

CM Omar seeks special central package for Rajouri, Poonch flood victims

» Announces enhanced relief, promises SDRF compensation revision, new Mini Secretariat, land for displaced families » ‘Will personally meet PM to get financial help’

Raja Syed Rather

Rajouri, Aug 06: Seeking a special financial package from the Centre for the flash flood-hit districts of Rajouri and Poonch, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday announced a series of relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected families, including enhanced compensation for damaged houses, and assured them that his government stands firmly by their side during this difficult time.

During his visit to the worst-hit areas, including Bela Colony and Behrote Aitti, CM Omar met bereaved families, inspected damaged roads, public infrastructure and residential localities and reviewed rescue, restoration and rehabilitation measures with senior civil and police officers.

Talking to reporters, the Chief Minister, as per the



news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the government's foremost priority during the July 19 flash floods was to minimise the loss of human lives.

Expressing grief over the loss of four lives in Rajouri, he credited the district administration for its timely response. “Had the administration not acted swiftly that night, the number

of casualties could have been much higher,” CM Omar said.

He said restoration work across the district is progressing on a war footing, with electricity supply largely restored while

efforts are underway to revive damaged Jal Shakti water supply schemes.

The Chief Minister assured that families whose houses have been damaged will receive compensation, while those who have lost both their homes and agricultural land due to the floods will be provided five marlas of government land for rehabilitation and free ration.

He also assured all possible assistance to farmers who suffered losses to crops and agricultural land.

CHAIRS HIGH LEVEL REVIEW MEETING

Chairing a high-level review meeting later, CM Omar said the existing compensation under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has become inadequate as it has not been revised for several years despite a sharp rise in construction costs. “The SDRF | More on P6

IFS induction in J&K revived after 13-year freeze

MoEF&CC determines 28 vacancies, asks UT Govt to submit proposal to UPSC for convening Selection Committee Meeting

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Aug 06: In a significant development paving the way for Jammu & Kashmir's officers to enter the prestigious Indian Forest Service (IFS) after a gap of 13 years, the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has determined 28 slots in the promotion quota of the AGMUT cadre's J&K segment.

In a letter addressed to the J&K Chief Secretary, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the MoEF&CC confirmed 28 vacancies under the promotion quota of the AGMUT cadre's J&K segment.

According to the letter, there are 14 vacancies against the Select List of 2013, two for 2017, six for 2018, three for

2019, and one each for 2020, 2021, and 2023.

The Ministry has asked the UT Government to submit a proposal to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for convening a Selection Committee Meeting (SCM) to induct officers into the IFS.

“The Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir is requested to take further necessary action in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Forest Service (Appointment by Promotion) Regulations, 1966 and furnish a proposal to the Union Public Service Commission for convening Selection Committee meetings for preparation of Select Lists for the aforesaid years,” the letter reads.

The induction of local officers into the | More on P6

Man killed, three injured due to electric shock

KNO Correspondent

Ramban, Aug 06: A man was killed while three others sustained injuries after they suffered an electric shock in the Ramsoo area of Ramban district on Thursday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the incident occurred in Ramsoo, where four persons received an electric shock due to a suspected short circuit.

He said all the injured were immediately shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Banihal for treatment, where one of them succumbed to injuries, while the other three are undergoing treatment.

The injured have been identified as Yasir Ahmad (70), son of Farooq Ahmad; Ishfaq Ahmad (25), | More on P6

Territorial Army key contributor to govt's vision of developed India: Rajnath

Says forces strengthen national security, disaster response, env conservation

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Aug 06: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that Territorial Army is key contributor to government's vision of developed India.

Chairing a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Defence, here, the Defence Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “The Territorial Army is a key contributor to the government's vision of a developed India. The force complements the regular armed forces not only in national security but also in environmental conservation and social welfare initiatives.”



During the meeting members reviewed the role, mandate and achievements of the Territorial Army and discussed measures to further strengthen the force. “Senior officials gave a detailed presentation on the Territorial Army's operational role and accomplishments, while committee members

offered suggestions aimed at enhancing its effectiveness,” an official statement said.

Calling the Territorial Army a “living embodiment” of the citizen-soldier concept, the Defence Minister said its personnel balance civilian professions with military responsibilities, enabling them to support border security and internal security whenever required.

He said the force provides vital reserve capacity for the armed forces by maintaining a pool of trained personnel who can be mobilised at short notice. After completing their military service, these individuals also help strengthen ties between the armed forces and society while | More on P6

‘J&K power demand surges 24% in 12 years’

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Aug 06: In the past 12 years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a surge in power demand by more than 24 percent.

The figures further said that from the fiscal 2014-15 to 2025-26, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a surge in demand of 3,971 MU.

The latest official figures reveal that the annual energy demand in J&K rose from 16,214 Million Units (MU) in 2014-15 to 20,185 MU in 2025-26.

It also said that the peak power demand at 20,374 MU was recorded in 2024-25.



According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Government of

India (GoI) informed the Lower House that the actual power supply position of | More on P6

J&K's power deficit plummets from 19.1% to 0.1% in 12 years: GoI

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Aug 06: The Ministry of Power (MoP) Thursday said that in over 12 years, Jammu and Kashmir's massive power deficit of 19.1 percent has

reduced to 0.1 percent. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the ministry informed the Lok Sabha that J&K was facing a staggering 19.1 percent power deficit in 2014-15. | More on P6

Rain, hailstorm hit Kashmir parts, shepherd killed

MeT warns of heavy rainfall, flash floods, landslides from Aug 9-11

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 06: Widespread rainfall lashed several parts of Kashmir on Thursday, while a hailstorm accompanied by strong gusty winds damaged apple orchards in parts of Shopian district and a shepherd was killed after being struck by lightning in Kupwara.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) several areas across the Valley recorded heavy rains during the day, bringing a temporary respite from warm weather but also triggering weather-related incidents in some districts.



The worst impact was witnessed in Shopian district, where a hailstorm coupled with strong winds swept through several villages, causing extensive damage to apple orchards. The affected villages include

Dangam, Wanagam, Kachdora, Kaprin, Hanjipora, Braripora, Rakhama and Zaipora, with the Kachdora belt witnessing the maximum impact, locals said.

The storm, accompanied by heavy rainfall, | More on P6

J&K's post-harvest apple loss estimated at 9.51%: Centre

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 06: The Centre on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that it has conducted assessments of post-harvest losses of cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables across different agro-climatic regions of the country, with the latest study estimating post-harvest losses of apples in Jammu & Kashmir at 9.51 per cent.

Replying to a question raised by Lok Sabha MP Jai Prakash, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Ministry has commissioned studies through the ICAR-Central Institute of



Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) in 2015 and NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS) in 2022 to assess post-harvest losses across the country.

