote region, where access to specialised veterinary services remains limited. Farmers were sensitised on disease prevention, timely treatment, nutrition, fodder management, vaccination, deworming, hygienic animal care and improved livestock management practices.

The outreach was led by Prof. Riaz Ahmad Shah, Dean, Faculty



of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry; Prof. Amatul Muhee, Professor & Head, Clinics and Principal Investigator of the project; Dr. Shahid Hussain Dar, Associate Professor, along with the project team. The scientists conducted health screening and clinical examination of livestock, provided free veterinary consultations and advised farmers on preventive healthcare and disease management.

As part of the intervention, free veterinary medicines and nutritional supplements, including deworming medicines, liver tonics and mineral mixtures,

were distributed to livestock owners. Informative pamphlets on scientific cattle, sheep and goat rearing were also provided to help farmers adopt improved husbandry practices.

The awareness camps offered farmers an interactive platform to discuss challenges related to livestock nutrition, fodder conservation, breeding, housing, disease control and herd health. Scientists also highlighted the importance of value addition, efficient resource utilisation and market-oriented livestock production to improve incomes under the high-altitude conditions of Gurez Valley.

DLSA Ganderbal continues 3-day training programme for community mediators, PLVs

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 04: Continuing its Three-Day Training Programme for newly selected Community Mediators under the NALSA SOP on Community Mediation: Towards Litigation-Free Rural India, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal Tuesday conducted the second day of the training programme at the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, Ganderbal.

The second day's training commenced with a comprehensive deliberations on the role of Community Mediators and the various stages of mediation in rural areas. The participants were also imparted practical training on the practical aspects of Community Mediation in rural areas, time frame for Community Mediation proceedings, and best practices to be followed

by Community Mediators.

The programme concluded with an interactive group discussion, enabling participants to clarify their doubts and exchange practical experiences. These sessions were conducted strictly in accordance with the prescribed curriculum under the NALSA Community Mediation Training Manual.

The training sessions were conducted by experienced trained mediators, viz. Adv. G.R. Rather and Adv. Tanveer Ahmad Bhat who shared their practical experiences and guided the participants through interactive discussions and case-based learning to strengthen their mediation skills.

The programme witnessed active participation from the newly selected Community Mediators and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), who engaged enthusiastically in the practical sessions and discussions.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress of 4G Saturation Project



KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 04: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District Telecom Committee (DTC) to review the status of telecom infrastructure and assess the progress of ongoing projects in the District.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress made on the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the directions issued at the previous DTC meeting.

While reviewing the progress of the 4G Saturation Project, the Deputy Commissioner directed for timely completion of the remaining sites to provide reliable mobile connectivity to all uncovered and remote areas of the district. He emphasized the need for close coordination among all stakeholder departments to facilitate timeline completion.

The SDM Marwah was asked to identify suitable State land at Afti and Choidraman and Renai areas for the installation of 4G telecommunication towers by the BSNL.

The Revenue Department was asked to expedite the land identification and transfer process so that work on the remaining towers can be taken up without delay.

Reviewing the status of Right of Way (RoW) applications on the Unified Portal of the Department of Telecommunications, the ACR informed that there was no pendency. It was further informed that the Call Before You Dig (CBUD) app is functioning smoothly in the district. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the importance of strict usage of the CBUD app to prevent damage to underground telecom infrastructure during excavation works across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; ACR Idrees Lone; CPO Akhil Thakur; ACP/ACD Neeraj Sharma; CEO, Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Dy. SP Headquarters, Dr. Ishan Gupta; DIO NIC Faizal Khan; GM, NHIDCL Gursewak Singh; Executive Engineer, PWD R&B Paddar, Er Gurjeet Singh besides other concerned officers and stakeholders.

DDC Doda reviews progress of District Capex Works

KT News Desk

DODA, AUGUST 04: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal Tuesday chaired a review meeting in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex to assess the progress of works being executed under the District Capex Budget and other developmental sectors.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar, Superintending Engineers of PWD (R&B),

JPDC and Jal Shakti, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineer Mechanical Wing, Executive Officers of Municipal Council Doda, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Baderwah and Thathri, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B), JPDC and Jal Shakti, AEE Electrical Wing, representatives of JAKEDA, besides other district and sectoral officers.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation was delivered by the Chief Planning

Officer, highlighting the physical and financial progress of District Capex works, including new, ongoing, completed, allotted and tendered projects.

Taking sector-wise review, the DDC assessed the progress of works being executed by the Rural Development Department (RDD), PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti (PHE), Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC), JPDC, including those funded under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Scheme. The review focused on the status of ongoing and new works, expenditure, fund utilisation

and implementation progress.

He instructed all departments to secure Administrative Approval for pending works within two days and ensure full expenditure on all physically completed, ongoing works by August 10, 2026. He set the target of achieving 50% expenditure on the new works by the end of the second quarter of the financial year (October 2026).

Emphasising financial discipline, the DDC instructed the executing agencies to ensure at least 80 % expenditure on each work to facilitate

the release of subsequent installments. He further directed that expenditure during the last quarter of the financial year (January-March 2027) shall not exceed 25 percent of the Budget Estimates for 2026-27.

The DDC stressed that before recommending any work for inclusion in the Annual Action Plan and uploading it on the BEAMS Portal, departments must thoroughly verify the title, land availability, feasibility, geo-location, scope and nomenclature of each project.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Indian Railways witnessed

national unity,” he said.

He highlighted their important role in shaping the future of the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) and expressed immense pleasure in interacting with the 69 officer trainees selected through the Civil Services Examination in 2022, 2023, and 2024 batch.

“You are the torchbearers of New India’s pace, capability, and resolve. The diversity of back-grounds among the trainees, spanning engineer-ing, medicine, law, science, and the arts, and re-presenting states/UTs across the country including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, and Chandigarh, reflects the soul of India. This di-versity transforms into a shared national purpose during training, making the Institute a true labo-ratory of national unity,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the officer trainees to embrace their responsibilities as tough administrators and also as nation-builders. He also stressed the importance of efficiency in freight and passenger transportation.