The minister informed the House that while the latest NABCONS study provides commodity-wise and state-wise estimates of post-harvest losses based | More on P6

Amarnath Yatra: 659 pilgrims pay obeisance at Holy Cave Shrine

Tally crosses 4.71 lakh mark

Umair Gul Ganaie

Srinagar, Aug 06: The annual Amarnath Yatra resumed on Thursday, with 659 pilgrims paying obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine after the pilgrimage movement from Jammu resumed following a one-day suspension as a precautionary security measure ahead of the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

According to details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), only 297 men, 190 women, 15 children, eight sadhus, one transgender pilgrim | More on P6

J&K national highways witnessed major damage, multiple landslides since 2014: Gadkari

Contractor blacklisted, 1% project cost penalty imposed in 2022 case; NH-44, NH-244, Sonamarg Tunnel among affected stretches

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 06: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed multiple incidents of landslides, cloudbursts, flash floods and major damage to National Highway infrastructure, with the Centre informing the Lok Sabha that a contractor was blacklisted and a penalty equivalent to one per cent of the project cost was imposed in a 2022 case in the Union Territory.

The details were provided by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin

Jairam Gadkari in response to Starred Question No. 280 raised by Lok Sabha member Captain Viriato Fernandes regarding damage to roads and flyovers.

As per Annexure-I of the reply, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu and Kashmir reported one project in 2022 involving major failure or major structural damage on National Highways, including bridges and flyovers. A penalty of 1% of the project cost was imposed on the EPC contractor, while the contractor was



blacklisted. The Ministry said National Highways are constructed as

per stipulated quality standards under Indian Roads Congress specifications and

codes. It said Authority's Engineers/Independent Engineers are appointed for day-to-day supervision, while executing agencies undertake inspections and third-party quality auditors are deployed for independent quality audits on a case-to-case basis.

The government has also listed five major landslide-related entries in Jammu and Kashmir in Annexure-III, covering the Udhampur-Ramban, Ramban-Banihal, Marog-Digdol, Chenani-Sudhmahadev and Sonamarg Tunnel stretches.

On NH-44 Udhampur-Ramban, cloudbursts and heavy rainfall in 2025 triggered landslides at Bali Nallah and Tharad, besides muck and slush accumulation at Karol and Kowbagh.

In 2026, a massive landslide at Dewal near Samroli at Km 79 blocked both carriageways and damaged a retaining wall. The government stated that restoration and clearance work has been completed.

On the Ramban-Banihal section of NH-44, a cloudburst in 2025 caused heavy slush/debris at Seri, muck

accumulation in Tunnel T-2 and a landslide at Kela Mor. In 2026, a landslide again blocked both carriageways. Restoration and clearance work has been completed, the reply said.

A landslide was also reported in 2025 at Marog on the Marog-Digdol, Ramban-Banihal section of NH-44 following a cloudburst. Restoration and clearance work was subsequently completed.

On the NH-244 Chenani-Sudhmahadev Road, landslides occurred at multiple locations between Km | More on P6

Celebrating International Year of Women Farmers

CS Atal Dulloo inaugurates IFAD Project Partners' Learning Forum 2026 at SKICC



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 6: The two day IFAD Project Partners' Learning Forum 2026, organised by the Mission Directorate, Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP)/Holic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) under the Agriculture Production Department, commenced Thursday at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The Learning Forum, centred on the theme "Celebrating the International Year of Women Farmers: Empowering Women, Transforming Agriculture," was attended by the senior government officials, representatives of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Project Directors from IFAD-supported projects across India, development professionals, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to deliberate on

innovative approaches towards inclusive and sustainable agricultural development.

The inaugural session, as per an official statement, was presided over by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, who formally inaugurated the Learning Forum and addressed the gathering.

In his keynote address, the Chief Secretary highlighted the transformative role of technology, innovation and institutional convergence in strengthening the agriculture sector. He emphasised the need for greater collaboration among the government institutions, development partners and farming communities to build resilient and market-oriented agricultural systems. Atal Dulloo also underscored the importance of women farmers as catalysts of rural transformation. He reiterated the government's commitment towards empowering them through technology, capacity building and entrepreneurship.

The gathering was also addressed by Professor Nazir

Ahmad Ganie, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, who emphasised the critical role of research, innovation and scientific interventions in enhancing the agricultural productivity and sustainability. He stressed the importance of stronger linkages between research institutions, extension agencies and farmers to accelerate the adoption of modern technologies and improve rural livelihoods.

Earlier, Dr. Sagar D. Dattatray, Mission Director, HADP/JKCIP, outlined the objectives of the Learning Forum. He highlighted the significant progress achieved under JKCIP in strengthening the institutional systems, promoting digital agriculture, supporting Farmer Producer Organisations, nurturing agri-startups and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities across Jammu & Kashmir.

James Marc de Sousa-Shields, Country Director, IFAD India, also addressed the participants and reiterated IFAD's commitment towards supporting

inclusive rural transformation through partnerships, innovation and knowledge sharing. He appreciated the progress made by JKCIP in establishing a robust digital ecosystem and community-driven implementation model. A major highlight of the inaugural session was the launch of three key knowledge and digital initiatives under JKCIP. The dignitaries unveiled the fourth issue of JKCIP Pulse, the project's quarterly knowledge newsletter documenting innovations, field experiences and institutional learning. They also released the JKCIP Annual Report 2025-26, showcasing the project's achievements during its first full year of implementation.

The occasion further witnessed the launch of Krishi Mitra AI, an AI-powered Crop Advisory and Leaf Diagnosis Platform developed in-house to provide intelligent, personalised and data-driven advisory services to farmers through the JKCIP Digital Ecosystem.

The forum also featured an

exhibition showcasing innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture. Ten startups supported under JKCIP displayed their technologies, products and solutions spanning precision agriculture, agri-processing, digital services and value addition. Besides, five Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) showcased a diverse range of high-value agricultural and horticultural products, demonstrating the growing strength of collective farmer enterprises in Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, thematic exhibition stalls were established by the Department of Agriculture Kashmir, Department of Horticulture Kashmir and the Horticulture Planning & Marketing Department (HPM), highlighting flagship initiatives, farmer-centric interventions and value chain development efforts undertaken across the Union Territory. The first day concluded with technical interactions, networking sessions and knowledge exchange among project leaders from across the country, laying the foundation for deeper collaboration and shared learning during the remaining sessions of the forum.

The second day of the Learning Forum will feature thematic discussions, experience-sharing sessions by IFAD-assisted projects from different states and field visits to successful Farmer Producer Organisations, agri-startups and Centres of Excellence supported under JKCIP.

Nurturing Local Cinematic Talent

DIPR announces IFFJK Emerging Filmmakers Competition-2026



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 06: In a significant initiative to encourage and promote emerging filmmaking talent from Jammu & Kashmir, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has announced the IFFJK Emerging Filmmakers Competition 2026, as part of the scheduled 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), with registrations for the competition commence from Thursday 6th August, 2026. The competition, as per an official statement, is exclusively open to aspiring filmmakers from Jammu & Kashmir and aims to provide a prestigious platform for young storytellers to showcase their creativity, cinematic vision and technical skills through original short films.

The aspiring and emerging filmmakers are invited to submit

original short films with a maximum duration of five minutes and the last date for submission is August 26, 2026.

The applicants must be between 18 and 39 years of age as on September 1, 2026, and possess a valid Jammu & Kashmir domicile certificate.

The competition is being organised around the theme "Rang-e-Cinema: Frames of a New Jammu & Kashmir", reflecting the evolving cultural, social and creative narratives of the region while encouraging youth to present compelling stories through the medium of cinema.

Interested filmmakers and cinematographers are advised to register by visiting the official IFFJK website www.iffjk.org and the detailed guidelines, eligibility criteria and the registration process are also available on this website for ease of aspirants.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan CBC concludes 2-day outreach programme in Kokernag

KT News Desk

Kokernag (Anantnag), August 6: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Thursday concluded its two-day Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan at Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS), Kokernag, Anantnag.

The awareness programme, as per PIB statement, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, parents, government officials and members of the local community. Through expert lectures, exhibitions and cultural activities, the programme sought to create awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and promote a drug-free society.

The concluding session was presided over by Basarat Choudhary, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) and Station House Officer, Kokernag. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Samreen Rasool highlighted the serious health consequences of substance abuse, including drug overdose, cardiovascular diseases and infections caused by unsafe practices. She emphasised the need for parents and teachers to identify early warning signs such as bullying, emotional distress and academic pressure among children.

Rameez Chowdhary, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, delivered a presentation on the counselling, rehabilitation and psychosocial support services available for individuals affected by substance abuse. Mohammad Iqbal, Zonal Education Officer, Kokernag, and

Naveed Gul, Educator, Department of School Education, also addressed the participants, stressing the importance of awareness, prevention and community participation in combating drug abuse.

The programme featured an exhibition on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, expert lectures, presentations, themed-based cultural performances and competitions in speech, painting and quiz, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students.

In his concluding remarks, Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC, informed that the outreach campaign would continue with a similar awareness programme in Bandipora district next week as part of CBC's sustained efforts to spread awareness against substance abuse across Jammu and Kashmir.

Strengthening Response DC Srinagar takes appraisal of proposed disaster mitigation projects, measures

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 06: In order to review and strengthen the Disaster Mitigation measures across the District, a meeting of senior Officers was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also the Chairman of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by SSP Traffic Police, Aijaz Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, CEO DDMA, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer PHE Hydraulic, Er. Ambreen Anjum, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM West, Zuber Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner



Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineer I&FC, Shuja Ahmad, all Tehsil-dars, Experts and other concerned.

At the outset, the Chairman DDMA emphasized the need for close coordination among all line departments and called for strengthening disaster mitigation measures to effectively tackle any eventuality arising from landslides, cloudbursts

and flood-like situations, ensuring a prompt and coordinated response across the district.

The DC directed the Officers to conduct field visits to vulnerable locations, undertake detailed assessments and identify gaps requiring immediate intervention. He instructed the concerned Departments to take all necessary measures to strengthen the

embankments along the River Jhelum and other flood-prone areas in the City to minimize risks and safeguard public life and property.

The DC further stressed the need to reinforce disaster mitigation measures along Dachigam Nallah, Gandbal area, Doodganga Nallah and other vulnerable spots in the District. He directed the concerned Departments to carry out need based assessment of these areas and undertake necessary mitigation projects to reduce the vulnerability of these areas and ensure a swift, coordinated and effective response mechanism spanning across various departments.

The meeting also reviewed the preparedness of various Departments, availability of emergency resources and inter-departmental coordination mechanisms to ensure timely response during any natural disaster or emergency.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (CIVIL WORKS)

NIT No: 46/R&B of 2026-27

Dated:-05-08-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Fencing / Protection / Retention wall of MC Park at Tangmarg near Jamia Masjid (Phase 1st).	12.03	600/-	24060/-	45 days	F.C Grants	D/C/B	Director Local Bodies Kashmir	1 st
2	Construction of Toilet Block at BHS Shouch Palpora Zone Nehalpora.	2.94	200/-	5880/-	30 days	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (Secondary Education)	DEE	District Development Commissioner Baramulla	1 st
3	Construction of Public Toilet at Pandithpora Kunzer (MC Kunzer)	5.13	300/-	10260/-	30 days	UDS	D/C	District Development Commissioner Baramulla	1 st

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of T.S: Accorded

Position of funds: Assured

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05-08-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06-08-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	06-08-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	13-08-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14-08-2026 11:00 AM

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)

1. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

2. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security within 03 days @ 5% of contract

3. Building and other Construction workers (Regulation of employment and Condition of service) Act 1996 and the Census Act of 1996.

• Factories Act 1948.

• Compliance with Labour Regulation Laws of J&K State.

4. Specification/Quality Control:-All items of works shall conform to specifications as per IRC/ MORTH/ NBO/ CPWD/ SSRI Any other prescribed specifications.

32. Insurance:- Insurance cover to Labour Machinery Work I Plant material I Equipment by the contractor shall be mandatory.

Laws Governing the Contract:-The contract shall be governed by Law of the land.

Court's Jurisdiction:-In case of a disputes/differences between contractor and Department the jurisdiction shall be J&K.

Time Extension:-

i. The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT and the time of completion will also increase I decrease in proportion with additional I deleted quantum of work depending upon the actual quantum of work.

ii. Request for extension of time shall be made by the contractor in writing not later than fifteen days of happening of the event causing delay. The contractor shall also indicate in such a request the period for which extension is desired.

iii. Abnormal /bad weather or Serious loss or damage by fire or Civil commotion, strike or lockout (other than among the labour engaged by the contractor) affecting any or the trades employed on the work, or Non availability of departmental stores. Any other cause which in the absolute discretion of the accepting authority is beyond the contractor's desire.

iv. On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the Department.

v. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

37. The tender I bid is liable rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

38. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

39. Any Typographical error in units or items shall be corrected and paid as per SSR of 2022 or as per Technical sanction.

40. As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/ contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

Sd/-
Draftsman
Technical Officer

DIPK-4211/26
DATED: 06-08-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Tangmarg.