“Every minute saved reduces logistics costs, strengthens industry competitiveness, and en-hances India’s global standing. Officers of IRMS, IRPFS, and Accounts must balance administra-tive discipline with human sensitivity, ensuring safety, financial prudence, and public service,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor outlined three guid-ing principles for the trainees including con-tinuous innovation through digital technology, artificial intelligence, and data-driven systems, citizen-first service with respect, accessibility, and sensitivity for all passengers and freight cus-tomers and integrity and transparency as cus-todians of unprecedented national investments in Indian Railways.

“India is moving forward with confidence to-wards becoming a developed nation by 2047. Your decisions, strategies, and leadership will directly shape the future of millions of Indians. I hope you will remain dedicated to the selfless service of Mother India, lighting the path to a bright and prosperous future,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Rahul, Course Director and Professor (Traffic Planning & Costing), officials and faculty mem-bers of Indian Railways Institute of Transport Management were also present. (KNO)

transparency and accountability.”

The Lieutenant Governor underlined that the Indian Corporate Law Service is a strong admin-istrative mechanism which forms a cornerstone of India’s corporate governance. He said the of-ficers of the service, working under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, play a crucial role in im-plementing key legislations such as the Companies Act and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

“Their work ensures a balanced environment for industry, trade, and investment, fostering trust and credibility in India’s corporate sector. The identity of a developed economy also lies in institutional systems that encourage honest enterprises and effectively monitor irregulari-ties. In this context, the ICLS works as the guar-dian of balance, ensuring that corporate growth contributes to inclusive national prosperity,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He stated that the investors’ trust is India’s greatest asset as the nation has become a major global investment destination.

“This trust is reinforced when companies op-erate transparently, maintain financial disci-pline, and act swiftly against irregularities. The ICLS, through its responsibilities, continuously strengthens this trust, making it an essential guardian of India’s economic credibility. Rapid economic growth, responsible institutions, trans-parent governance, ethical business conduct and a strong legal framework are vital for in-clusive development. The ICLS will be a critical link in achieving this goal by creating a bridge of trust between industry and governance,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The ICLS Officer Trainees of 2023 and 2024 Batches, accompanied by Shri Haamid Bukhari, Registrar of Companies, J&K, shared the expe-rience and learning from their visit to Jammu Kashmir, as a part of Domestic Study Tour.

They also briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the functioning of the offices of Registrar of Companies (ROCs) and the dual mandate of ICLS in maintaining the Regulation, developmental role as well as effective enforcement of multiple corporate laws.

The Lieutenant Governor was also briefed about the recently filed winding up petition on the basis of which the Assets of one Not-for-Profit Company was taken over by the Office of ROC cum Official Liquidator, J&K. This was probably the first case in which the corporate laws were invoked in the matter of National Security.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that ICLS officers will continue to strengthen transparent corporate culture, investors’ con-fidence and strengthen India’s journey toward be-coming a leading global economy. (KNO)

J&K achieves full

this mission.”

Out of 180317 non-literates identified 178680 have passed (99.09%) under the ULLAS scheme.

The criterion for declaring a State/UT fully liter-ate is achieving a literacy rate of 95% or above, ac-knowledging that 100% literacy is unfeasible due to factors such as advanced age and intellectual abilities.

The States and UTs have prepared their strat-egies and plans and adopted best practices to achieve full literacy in accordance with the above criteria.

So far nine States and UTs had declared them-selves as fully literate under ULLAS. They are: Ladakh, Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Island, Sikkim and Uttarakh and J&K is the 10th.

J&K is the State/UT having the largest popula-tion among States/ UTs declared so far.

India rejects PoJK

that they have on their soil that needs to be dismantled,” he said while responding to a ques-tion on a video released by a terrorist group that blamed India for the killing of some of its commanders.

Separately, replying to questions on the second phase of local body elections held in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Jaiswal rejected the exercise, saying it could not conceal what he described as widespread public unrest and vio-lence in the region.

“The so-called local elections in PoJK are a com-plete farce. The real situation is one of public pro-tests and wanton killings by Pakistani forces. Such hollow exercises cannot hide realities,” he said.

The spokesperson alleged that at least 90 civil-ians have lost their lives since June in an ongoing crackdown in the region, while many others had been injured.

According to Jaiswal, the Pakistan establish-ment had responded to public discontent with “bullets, blackouts, intimidation and repression” and was now attempting to manufacture legiti-macy through the electoral process.

He also urged the international community to hold Pakistan accountable, alleging that its ac-tions in the region stood in contrast to its public positions on human rights.

On a separate question relating to the Indus Waters Treaty, Jaiswal reiterated India’s position that the treaty would remain in abeyance until Pakistan “irrevocably and credibly” ended its sup-port for cross-border terrorism. (KNO)

Govt adopts

international borders, including deployment of advanced surveillance technology, strengthening border infrastructure, enhanced patrolling and closer coordination among security agencies.

In a written reply to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the govern-ment, through its border guarding forces (BGFs), has undertaken several measures to prevent ille-gal cross-border movement and improve border management.

The reply came in response to a question by Lok Sabha member Anil Yeshwant Desai, who sought to know whether it was the responsibility of the government to ensure that no person crossed the country’s borders without proper authorisa-tion, the role of paramilitary forces in the task, whether the presence of a large number of ille-gal people in the country reflected negligence in border management, and the action taken by the government.

Rai said the government has enhanced border surveillance by deploying advanced equipment such as CCTV cameras, drones and automatic number plate recognition systems to monitor border areas more effectively.

“The government has also strengthened bor-der infrastructure by developing fencing, border outposts, roads and helpads to improve vigilance and mobility of security forces,” he said, add-ing that regular patrolling has been intensified through area domination exercises, naka points and mobile teams to monitor illegal activities along the borders.

The minister said that intelligence agencies and other organisations are working in close coor-dination through established platforms to facilitate real-time information sharing.

The government has also focused on regulating cross-border movement by identifying and man-aging designated entry and exit points to ensure controlled movement of people and goods, Rai said.

He further said community engagement and awareness programmes are being conducted to educate border residents and discourage them from aiding illegal activities.

The minister said India is also coordinating with neighbouring countries through meetings and joint initiatives to strengthen enforcement measures and improve border security. (KNO)

Early headcount

October 01, 2026 to October 05,2026.