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/3429-3
Dated: 05-08-2026

CM Omar inspects progress of Sungal Tunnel

Reviews progress of work in final stages



KT News Desk

Nowshera, Aug 06: On his way back from Rajouri to Jammu, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday inspected the ongoing works on the strategically important Sungal Tunnel and reviewed the progress of the project.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister was briefed by officials on the current status of construction and the remaining works. He was informed that the tunnel is in its final stages of completion and is

expected to be opened to all traffic shortly. Officials also informed him that essential services, including ambulances, are presently being allowed passage through the tunnel to facilitate emergency movement.

The Chief Minister reviewed the pace of execution and stressed the importance of completing the remaining works expeditiously while ensuring adherence to the highest standards of quality and safety.

It may be recalled that the Chief

Minister had earlier inspected the Sungal Tunnel project on April 20 this year, when he reviewed the progress of excavation, structural works and associated road development.

During today's inspection, the Project Sampark of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) informed the Chief Minister that the 2.79 kilometre long tunnel, being constructed across the Kalidhar Range, will significantly improve connectivity by reducing travel time by approximately 40 to 45 minutes.

Delegations call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 06: Abdul Qayoom Wani, Artisan called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and put forth various issues related to promotion of Chainstitch Handmade Embroidery Craft.

Umar Bhat, Chairman, Musuada Foundation also called on the Lieutenant

Governor. Meanwhile, Zahoor Ahmed Karnai, Chairman, Tourist Trade Interest Guild called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. He was accompanied by Mohd Akram Siah, Founder member of the Guild.

In the meantime, a BJP delegation from Uri led by Raja Waqar called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and projected the welfare issues



of the flood affected families in Boniyar.

Furthermore, Praveen Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed the Corporation's initiatives to provide appropriate Aids and Assistive

Devices & rehabilitation services for Persons with Disabilities and Senior citizens.

He was accompanied by SK Tripathi, Deputy General Manager and other office bearers of ALIMCO.

Another delegation of Sant Shri Balak Yogeshwar Dass Ji Maharaj called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Aug 5 move was unconstitutional: Dr Farooq Says NC's fight for restoration of J&K's statehood will continue

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 06: National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Thursday called the August 5, 2019 constitutional changes in Jammu and Kashmir as 'unconstitutional' and said people across the country stand with the party on the issue.

Talking to reporters here, Dr Farooq said everyone knows what happened on August 5, 2019 was unconstitutional. "National Conference's struggle for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood will continue," he added.

Asked about remarks allegedly made by BJP MP Giriraj Singh against Mehbooba Mufti, Dr Farooq declined to comment, saying, "I am not going to answer any questions about Mehbooba Mufti."—(KNO)



Jammu to be key religious, wellness tourism hub: CM Omar



YOGESH

Jammu, Aug 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the government is committed to strengthening religious and tourism infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters here Chief Minister Omar said, "Jammu is known as the City of Temples. People generally come here to seek the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi and visit the temples. They come here to bow before the deities and offer prayers. We want to further strengthen religious tourism in Jammu so that more devotees visit the region and the local economy also benefits."

Referring to the Cabinet's recent decisions, the Chief

Minister said one of the approvals was to lease the old ITDC hotel in Gulmarg to a private operator for the next 40 years to boost tourism infrastructure.

He said the Cabinet has also decided to lease the Mantalai Yoga Centre to a private party for 30 years to develop it as a world-class wellness retreat.

"It will create a magnificent tourism asset in this far-flung area of Jammu and help attract more visitors while boosting the local economy," CM Omar said.

He reiterated that the government is focusing on developing tourism destinations across the Union Territory and added, "There is no area with tourism potential that we are ignoring."—(KNO)

Weather, not Govt, behind NH disruptions: Javid Dar

Jahangeer Ganaie

Anantnag, Aug 06: Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Thursday dismissed as baseless the allegations that the administration was deliberately disrupting traffic movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), stating that the repeated disruptions witnessed over the past two weeks were primarily caused by inclement weather and landslides.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of his visit to the Jablipora Fruit Mandi in Bijbehara, the largest fruit market in South Kashmir, Dar said continuous rainfall and frequent landslides at several vulnerable stretches of the highway have hampered the smooth movement of traffic, including fruit-laden trucks.

"There are no deliberate attempts to block traffic on NH-44. During the past 15 days, the region has witnessed very rough weather. Landslides are occurring repeatedly on different stretches of the highway, and it naturally takes time for the concerned agencies to clear the debris and restore traffic," the Minister said.

He added that the government is aware of the concerns of fruit growers and traders, particularly during the peak fruit season, and is making every possible effort to minimise inconvenience.

ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS WILL BE CARRIED OUT AS PER COURT'S DIRECTIONS

Regarding the long-pending issue



of allotment of shops and sheds at the Jablipora Fruit Mandi, Dar said the process would be completed strictly in accordance with court directions to ensure transparency and fairness.

"The allotment of shops at the Jablipora Fruit Mandi will be carried out as per the court's directions. A committee has already been constituted to examine all applications and pending cases so that the process is completed in a transparent manner," he said.

The Minister announced that a bank branch would be established within the fruit mandi to facilitate traders, orchardists and commission agents by providing easy access to banking and financial services.

PEOPLE SHOULD AVOID USING DEROGATORY LANGUAGE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER

On the issue of political remarks

over Article 370, particularly comments made by BJP leaders during a recent event in Anantnag, Dar said democracy gives every citizen the right to express happiness or disappointment over any decision. However, he urged political leaders and the public to maintain dignity in public discourse.

"In a democracy, everyone has the right to express happiness or sadness over any decision. But while expressing opinions, people should avoid using derogatory language against one another. Healthy political debate should always remain within the bounds of decency and mutual respect," he said.

Highlighting the government's plans for strengthening horticulture infrastructure, Dar said all fruit mandis across Jammu and Kashmir would be upgraded under a major government scheme to provide better facilities to growers and traders.

"Under an important government scheme, all mandis across Jammu and Kashmir will be developed and modernised in a phased manner. Our aim is to create better infrastructure so that growers and traders do not face difficulties in marketing and transporting their produce," he said.

CHAIRS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AT JABLIPORA FRUIT MANDI

Earlier, the Minister chaired a high-level meeting at the Jablipora Fruit Mandi, which was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, National Conference

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97% of J&K smart city projects completed: GoI

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 06: The Union government on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that 282 Smart City projects were taken up in Jammu and Srinagar under the Smart Cities Mission. Of these, 125 out of 127 projects in Jammu and 157 out of 161 projects in Srinagar have been completed, reflecting an overall completion rate of over 97 per cent.

Replying to a question raised by MPs Malvika Devi and Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal said the Smart Cities Mission has achieved significant progress across the country, with 7,790 of 8,064 projects, worth 1.56 lakh crore, completed as on March 31, 2026. The Minister said all 100 Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) have also been established.

According to the city-wise data placed before Parliament, Jammu Smart City has undertaken 127 projects worth 2,969 crore, of which 125 projects worth 2,940 crore have been completed.

Similarly, Srinagar Smart City has taken up 161 projects with a total cost of 3,634 crore, while 157 projects worth 3,532 crore have been completed.

The minister informed the House that the Smart Cities Mission concluded on March 31, 2025, and the Ministry has directed States and Union Territories to ensure timely completion of the remaining projects and prepare operation and maintenance plans for assets created under the Mission.

He said the Ministry monitored implementation through a multi-level mechanism, including the Apex Committee at the national level, High-Powered Steering Committees in States and Union Territories, and Smart City Advisory Forums at the city level, besides using the Geo Spatial Management Information System (GMIS) portal for tracking physical and financial progress.

The minister further said there is no proposal under consideration to expand the Smart Cities Mission, but the technological interventions, governance tools and integrated planning models developed under the Mission can be adopted by States and Union Territories to improve urban governance in other cities.—(KNO)

CM's advisor urges political decorum

Jahangeer Ganaie

Ramban, Aug 06: National Conference (NC) Chief Minister's Advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Thursday urged politicians to maintain dignity in public discourse, saying ideological differences should never lead to abusive or derogatory language.

Talking to reporters during a visit to Jablipora Bijbehara and Ramban, Wani said that political debate should remain civil and respectful, particularly towards senior leaders.

"In the last few days, some political leaders have been using abusive and derogatory language. Political parties can have differences



of opinion, but that should never become a reason to stoop so low or use the language of the marketplace. We must respect our elders and uphold the dignity of politics," he said.

Reiterating the National Conference's stand on the restoration of Jammu and

Kashmir's statehood, Wani said the party would continue to raise the issue at every available forum until it is achieved.

"The demand for the restoration of statehood is our commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We will continue to raise this

issue on every platform and pursue it through all democratic means," he said.

Addressing concerns over the transportation of horticultural produce, Wani said the government was fully aware of the difficulties faced by fruit growers and traders due to disruptions on the national highway.

He assured that every possible measure would be taken to ensure the uninterrupted movement of fruit-laden trucks during the peak harvesting and marketing season.

"We are here in Ramban to identify bottlenecks and assess the ground situation.

Continued on
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MP Chowdhary Ramzan raises Bangus, Gurez issues in RS

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 06: National Conference (NC) Member Parliament Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan on Thursday raised several issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha (RS), seeking greater investment in tourism, railway connectivity and power generation capacity in the Union Territory.

Participating in the proceedings, Ramzan urged the Union Finance Minister to make provisions in the upcoming budget for a comprehensive development plan for the Bangus and Gurez areas, asserting that tourism remains one of the key avenues for economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Tourism is the only avenue we have through which the region

can achieve development," he said, seeking a dedicated provision for the comprehensive development of Bangus and Gurez in the next budget.

MP Ramzan also raised the issue of railway connectivity to Kupwara, saying the district has not yet been connected with the railway network. He urged the Centre to consider extending railway connectivity to the district.

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's power potential, the MP said that only around 2,000 MW of the available potential has so far been tapped, while the region has the capacity to generate around 20,000 MW. He said the lack of adequate funds

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EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: The Shepherd And The Flock

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) once said, “Every one of you is a shepherd, and every one of you is responsible for his flock.” These simple words carry a profound truth. They remind us that leadership is not reserved for kings and rulers alone; it is a responsibility that rests on every shoulder. A shepherd is not a ruler. He is a caretaker. He does not drive

his flock with force but guides it with care. He does not sleep while wolves prowl. He knows each sheep, watches over the weak, and leads the flock to safe pastures. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) chose this image deliberately: to be a leader is to be a servant. Think about who our shepherds are. A parent shepherds a child, shaping values and character. A teacher shepherds

students, opening doors of knowledge and wisdom. A government official shepherds citizens, upholding justice and ensuring welfare. Every one of us, in our own circle, carries this weight. None of us is exempt. None of us can say, “This is not my responsibility.” This hadith also offers comfort. It reminds us that our efforts, however small, matter. A father’s bedtime story, a teacher’s

encouraging word, a neighbour’s kindness—these are not wasted. They are acts of shepherding, recorded by Allah. And it offers warning. We will be questioned about those under our care. No excuse will stand. “I was too busy”, or “I didn’t know”, will not work. The Prophet’s (Peace Be Upon Him) words call us to wakefulness and sincerity. The world has become a complex flock.

Confusion surrounds us, and we often feel overwhelmed. But the shepherd’s duty remains the same: to care, guide, and protect. As the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said, “You will all be asked about your flock.” The time to ask ourselves is now: How well are we shepherding those entrusted to us? The answer will shape not only our lives but the lives of everyone we touch.

5 Moments The Quran Understood Your Struggles Better Than Anyone Else

You're lying in bed at 2 a.m., doom-scrolling through your phone, your thumb swiping through videos, images, and feeds on every social media platform that you have.

You switch between Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, you've checked every message twice, and when you finally lock your phone and put it next to you on the bed with your eyes trained up to the ceiling, something doesn't feel right. You feel empty. That emptiness is causing your heart to feel restless.

It could be the guilt from missing out on your prayers because you've been attached to your phone, or maybe you've been slipping into things you once promised yourself you wouldn't do. Or, it could also be the overwhelming pressure to look perfect, succeed, be liked, or just to become something.

You feel like you're trying to hold onto your faith, but the grip is just getting weaker. If you've found yourself feeling like this and in this situation one too many times, this article is for you.

Many young Muslims today are navigating a world that celebrates everything but faith. Modesty feels outdated, and questioning your identity has become the norm. Even within a Muslim friends circle, a person who is holding firmly onto their deen may be taunted as being someone who is "too religious." The pressure is a real thing. The loneliness is also a real feeling. The doubts, the temptations, the confusion, it hits you like a train sometimes.

But what if, in the middle of all that noise, you opened The Quran, and it spoke directly to you? The Quran wasn't meant just for our elderly to read throughout the day, and nor was it made for the super righteous Muslims who "have it all together" in your eyes.

Right now The Quran is waiting for you in your confused, imperfect, and exhausted state where you are desperately searching for meaning in life.



In this article, we're going to list five powerful verses from The Quran that can reshape your perspective and reignite your connection with Allah (SWT). These verses highlight struggles, hopes, and challenges that are affecting today's youth. They remind you that you are not too far gone, you are not too young to begin this spiritual journey, and you are definitely not alone in your struggles.