According to details , the highest number of such villages/ municipalities have been iden-tified in Doda district(305) followed by Kishtwar (158), Baramulla (93), Kathua (48), Poonch (24), Kupwara (49), Budgam (5), Bandipora (28), Ganderbal (7), Pulwama (32), Shopian (32), Anantnag (55), Kulgam (66), Ramban (88), Udhampur (79), and Reasi(49).

The municipalities falling under snow-bound non-synchronous areas are Uri, Gulmarg and Kishtwar.

These areas have been identified for early enu-meration due to their snow-bound status, which makes them inaccessible during winter months. The special exercise ensures that every household in these remote regions is counted before heavy snowfall sets in.

For the rest of Jammu and Kashmir, the head-count exercise- the second and final phase of Census 2027- will be undertaken in February 2027.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Hou-selisting Operation (HLO)- the first phase of Census-2027-was carried out in June 2026 in J&K. (KNO)

CM urges swift,

presentation on the status of the Budget Announcements pertaining to the departments under review. He apprised the Chief Minister of the progress achieved so far and the im-plementation status submitted by the respective departments.

Administrative Secretaries of the School Education Department, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Transport Department, Social Welfare Department and Health & Medical Education Department briefed the Chief Minister on the action taken to im-plement the Budget proposals and highlighted the milestones achieved in their respective sectors.

Reviewing the progress, the Chief Minister is-sued a series of directions to accelerate im-plementation of the approved initiatives and en-sure strict adherence to prescribed timelines. He stressed the need for close inter-departmental

coordination to facilitate seamless execution of projects and programmes announced in the Budget.

The Chief Minister underscored that the true success of the Budget lies in its effective im-plementation on the ground and directed all de-partments to focus on delivering measurable improvements in public services. He emphasised that efficiency, transparency and accountability must remain central to the execution of all Budget initiatives.

The Chief Minister reiterated the Government’s commitment to ensuring that every Budget an-nouncement is implemented in a time-bound manner for the welfare and benefit of the people.

Aug 5: Security

and report any suspicious activity to the near-est police station.

Police in Bandipora said adequate security ar-rangements had been made across the district and that violations of the prescribed legal provi-sions would be dealt with strictly in accordance with law.

Officials said security deployment had been strengthened at sensitive locations across the Valley, while police and other security agen-cies were maintaining heightened vigil to en-sure peaceful observance of August 5.JAMMU REMAINS UNDER UNPRECEDENTED SECURITY BLANKETMeanwhile, Jammu remained under an unprecedented security blanket, with in-telligence agencies warning of possible terror strikes in view of the Article 370 anniversary, the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and the forthcoming Independence Day.

According to officials, intelligence inputs indi-cated that terrorists might attempt to target vul-nerable locations, including educational institu-tions, prompting authorities to enhance security measures across sensitive areas.

Defence officials said the decision was based on specific intelligence alerts regarding possible terror threats and stressed that the measure was purely preventive.

Several educational institutions outside can-tonment areas also conducted emergency mock drills to familiarise students and staff with evacuation procedures and emergency response protocols.

Security has been significantly strengthened around military establishments, vital installa-tions, government offices, transport hubs and other sensitive locations across Jammu, with ad-ditional deployment of police, paramilitary and security forces. Checking, surveillance, area domi-nation patrols and access control measures have also been intensified.

The heightened security comes amid contrast-ing political programmes scheduled for August 5. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has planned celebrations to mark the sixth anniver-sary of the abrogation of Article 370 and the reor-ganisation of the erstwhile state, the Congress has announced that it will observe the day as a “Black Day” and hold protests demanding restoration of statehood.

Officials appealed to the public across Jammu and Kashmir to cooperate with the administra-tion and security agencies and avoid any activity that could disturb peace or public order. (KNO)

Kashmir must

high-value tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

“Our tourism strategy includes the three ma-jor golf courses in Kashmir, Srinagar, Pahalgam and Gulmarg as well as the golf course at Sidra in Jammu. We are also planning to upgrade an-other golf course in the Jammu region,” the Chief Minister said.

He said the Valley has already started witness-ing the kind of tourism the government wants to encourage.

“Even without actively promoting golf tourism, people are flying into Srinagar for long week-ends, arriving on Friday, playing through Saturday and Sunday and returning on Sunday evening or Monday morning. This tournament is an impor-tant milestone in putting Kashmir, particularly the Royal Springs Golf Course, back on India’s golf map,” he said.

CM Omar said the championship has attracted over 100 professional golfers, including more than 10 overseas participants, reflecting Kashmir’s growing appeal as a sporting destination.

“Our endeavour is that this should become an annual tournament and not a one-off. There has been a long gap since the previous such effort. This is only the beginning. We hope to increase both the prize money and participation and en-sure it becomes a regular feature on the national golf calendar for at least the next five years,” he said.

GOLF ACADEMY ON CARDS

Responding to a question about opportunities for local golfers, Omar said the government plans to establish a golf academy to identify and groom young talent.

“You won’t see me playing golf beyond cere-monial tee-offs. But local golfers must be promoted. These tournaments are important because Pro-Am events allow our amateur golfers to compete alongside professionals from India and abroad. We also organise local tournaments, and our en-deavour is to establish a golf academy so children can be trained from a young age and eventually represent the country,” he said.

The Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir’s youth possess immense sporting talent but need greater exposure.

“In the last week alone, one of our boys has been selected to represent India against Sri Lanka, while another created headlines in Mixed Martial Arts by defeating a highly fancied opponent. Our boys and girls have talent. What they need is ex-posure. More tournaments will create greater op-portunities and inspire more youngsters to take up sports,” he said.

KASHMIR’S GOLFING LEGACY

CM Omar said Kashmir was among India’s leading golf destinations long before the onset of militancy.

“We organised such tournaments before 2014 as well and on a much larger scale. Before mili-tancy began in the 1980s, some of the biggest golf tournaments in the country were held in Jammu

and Kashmir, particularly in Kashmir. During summers, no golfer considered the season com-plete without playing in Gulmarg,” he said.

Highlighting Kashmir’s climatic advantage, Omar said the region remains one of the few places in India where golf can comfortably be played during the summer months.