If you're ready to reconnect, and to rediscover your purpose and find words in the peace of your Creator, this is your sign to start here! Let these verses turn your life around for the better.

1. The Blueprint for the Best Character
Allah (SWT) says in Surah Luqman: "O my dear son! Establish prayer, encourage what is good and forbid what is evil, and endure patiently whatever befalls you. Surely this is a resolve to aspire to." (The Clear Quran, 31:17)

In this verse, Luqman, a wise and righteous man guided by Allah (SWT), is giving advice to his son on characteristics that define what it means to be a believer. These characteristics would become so important that Allah (SWT) mentioned them in The

Quran for us to act upon. This is a foundational roadmap for the youth of today for the following three reasons:

- Establishing prayer builds a personal relationship with Allah (SWT) that grounds you in faith and purpose.
- Having the courage to stand up for what is right even if the majority of the population may not agree with it.
- Always practice sabr because life will test you through hardship, rejection, and failure, but patience is your strength.

2. You Are the Heroes of Our Deen!
In Surah Al-Kahf, Allah (SWT) says: "We relate to you O Prophet their story in truth. They were youths who truly believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance." (The Clear Quran, 18:13)

The story of the People of the Cave (Ashab al-Kahf) is one of the most powerful narratives of youthful courage in The Quran. These young men resisted the corruption of their society, and chose faith over conformity.

- Their story teaches us:
- You're never too young to stand up for your beliefs.
- True guidance increases when you take

a sincere step towards Allah (SWT).

- You might feel isolated, but Allah (SWT) is always aware of your sacrifice.

3. Be Mindful of What You Follow
Allah (SWT) says in Surah Al-Isra: "Do not follow what you have no sure knowledge of. Indeed, all will be called to account for their hearing, sight, and intellect." (The Clear Quran, 17:36)

In today's world, information is everywhere thanks to technology. However, the truth often gets buried in the latest reel and carousel posts that express a new Islamic mindset to follow. This verse is calling on young Muslims to be conscious consumers of knowledge through social media.

- Don't share pieces of information that you have not verified.
- Guard your senses because what you watch and hear has a direct impact on your soul.

- Know that whatever choices you're making on social media is being watched and documented by Allah (SWT) to reveal on Judgment Day.

4. This Dunya Is Nothing But an Illusion!
Allah (SWT) says in Surah Al-Hadid: "Know that this worldly life is no more than play, amusement, luxury, mutual boasting, and competition in wealth and children. This is like rain that causes plants to grow, to the delight of the planters. But later the plants dry up and you see them wither, then they are reduced to chaff. And in the Hereafter there will be either severe punishment or forgiveness and pleasure of Allah, whereas the life of this world is no more than the delusion of enjoyment." (The Clear Quran, 57:20)

This verse shows us the temporary nature of life's pleasures and distractions. The Quran speaks to the youth directly here, warning against becoming absorbed by what's shiny but shallow.

- Entertainment, social media, fashion, and competition aren't really what's going to get us into Jannah.
- If you live only for likes, status or

material success, you're chasing what fades.

- Real joy and meaning come when you align your heart with the eternal, and not the fleeting.

5. Keep Striving and Never Give Up Because Allah (SWT) Is with You

Allah (SWT) says in Surah Al-Ankabut: "As for those who struggle in Our cause, We will surely guide them along Our Way. And Allah is certainly with the good-doers." (The Clear Quran, 29:69)

Trying to stay on the right path isn't always an easy task, and it was never meant to be an easy task. Our youth often struggle with prayer, discipline, or letting go of sin. This verse offers powerful hope and motivation because:

- Allah (SWT) doesn't expect perfection, he just asks to see if we're making effort on our part to better ourselves.
- When you sincerely strive, He promises to guide you, step-by-step.

- There are many paths to Allah (SWT), and He walks with those who walk toward Him.

Many people think that being a youth is just a "phase" of life, but actually, it's laying the foundation of your future. It's the time to shape your values, strengthen your heart, and discover your purpose. These five verses provide exactly what every young Muslim needs, which is a moral compass, a sense of purpose, and a relationship with Allah (SWT).

If you are a young Muslim searching for direction, struggling to stay consistent in your faith, or feeling overwhelmed by the world, start with these verses! Reflect on them. Let them find a home in your heart. Discuss your reflections about them with your friends, but most importantly, live by them.

Because The Quran isn't a book you read in the 30 days of Ramadhan and then put it back on your shelf to collect dust. This is a gift from Allah (SWT) that is meant to transform you, so let its light reach your heart today, InshAllah!

Courtesy: Al-Furqaan Foundation

The Quranic Pedagogy And Teaching Strategies

ZIN EDDINE DADACH

"Iqra" (Read) (Qur'an 96:1).
This first Divine command to the Prophet (SAW) establishes the foundation of his sacred mission, learning, and reflection as the starting points of faith and guidance. Through it, the Prophet was not only instructed to receive revelation but to cultivate a community rooted in understanding, awareness, and intellectual growth. His life became the ultimate model for aligning every action, intention, and thought with the Divine will. By saying, "Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim" [Ibn Ma'jah 224], he highlights that knowledge is essential for fulfilling divine duties with excellence.

Indeed, knowledge provides the clarity needed to uphold justice, practice stewardship, and maintain balance. In Islamic tradition, this pursuit is both Fard-Ayn, the obligation to perform daily acts of worship correctly, and Fard-Kifayah, the collective duty for believers to master their fields of knowledge in service of the community. By engaging with revelation and the natural world, we fulfill our role as viceroys, transforming understanding into a continuous act of worship.

"And it is a Quran which We have divided (into parts), that you might recite it to the people over time. And We have sent it down progressively" (Qur'an 17:106)

Rather than being a static text, the Quranic verses were revealed gradually over twenty-three years, addressing specific life situations, answering urgent questions, and providing guidance for complex circumstances. This contextualized revelation reflects a profound educational philosophy, one that places active learning at its very center.

"[This is] a blessed Book which We have



revealed to you, [O Muhammad], that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded" (Quran 38:29)

This verse is a call to deep reflection, critical thinking, and the practical application of Divine wisdom. By engaging with revelation as a living guide, Allah's viceroy is transformed into a knowledgeable, righteous, and socially beneficial being. In this view, learning becomes inseparable from self-development. Knowledge isn't just something we accumulate; it shapes our ethics, our intentions, and ultimately our daily actions. Knowing that Allah is Al-Aleem, the All-Knowing, is itself a pedagogical truth: education must go beyond the acquisition of skills and facts, cultivating instead humility, discipline, compassion, and a sense of purpose.

"And He has subjected to you whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth—all from Him. Indeed, in that are signs for a people who give thought." (Qur'an 45:13)

Allah (SWT) invites readers of the Quran to reflect, analyze, and explore the natural world, not merely accept it passively. Scholars explain that observation, reasoning, and imaginative insight are the foundations of creative thinking as understood through the Quranic lens.

"We have certainly made the Quran easy for remembrance, so is there anyone who will remember?" (Quran 54:17)

This verse affirms that the Quran is a clear and approachable Divine message, one whose understanding depends entirely on the reader's willingness to reflect and internalize. Therefore, this verse's question serves as an invitation to think critically, transforming the reader from a passive recipient into an active participant in the learning process. In this context, in order to enhance the critical and creative thinking of believers, the Quran employs diverse active learning strategies to transform readers from passive recipients into active seekers of truth. These Divine methodologies include:

Storytelling: The Quran utilizes "The Best of Stories" (Quran 12) to provide a psychological and moral blueprint. Through the life of Prophet Yusuf (AS), the reader learns to navigate complex human experiences, from jealousy and abandonment to temptation and ultimate triumph, illustrating that Divine providence is always at work.

Use of analogies: To bridge the gap between the finite human mind and infinite spiritual concepts, the Quran employs vivid analogies. For example, deeds without faith are compared to "ashes scattered in a storm" (Quran 14:18), and the intimate bond between spouses is described as being "garments for one another" (Quran 2:187). The exponential reward of charity is likened to "a single grain growing into seven heads of grain" (Quran 2:261).

Questioning: Rhetorical questions are frequently used to challenge stagnant beliefs and awaken conscience. By asking, "Does man not see that We created him from a mere sperm-drop?" (Quran 36:77) or the recurring challenge, "Then which of the favors of your Lord will you deny?" (Quran 55:13), the Quran forces a moment of profound self-reflection and intellectual honesty.

Repetition: Strategic repetition serves to anchor core truths within the heart. The 31-fold repetition of gratitude in Chapter 55 and the 10-fold warning to deniers in Chapter 77 act as a spiritual cadence, ensuring that the gravity of these messages is never lost to human forgetfulness.

Dialogue: Through the recurring command Qul - Say - the Quran models active conversations between Allah (SWT), His Prophets, and humanity. This dialogic approach is powerfully demonstrated in the future testimony of Prophet Isa (AS), where he is asked whether he ever claimed divinity (Quran 5:116), using a conversational

format to clarify one of the most fundamental theological boundaries in Islam.

Role Modeling: The ultimate pedagogical masterstroke is the presentation of Prophet Muhammad as the "Beautiful Pattern of Conduct" (Quran 33:21).

Quranic Lesson of Humility
"Moses said to him, 'May I follow you, on that you teach me from what you have been taught of sound judgment?'" (Quran 18:66)

Beyond its quantitative emphasis on learning, the Quran also provides a profound pedagogical model through the story of Prophet Musa (AS) and Al-Khidr in Chapter The Cave. This narrative serves as a masterclass in the etiquette of the student, demonstrating that the pursuit of sacred knowledge requires foundational humility. When Prophet Musa was directed to seek Al-Khidr to gain a specialized dimension of knowledge, he modeled the ultimate student-teacher relationship. Despite his high status as a Messenger, he approached his mentor with humility, asking permission to follow him for right guidance (Quran 18:66). Even when Prophet Musa faltered by questioning Al-Khidr's seemingly unjust actions, his apology, "Do not take me to task for my forgetfulness" (Quran 18:73), revealed a necessary and beautiful spiritual vulnerability. This encounter teaches us that human reason is often limited to outward appearances, while Divine wisdom encompasses hidden realities.

Ultimately, Prophet Musa's journey proves that true wisdom begins with a sincere acknowledgment of one's own limited perspective. This narrative also establishes that the student's humility in the presence of the teacher's knowledge is the essential prerequisite for all learning.

Courtesy: IslamiCity

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

Strengthening Waste Management Services

DG Rural Sanitation stresses time-bound completion of sanitation infrastructure

Reviews SBM(G) progress in Baramulla

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 06: Director General, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra Thursday chaired a high-level review meeting in Baramulla to assess the progress of key initiatives under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and review the implementation of rural sanitation projects across the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, Shabir Ahmad Hakak, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Baramulla, Mudasir Hussain, Block Development Officers (BDOs) of all blocks of the district, Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers, consultants of the Directorate, and other concerned officers.

The review focused on the status of rural sanitation assets, door-to-door waste collection services, tendering of sanitation infrastructure, operation and maintenance of existing assets, and other SBM(G)-related interventions being implemented across the district.

During the meeting, the Director General conducted a detailed block-wise review of ongoing projects and directed all BDOs to expedite the



implementation of sanctioned works.

She emphasized that the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) remains a priority programme and called upon the field functionaries to ensure timely and quality execution of all projects.

Stressing the importance of efficient service delivery and sustainable sanitation systems, Anoo Malhotra directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Baramulla, to closely monitor the progress of works and ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines.

"Work towards making picturesque Gulmarg a no plastic zone," she directed to ACP

Baramulla.

She also underscored the need to strengthen door-to-door waste collection services and make sanitation assets, including Plastic Waste Management Units, Segregation Sheds, and other solid and liquid waste management infrastructure, fully functional for the benefit of rural communities.

Reiterating the government's commitment to achieving sustainable rural sanitation, the Director General said that effective planning, regular monitoring, inter-departmental coordination, and timely execution at the block level are crucial to realizing the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission

(Grameen) and ensuring cleaner, healthier, and more resilient villages across Baramulla district.

Later, a detailed technical session on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026.

The session focused on the principle of buy-back responsibility, highlighting the obligation of Producers, Importers and Brand Owners (PIBOs) to establish effective mechanisms for the collection, channelization, recycling and environmentally sound disposal of post-consumer waste generated from their products and packaging.

Mediation for Nation Drive 3.0

PD&SJ Ganderbal holds preparatory cum awareness meetings

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 06: In furtherance of the nationwide initiative "Mediation for Nation drive 3.0", Principal District & Sessions Judge (Coordinator District Mediation Center), Ganderbal, chaired two consecutive meetings Thursday, with Judicial Officers and Members of the Bar Association, to make them aware regarding the implementation of Mediation for Nation Drive 3.0 initiative, pursuant to the directions from the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority regarding the launch of the campaign under the guidance of the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

As part of the preparatory cum awareness process two separate meetings were convened under the chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Principal District & Sessions (PD&SJ) Judge, Ganderbal.