“For nearly five months every year, golf cannot be comfortably played in much of the country be-cause of the heat. Kashmir is the only place where coaching camps, training camps and tournaments can be organised during those months. Our effort is to expand that advantage,” he added.

GOLF COURSES ARE TOURISM ASSETS, NOT ‘WHITE ELEPHANTS’

Replying to criticism over the maintenance cost of golf courses, CM Omar said such infrastructure should not be viewed solely through the lens of profit and loss.

“Some things are not built as profit centres. The question is whether they strengthen our im-age, improve our visibility and attract visitors to Jammu and Kashmir. Golf courses may not di-rectly generate profits, but in terms of tourism promotion they are unmatched,” he said.

Recalling the history of the Royal Springs Golf Course, CM Omar said former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had initially opposed the project but later recognised its tourism po-tential after assuming office.

“He later realised what a valuable tourism asset it was, and some of the biggest tourism promo-tion efforts through the Royal Springs Golf Course were undertaken during that period. These assets should not be judged merely through profit and loss,” he said.

The Chief Minister said golfers contribute sig-nificantly to the local economy.

“People who come here to play golf don’t just play golf. They stay in hotels and houseboats, hire taxis, travel with their families, purchase handicrafts and spend across the local economy. Ultimately, it is an economic gain for Jammu and Kashmir,” he added.

CRICKET INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS MAJOR PUSH

Speaking on cricket, CM Omar said Jammu and Kashmir’s impressive Ranji Trophy perfor-mances had changed perceptions about the Union Territory’s sporting potential.

“The success of our cricketers in the Ranji Trophy laid the foundation for renewed interest. Thereafter, several of our players were picked up by IPL franchises. For the first time, there was genuine bidding for our players. They were not charity selections or recommendation cases; they earned their place through performance,” he said.

Referring to the recent selection of Aqub Nabi for India’s Test squad against Sri Lanka, Omar said it reflected the growing sporting talent emerging from Jammu and Kashmir.

He, said the absence of international-standard cricket infrastructure continues to be a major hurdle.

“What is holding us back is the lack of inter-national-quality cricket infrastructure. There is a proposal by the BCCI to build two international-standard stadiums, including one in the Valley, but unfortunately it has not moved forward for various reasons. We want these stadiums to be completed so that Jammu and Kashmir can host IPL matches as well as international cricket in the future,” he said.

SPORTS TOURISM TO BE INSTITUTIONALISED

The Chief Minister said international sport-ing events significantly enhance Jammu and Kashmir’s visibility.

“When more than 100 professional golfers come here, they don’t stay for just one day. They spend four days competing, arrive earlier to accli-matise and often stay back after the tournament. Add to that national media coverage, social media visibility and high-profile sponsors and people once again remember that Kashmir is a golf des-tination,” he said.

He said the government’s focus is to institu-tionalise sporting events instead of organising one-off competitions.

“Whether it is the Kashmir Marathon, the Jammu Half Marathon, the PGTI Golf Tournament or similar sporting events, the idea is continuity so that people include these events in their an-nual calendar and plan their visits to Jammu and Kashmir accordingly,” Omar said.

CONDEMNNS CIVILIAN KILLINGS

Responding to a question on the recent killing of civilians in south Kashmir, the Chief Minister described the incident as “deeply tragic.”

“It should never have happened. No religion permits the killing of innocent people. No amount of condemnation is enough. Those responsible for maintaining security are expected to ensure that such attacks do not take place,” Omar said. (KNO)

Amarnath Yatra

women, one child, 32 sadhus and 10 sadhvis. With today’s departure, the total number of pil-grims who have left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp during the ongoing Yatra has reached 1,41,712,” an official said.

He said the 25th down convoy carrying return-ing pilgrims also left the Baltal base camp for Jammu.

“A total of 2,073 returning pilgrims, including 1,552 men, 461 women, 11 children, 41 sadhus and eight sadhvis, travelled in a convoy of 63 vehicles, comprising 42 heavy motor vehicles (HMTVs), six MMVs, 14 LMVs and one truck,” he said.

The official said the Pahalgam route has already been closed for the pilgrimage due to mainte-nance work. Pilgrims are currently undertaking the Yatra only through the Baltal route. The 57-day annual Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to con-clude on August 28. (KNO)

Zero tolerance

while the provisions of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act are being effectively in-voked against habitual offenders.

Responding to another question on the gov-ernment’s “Zero Tolerance” policy against drug traffickers, Rai said the Ministry of Home Affairs released the “Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026-2029)” on June 26 this year,

outlining a three-year roadmap with time-bound targets to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse through a “Whole-of-Government” and “Whole-of-Society” approach.

The minister said the NCB and other drug law enforcement agencies are conducting intelli-gence-led operations, strengthening investiga-tions into narco-terrorism and organised crime, and enhancing coordination with state police, the Border Security Force and other agencies.

“The government has also intensified efforts to counter technology-enabled drug trafficking by deploying cyber experts to investigate darknet-based drug networks, encrypted communication platforms and cryptocurrency transactions used by traffickers,” he said.

Rai said specialised training programmes are being organised for enforcement agencies in collaboration with international partners, while India has strengthened cooperation on narcotics control through bilateral agreements and regular meetings with several countries.

The government has also launched the 24x7 National Narcotics Helpline “MANAS”, accessible through the toll-free number 1933, email, web portal and the UMGANG mobile application to enable citizens to report drug-related activities, he said.

The minister said the government is imple-menting “Mission Drug Free Campus” in edu-cational institutions across the country to sensise students against drug abuse.

He added that the Vision Document also en-visages creating “Drug-Free Campuses” with a focus on a 500-metre radius around educational institutions, along with awareness campaigns, counselling, community participation and con-sent-based screening as part of student wellness programmes in centrally funded higher educa-tional institutions. (KNO)

Pulwama accords

the greatest honour of my life,” he told KNO.

Reflecting on the bout, Owais revealed that he had entered the cage despite suffering from illness.

“I was running a fever before the fight and physically I wasn’t feeling at my best. My body wasn’t allowing me to compete the way I wanted, but I had complete faith in Allah. Even though the entire crowd was backing my opponent, I remained confident and everything eventually went in my favour,” he said.

‘I WORE KARAKULI TO TELL THE WORLD THAT I CAME FROM KASHMIR’

He also explained the significance of wearing the traditional Kashmiri Karakuli cap during the event.

“I wore the Karakuli because I wanted the world to know where I come from. Kashmir is known across the globe for its hospitality, culture and natural beauty. I wanted to proudly represent my homeland and send a message that athletes from Kashmir and India can compete with the best in the world and achieve success,” he said.

BEGINNING OF A BIGGER JOURNEY

Calling his victory only the beginning of a bigger journey, Owais said defeating an unbeaten world champion has strengthened his determina-tion to scale greater heights.

“This is not the end of my journey. It is only the beginning of a much bigger mission. I will continue to train harder, remain disciplined and strive to bring more honours to my country in the years to come whenever and wherever I will get opportunity,” he said.

Sharing a message for young people, Owais said every successful athlete goes through struggles before achieving recognition.

“Like everyone else, I also faced many hard-ships and challenges in my life. There were times when the journey seemed difficult, but I never gave up. I want our youth to understand that perseverance is the key to success. If they remain committed and never lose hope, they too can fulfil their dreams,” he said.

DRUG ABUSE HURTING EVERYONE

Expressing concern over the growing menace of drug abuse among youth, Owais urged the gov-ernment to adopt a tougher approach against nar-cotics while simultaneously strengthening sports infrastructure.

“Action against drugs must become even stricter. At the same time, the government should upgrade sports infrastructure and provide better training facilities so that talented youngsters get the op-portunities they deserve. Sports can become a power-ful tool to keep youth away from drugs and help them build successful careers,” he said.

The fighter, who hails from Murran village in Pulwama, has emerged as one of India’s fastest-rising MMA stars through years of relentless hard work, discipline and consistent performances. His latest triumph over Delyan Georgiev, regarded as one of Europe’s most highly-rated prospects and a two-time IMMAF World Champion repre-senting the famed Team Topuria, is widely being described as a defining moment in Indian mixed martial arts.

Sports lovers and local residents termed Owais’ achievement a landmark moment for Kashmir, saying his inspiring journey from a small village in Pulwama to defeating a world champion on one of the sport’s biggest stages would motivate thousands of aspiring athletes across Jammu and Kashmir.

“Owais has proved that talent, dedication and hard work can overcome every obstacle. He has become a role model for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and has shown that dreams can be achieved regardless of where one comes from,” said one supporter.

Several residents also urged the government and sports authorities to extend greater finan-cial and institutional support to talented athletes from the region, saying Owais’ success demon-strates the immense sporting potential that exists in Jammu and Kashmir.

Owais entered BRAVE CF 107 riding a five-fight winning streak and carrying the distinction of being named the BRAVE CF Breakout Fighter of the Year 2025. His victory over the previously unbeaten Georgiev has significantly enhanced his reputation in the international MMA circuit while scripting a historic chapter for Indian and Kashmiri mixed martial arts. (KNO)

SC asks Centre to frame uniform guidelines on environmental compensation under solid waste rules

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 4: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Centre to formulate comprehensive guidelines for the imposition and collection of environmental compensation from polluting entities and individuals under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.

A bench comprising justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe also asked the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to file an affidavit and place on record the progress in the making and the issuance of the regulations.

The bench referred to a recent judgement in which the court had placed an important pre-condition for imposing environmental compensation by holding that any compensation that is awarded must be proportionate, bearing some rational nexus to the pollution caused by the polluter.

"This court has consistently underscored that environmental compensation must rest



on a foundation of rationality, proportionality and reasoned assessment," it said.

The bench then went on to formulate the principles and said, "Environmental compensation cannot be seen as a replacement for penalties levied against the erring polluter. It is restitutionary in nature and is paid in addition to the penalty or fine that the polluter is liable to pay." It said that the temporal

extent of paying compensation by the polluter ends only when the damage caused is reversed.

"The appropriate authorities of the state have a duty to undertake an exercise of valuing the damage caused by the polluter and collect such compensation required for restoration of the environment," it said.

While determining the amount of environmental compensation, it said both

tangible and intangible damage caused by the polluter must be considered.

"Even if actual harm is not caused but is imminent or the actions/activities of the polluter have the potential to cause harm, the liability to pay compensation will come into place," it said.

"Factors such as the financial capacity of the polluter, the cost involved in assessing the damage and loss suffered by individuals and the environment as well as the cost of remediation or restoration are also to be taken into account while valuing such compensation," it said.

Any environmental compensation levied must be proportional to the damage caused by the polluter and must have some rational nexus to the pollution caused, it said.

"All courts and tribunals must record reasons while determining environmental compensation, listing the factors considered, the valuation standard used to assess such damages and the

formula or guidelines applied to quantify the compensation payable," it said.

The directions were issued while hearing appeals filed by the Amravati Municipal Corporation.

The bench said the institutionalisation of solid waste management requires not only robust laws but also effective regulatory mechanisms and accountability to ensure their implementation.

It observed that constitutional courts and the National Green Tribunal have an important role in ensuring that statutory authorities created under environmental laws are constituted, adequately staffed and function efficiently instead of existing only on paper.

It noted that, following its earlier directions, the Centre had constituted the Central Implementation Committee under Rule 18 of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.

It appreciated the move and said it as a positive step towards effective implementation of the Rules.

Over 1.47 cr household toilets built under Swachh Bharat Mission (G)-II in 5 years: Govt

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 4: More than 1.47 crore individual household toilets have been constructed in rural areas under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II during the last five years, according to the Jal Shakti ministry.

Moreover, eligible rural households are provided financial assistance of up to Rs 12,000 for constructing a toilet under the scheme.

Minister of State for Jal Shakti V Somanna said sanitation is a state subject and SBM(G)-Phase II is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme by states and Union Territories (UTs).

The information was provided by Somanna in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on Monday.

He said data reported by states and UTs on the SBM(G) Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) showed that 1.47 crore individual household latrines (IHHLs) were constructed under the scheme during 2021-22 and 2025-26.

The annual construction stood at 22.54 lakh in 2021-22, 27.34 lakh in 2022-23, 39.01 lakh in 2023-24, 31.56 lakh in 2024-25 and 26.66 lakh in 2025-26.

Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of toilets constructed during the five-year period at 48.99 lakh, followed by Bihar (28.09 lakh), West Bengal (12.75 lakh), Rajasthan (6.78 lakh), Odisha (6.15 lakh) and Tamil Nadu (5.81 lakh).

Somanna said the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation provides financial and technical support to states and UTs to supplement their efforts to improve rural sanitation.

"In each Financial Year, funds are allocated to States and UTs based on their approved annual implementation plan (AIP), past performance and budget availability. Under SBM(G) Phase-II, funds are not released component-wise

or project-wise to States and UTs.

"States and UTs can plan for providing IHHLs, CSCs and solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) facilities under the program as per demand, local preferences, etc as per their AIP, for their villages," he said.

The minister said eligible rural households are provided an incentive of up to Rs 12,000 for constructing one individual household latrine, including a water storage facility for handwashing and cleaning.

Somanna said the programme guidelines require states and UTs to give preference to below poverty line households, followed by above poverty line households belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), persons with disabilities (PwDs), landless labourers with homestead, small farmers, marginal farmers and women-headed households.

Priority may also be accorded to old-age pensioners, widow pensioners, disability pensioners, transgender persons, pregnant and lactating mothers covered under government health programmes and households with girl children covered under welfare schemes.

"The identification of such households should be initiated by the gram panchayat in gram sabha meeting and be approved by block and district level authorities," he said.

On implementation, the minister said toilets are ideally constructed by beneficiaries themselves with support from village-level agencies and the incentive is transferred directly to their bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism.

"As per SBM(G)-Phase II guidelines, ideally the IHHL construction activities should be taken up by the individual beneficiaries themselves with support from/or through agencies in the village. The payment of incentive shall be ensured through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)," he said.

'No third-party insurance cover, no fuel': SC directs Centre to launch pilot project

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 4: In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Tuesday took serious note of a large number of vehicles plying without third-party insurance cover and directed the Centre to evolve a pilot project by which fuel for vehicles can be refused at petrol pumps until valid insurance is obtained.

The top court took note of the number of road accidents on national highways and also the effect of long queues at toll plazas, and directed the Centre to implement pilot projects on certain corridors, substituting the process of stopping at toll plazas with automatic detection of vehicles passing through toll points.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Prashant Kumar Mishra, which flagged the lack of compliance of provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act requiring all vehicles to have a valid insurance policy covering third parties, said it is shocking to learn that nearly 56 per cent of vehicles plying on Indian roads remain uninsured according to the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance 2024-25.

"As deliberated upon in court, the IRDA (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority) in consultation with the MoRTH



(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways) to deliberate and evolve a pilot project whereby fuel for vehicles to be linked with valid insurance status. In the absence thereof, the vehicle concerned would be refused fuel at petrol pumps, until such time that valid insurance is obtained," the bench said.

It said that the move of denial of fuel will have a two-fold benefit and will assist in identification of uninsured or unregistered vehicles and secondly, it will prompt the owners of these vehicles to ensure that they have valid insurance status.

"Such projects would ensure ground-level compliance with the statutory mandate of Section 146 of the MVA. This may be done through the use of ANPR

(Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras," it said, adding that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has, in principle, no objection to the same.

The top court noted that in 2018, the court mandated purchase of third-party insurance for three years for new cars and five years for two-wheelers, at the time of purchase or registration of new vehicles.

"We notice that despite eight years having passed from the said direction, a large number of vehicles remain uninsured. While the IRDA and GIC (General Insurance Council) have recommended that this period not be enhanced, we are of the view that it is in the interest of road safety that the period be enhanced by one year," it observed.

India invites Bangladesh PM to BRICS outreach session in capacity as BIMSTEC chair

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 4: India on Tuesday said it extended an invitation to Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to attend the outreach session of the upcoming BRICS summit in New Delhi in his capacity as current chair of BIMSTEC.

India is hosting the annual BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12 and 13 that is expected to deliberate extensively on a number of pressing global challenges including the economic consequences of the West Asia crisis. New Delhi's confirmation on inviting Rahman came amid some fresh unease in ties between the two countries over former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina's plan to hold a virtual media interaction in New Delhi on Wednesday.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India has nothing to do with Hasina's planned news conference, emphasising that it does not endorse any views that may be expressed during the event.

Jaiswal, responding to a question, said that an invitation was extended to Rahman to undertake a bilateral visit to India after he assumed the charge of the top office in February.

"As far as the BRICS summit is concerned, India has separately extended an invitation to the Bangladesh prime minister in his capacity as the current chair of BIMSTEC to attend the outreach session of the 18th BRICS Summit," he said at a regular media briefing.

"The invitation has been extended as per the standard practice being followed in BRICS for the outreach sessions. Other heads of regional groups have also been invited in a similar manner," he said.

Without divulging much details, he said India was making preparations for the BRICS summit and extending invitations.

India, US working towards interim trade agreement: MEA



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 4: India and the US are working towards an in-

terim trade agreement, with a few issues requiring finalisation, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said both sides have done "lot of work" in connection with the proposed trade deal.

"Both sides have done a lot of work in this regard. There are certain issues that need finalisation. Both countries are working towards finalising the interim bilateral trade agreement," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to a question on the issue at a media briefing. A delegation from the US Trade Representative (USTR) visited India in June to advance discussions on the trade agreement.

Christopher Nolan's 'The Odyssey' becomes India's highest-grossing IMAX release, surpasses 'Oppenheimer'

PTI

Mumbai, Aug 4: Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey" has become India's highest-grossing IMAX release, earning Rs 63 crore across 34 IMAX screens in just 17 days and overtaking the lifetime IMAX collections of the filmmaker's previous movie "Oppenheimer".

The record came after Warner Bros. Discovery, Universal Pictures International, IMAX Corporation and exhibition partners mounted a weeks-long campaign featuring exclusive merchandise, fan experiences and exhibitor-led initiatives that kept audience interest alive throughout the film's theatrical run.

According to Warner Bros. Discovery, "The Odyssey" surpassed "Oppenheimer", which grossed Rs 50 crore during its entire IMAX run in India, making Nolan the only filmmaker whose films occupy the top two spots among the country's highest-grossing IMAX releases.

"Christopher Nolan came to Mumbai in July and told us Indian audiences are among the most enthusiastic and knowledgeable in the world. This is the proof. The



top two highest-grossing IMAX releases in India's history are both his films. Not one, but two films from the same director, made the same way, for the same reason, because he believes cinema is meant to be seen at the scale only IMAX can give it.

"India agreed with 'Oppenheimer'. India has now agreed twice, and this time it took seventeen days, not an entire run. When a filmmaker builds his entire career around convincing audiences that the biggest screen is the only screen worth choosing, and an audience answers him this decisively, and this quickly, that is not a box office record. That is a promise on both sides," Denzil Dias, Vice President and Managing Director,

India Theatrical, Warner Bros. Discovery, said in a statement.

Based on Homer's epic poem, "The Odyssey" chronicles the decade-long journey of Odysseus, the King of Ithaca, as he struggles to return home after the Trojan War while battling mythical creatures, divine interventions and impossible odds.

The film, which released in theatres worldwide on July 17, stars Matt Damon as Odysseus alongside Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Zendaya, Lupita Nyong'o, Robert Pattinson, Charlize Theron, Jon Bernthal, Mia Goth, Elliot Page, Benny Safdie, Himesh Patel, Samantha Morton, Corey Hawkins, Cosmo Jarvis and John Leguizamo.

The studio said the campaign

began with Nolan and members of the ensemble cast attending the film's India premiere in Mumbai, with digital content from the event generating over 50 million views.

A stop for tea by Nolan and the cast ahead of the premiere also went viral, garnering more than 20 million views on Universal Pictures India's Instagram page alone. The promotional campaign continued well after release through fan reaction videos, creator collaborations and a series of in-cinema initiatives designed to encourage repeat viewing. Beginning in the opening week, audiences at participating IMAX locations received one of four limited-edition character pins and exclusive IMAX T-shirts. In the second week, selected theatres distributed framed IMAX 70mm film strips from the movie in limited quantities, celebrating "The Odyssey" as the first feature film shot entirely with IMAX film cameras.

As the theatrical run entered its third and fourth weeks, exhibitors introduced exclusive artwork posters, while a nationwide IMAX initiative marking Nolan's birthday featured advance bookings and special ticket pricing.

Amrit Udyan to be open from Aug 16 to Sept 15: Rashtrapati Bhavan



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 4: The famed Amrit Udyan located inside the presidential estate will open for public from August 16 to September 15, the Rashtrapati Bhavan announced on Tuesday.

During that period, the Udyan will remain open from 10 am to 6 pm, with the last entry allowed at 5 pm, it said. The botanical haven will remain closed on all Mondays for maintenance.

The Summer Annuals of Amrit Udyan -- the specially curated monsoon floral exhibition -- will be open for public from August 16 to September 15, the statement said.

Exclusive access will be given to sportspersons on August 29 and teachers on September 5 to mark the National Sports Day and the Teachers' Day, respectively.

The entry and exit for visitors will be from Gate No 35, located near North Avenue Road.

Entry to Amrit Udyan will be free of cost; visitors have to book their slots online (at visit.rashtrapatibhavan.gov.in) in advance. Booking for a particular day will close at 10 am on the previous day. There will be no on-the-spot booking available, the statement said.

Visitors can carry mobile phones, electronic keys, purses, handbags, water bottles, baby milk bottles and umbrellas inside the Udyan. Except for these, no other item will be allowed, it said.

For the convenience of visitors, drinking water stalls, first-aid posts, rain shelters and restrooms will be set up along the route of the visit. A shuttle bus service with the banner 'SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR AMRIT UDYAN' will also be available from Central Secretariat Metro Station to the entry point to the Amrit Udyan at an interval of every 30 minutes between 9.30 am and 6 pm.

The garden trail will include Bal Vatika, Plumeria Garden, Banyan Grove, Bonsai Garden, Babbling Brooks, Central Lawn, Long Garden, and Circular Garden, the statement said.

Hamis voices 'unease' over Board of Peace comments on Gaza

AFP

Doha, Aug 4: Hamas on Tuesday called for clarifications from US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace, voicing "unease" over comments it made regarding the group's prospective disarmament and Israel's withdrawal in Gaza.

The Palestinian Islamism movement said on Friday that it had agreed to hand over its weapons, with the Board of Peace publishing a roadmap including provisions for the group's gradual disarmament and a "phased Israeli withdrawal" from Gaza.

But Israel had remained defiant against a pullout without the prior completion of verifiable disarmament by Hamas.

Following a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, the Board of Peace appeared to reassure Israel, saying that the withdrawal of the country's forces from its current positions in Gaza would only begin once Hamas completely disarmed.

A Hamas official said Tuesday that Hamas and other Palestinian factions "are uneasy with the statement issued by (Nicolay) Mladenov after his meeting with Netanyahu," referring to the high representative for Gaza under the Board of Peace.

"The statement focused solely on the issue of weapons and failed to address the occupation's obligations, particularly those related to humanitarian



Palestinians inspect the rubble of a building destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, Wednesday, July 29, 2026. (Photo | AP)

aspects and Israel's commitment to halting its aggression, including aerial and artillery bombardment, gunfire, assassinations and military operations in the Gaza Strip," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Another Hamas official said the group was waiting for a "clear and official response" from Mladenov regarding the "agreed-upon terms, Mladenov's position on the Israeli military escalation in Gaza, and the ongoing policy of stalling on the implementation of the agreement."

Qatar, Egypt and Turkiye,

which are mediating the truce in Gaza, have criticized Israel after renewed strikes in the Palestinian territory.

Qatar blamed Israel on Tuesday for delays in implementing the Trump plan for Gaza.

"It is clear to the international community who is obstructing the implementation of the agreement," Qatari foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari told reporters. "The full responsibility lies on the Israeli side."

An increase in Israeli strikes in Gaza over recent days was "nothing more than an attempt to derail the plan's

implementation and block peaceful solutions," he added.

Following Monday's meeting with Netanyahu, the Board of Peace posted on X that Israel's withdrawal beyond the Yellow Line, which demarcates the area between Hamas and Israeli military control, "will take place only once decommissioning (of weapons) is complete, as Hamas committed to the mediators," it posted on X.

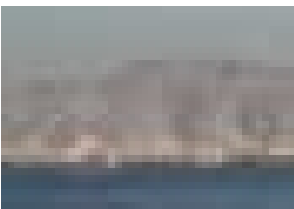
The stance appears to contradict what Mladenov said on Friday, when he posted on X that: "Withdrawal must move in lockstep with decommissioning."

'Iran demands Hormuz inbound control, outbound oversight'

REUTERS

Dubai, Aug 4: Iran wants control over inbound shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and visibility over outbound traffic, with the ability to intervene if necessary, under a plan being discussed with Oman to reopen the strategic waterway, a senior Iranian source told Reuters on Tuesday.

The source, who is involved in the talks, said this is "the general idea currently being discussed," and specified that the outbound lane would



follow a route between Iran and Oman, with exit clearance granted through Oman after notifying Iran. "Tehran is unlikely to change its position," the source added.

In late July, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem

Gharibabadi said Tehran had rejected an Omani proposal for an equal division of transit routes between the two countries, saying such a plan did not address Tehran's security concerns until long-term regional stability is achieved.

Control of the strait, the narrow waterway between the Gulf and the Indian Ocean that is the main route for about a fifth of world oil supplies and other vital goods, has been a main sticking point in efforts to resolve the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Pfizer beats earnings estimates, targets \$2.5 bn in additional cost cuts



REUTERS

Geneva, Aug 4: Pfizer on Tuesday reported better-than-expected second-quarter results, boosted by strong demand for blood thinner Eliquis, and unveiled plans for an additional \$2.5 billion in savings through its ongoing cost-cutting efforts.

Pfizer said the additional savings, expected to be realized between 2027 and 2029, will build on existing cost-cutting efforts as it seeks to offset declining COVID-related revenue and restore sustainable growth. The company is also counting on newer medicines to lessen its dependence on aging blockbuster drugs, while investors are watching for signs that its \$10 billion acquisition of Metsera can help establish a meaningful

foothold in the fast-growing obesity market.

Pfizer has said it expects to return to stronger growth after 2028. CEO Albert Bourla struck an optimistic tone, saying the company's "launched and acquired products performed well ... our obesity program is advancing with meaningful momentum." Revenue from acquired products rose 25 percent on an operational basis during the quarter.

Eliquis sales rose 19 percent on an operational basis, driven by higher US net pricing from lower rebates and a favorable channel mix, along with stronger demand across global markets.

Sales of Eliquis, which Pfizer sells with Bristol Myers Squibb, were \$2.43 billion in the quarter, above analysts' estimates of \$1.93 billion.

Nabi's ability to get batters out while defending is his biggest asset: Pathan



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 4: Auqib Nabi's knack for forcing top batters into errors while they are defending, rather than relying on raw pace, could be his biggest strength as the Jammu and Kashmir pacer prepares for international cricket, feels former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan.

Nabi's long-awaited India call-up came on Monday when the selectors named him as injured Jasprit Bumrah's replacement in the upcoming two-Test series in Sri Lanka beginning August 15. Pathan, who first spotted Nabi during trials in Srinagar in 2018 and later mentored Jammu and Kashmir's young cricketers, believes the pacer's natural action, wrist position and ability to move the ball make him effective without express pace.

"The optimum pace to get the ball moving is around 135 kph. If you can get it to swing, that too late, then you are good," Pathan told PTI in an interview.

"And with the rhythm and with the kind of action he has, we can touch 133-135 kph on a regular basis. That's what I believe," he added.

For Pathan, however, pace is only one part of the equation. The bigger quality is whether a bowler can make top-class batters defend and still find a way to get them out.

"Does the bowler have the ability to get the batters, the top-quality batters, out while defending?

This is the other quality you seek," he said.

Pathan has seen Nabi produce that kind of bowling against high-quality batters in domestic cricket, including in the Ranji Trophy final when they pipped Karnataka on first innings lead to clinch a historic maiden title earlier this year.

"We have seen that in the Ranji Trophy final, he troubled KL Rahul, he didn't even get a wicket. In that too, he defended normally and dismissed the batsman," he said.

The former India pacer also saw Nabi create similar problems for batters in Mumbai.

"In Mumbai, I saw the match, Shreyas and our current players, he was dismissing them the same way. So, on different pitches, the top-quality batsmen defend and get dismissed. That means he has the ability," Pathan said.

Bigger test Test cricket, however, will provide a bigger examination, particularly on flat pitches where bowlers need something extra to create chances.

"Obviously, when you play Test cricket, the challenge becomes even more. Because sometimes, you get the flattest pitch in the world," he said.

"And then obviously, you need to have some extra. In that extra ability, can he use the angle? Can he call the wicket-keeper up? Eventually, it's all about the performances. Can you perform?" Pathan added.

Pathan, who claimed 301

international wickets, said a bowler does not necessarily need express pace if he possesses the skill to deceive batters.

"I've been able to take 301 international wickets. I was not bowling 150kph," he said.

"My ability was to get the batsman out LBW before they think that ball will not come in," Pathan added.

He believes Nabi's inclusion can provide a major boost to his confidence, even if he has to wait for his opportunity.

"For Auqib to be in the squad right now, even though he was not the first choice, he came as a replacement of Jasprit Bumrah, it will still give him a lot of confidence. Because being in the squad is a big thing," Pathan added.

He feels the opportunity to train alongside India's best batters will also be an important learning experience.

"It's a pleasure to play for India. It's the biggest achievement you can have, playing for India and especially in Test cricket," he said.

"When you go in the nets and when you play with the team, when you actually bowl against the solid, top-quality batters, you learn a lot as well. The management also will get a sighter of what Auqib can do in the nets," Pathan added.

Pathan feels Nabi's domestic performances deserved to be rewarded sooner and believes his opportunity has arrived at the right time.

INOX SRINAGAR

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SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY

DHAMAAL 4

THE ODYSSEY

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10:00 AM, 03:50 PM

SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY (3D ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE) (U/A 13+)

11:00 AM, 02:05 PM, 05:10 PM, 08:15 PM

SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE) (U/A 13+)

12:55 PM, 06:45 PM

THE ODYSSEY (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE) (A)

11:40 AM, 06:00 PM