The first meeting was chaired by the PD&SJ and was attended by Secretary DLSA Ganderbal Sheikh Babar Hussain and members of Bar Association, Trained mediators and Legal Aid Defense Counsels of the District.

The second meeting was convened with all the Judicial Officers of District Ganderbal, including Fozia Faul, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal; Nusrat Ali Hakak, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ganderbal; Sheikh Babar Husain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal;



Mahoor, Munsiff, Ganderbal.

While addressing the participants in both meetings, the PD&SJ, highlighted the significance of the "Mediation for Nation drive 3.0" and called upon Judicial Officers, members of the Bar, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, and Panel Mediators to extend their wholehearted cooperation for its successful implementation by involving themselves actively for this noble initiative. He emphasized that mediation is an effective, speedy, confidential, and amicable mode of dispute resolution that not only preserves relationships but also reduces the burden of litigation and ensures timely justice, as well as maintains harmony between the parties.

The participants were also apprised of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the nationwide campaign. It was informed that during the period from 1st August to 30th September, 2026, emphasis shall be laid on identifying pending cases having an element of settlement, conducting pre-mediation screening, issuing notices to parties, referring fit cases to mediation centers, undertaking awareness and outreach activities, and publishing the list of identified

cases on the notice boards of the Courts, Bar Associations and official websites. The nationwide mediation drive has commenced from 1st August, 2026, with regular transmission of progress reports to the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC), Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The Coordinator District Mediation Center also focused on the need for collective and coordinated efforts by Judicial Officers, advocates, mediators, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, Para Legal Volunteers, Law Students and other stakeholders in identifying suitable matters and creating greater awareness among litigants regarding the benefits of mediation.

He directed that pending civil, matrimonial, commercial, consumer, motor accident claims, cheque dis-honor, partition, property and other compoundable or settlement-oriented matters be thoroughly scrutinized and cases suitable for mediation be identified for referral to the District Mediation Centre, Ganderbal, in accordance with the applicable rules and directions of the Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

DC Anantnag visits injured Amarnath Yatris at GMC Anantnag



KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 06: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Thursday visited the Associated Hospital, Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, to inquire about the health and well-being of the injured Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY-2026) pilgrims who were injured in a road accident at Bijbehara earlier in the day.

According to officials, four pilgrims sustained injuries in the unfortunate incident that occurred earlier in the day.

The DC, as per an official statement, was accompanied by Tehsildar Anantnag, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, GMC Anantnag's Nodal Officer for SANJY-2026, and other concerned officials.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the injured pilgrims, inquiring about their health, recovery status, and the quality of healthcare services being provided. He directed the medical staff to

ensure the best possible facilities and dedicated medical attention for their swift recovery.

Expressing sympathy with the affected families, the DC prayed for the speedy recovery and well-being of the injured pilgrims. He advised them to remain in contact with the authorities and assured them of full support from the district administration during their treatment.

Additionally, Dr. Bilal took stock of the day-to-day patient care at the hospital and instructed the staff to provide seamless service, ensuring that no patients including the injured Yatris face any undue inconvenience. He also emphasized maintaining high standards of cleanliness and aesthetics, befitting the status of the healthcare institution.

On the occasion, the DC inspected the registration counters and other facilities, directing the authorities to streamline the process for convenience of both patients and their attendants.

DC Budgam inaugurates training programme for drivers, support staff of private schools

Distributes Rs15 lakh insurance support among trainees

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, AUGUST 06: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Thursday stressed the importance of providing Basic Life Support (BLS) training to every citizen to help save precious lives during accidents and medical emergencies.

He was speaking after inaugurating a day-long district-level Basic Life Support (BLS) awareness-cum-training programme at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, Budgam, aimed at equipping participants with life-saving skills and emergency response techniques.

The programme was organised by Civil Defence Budgam and Private Schools Association Kashmir in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, appreciated the organisers for taking the initiative to promote Basic Life Support training, stating that timely CPR and other basic emergency interventions can save precious lives during accidents and medical emergencies.

He stressed that BLS training is essential for every citizen and directed that it be expanded in a phased manner to cover transporters, shopkeepers, teachers, support staff, drivers and other sections of society



across the district.

Emphasising practical learning, the Deputy Commissioner said the focus should remain on hands-on training so that participants gain the confidence to respond effectively during emergency situations.

"I urge every participant to make the best use of this training and further disseminate the knowledge among their family members, colleagues and communities," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of creating awareness about trauma care protocols to strengthen emergency response and improve survival outcomes.

Stressing the need for student safety, the DC informed that the District Administration is conducting an audit of private school buses. He urged school authorities to adopt self-regulation and ensure

strict compliance with all safety norms, including the operation of only registered vehicles, installation of CCTV cameras in school buses and adherence to transport guidelines in co-ordination with the ARTO and Traffic Department.

On the occasion, the DC also distributed insurance support of Rs 15 lakh among the trained participants.

Speaking on the occasion, President, Private Schools Association Kashmir, Baba Nazrul Islam, said Budgam is the first district where all private school staff will undergo structured Basic Life Support training and receive certification, demonstrating their preparedness to effectively respond to emergencies.

He described the initiative as a historic step towards strengthening safety standards in educational institutions.

Independence Day 2026 Preparations

DC Shopian directs elaborate, coordinated arrangements



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Thursday chaired a high-level meeting here at Mini-Secretariat to review the preparations for the forthcoming Independence Day-2026 celebrations.

The DC, as per an official statement, took a comprehensive review of venue preparedness, security, traffic regulation, sanitation, uninterrupted power and water supply, healthcare facilities, transportation, parking, seating, public address system and other essential logistics required for the smooth conduct of the national event and directed all the departments to ensure meticulous planning and timely completion of all arrangements.

Stressing the importance of coordinated efforts, the Deputy Commissioner instructed all departments to

discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost dedication and ensure that every arrangement is completed well in advance and called for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure the successful and dignified celebration of Independence Day.

The officers were further directed to remain available on the ground, closely monitor the preparations, promptly address any shortcomings and ensure hassle-free arrangements for participants and the general public.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary; ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed; District and Sectoral officers who briefed the chair on the preparedness of their respective departments while assuring full cooperation for the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Wildlife Division Shopian conducts Capacity Building Workshop at Shikargah

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, AUGUST 06: In pursuance of the directions of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Suneesh Bakhshi, and under the guidance of Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir Region, Tawheed Ahmad Deva, the Wildlife Division Shopian Thursday organized a one-day Workshop-cum-Orientation Programme on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Wildlife Management at Conservation Breeding Centre (CBC), Shikargah, Tral, in collaboration with Wildlife SOS, Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme, as per an official statement, was organized with the primary objective of enhancing the professional skills and operational preparedness of frontline wildlife staff engaged in wildlife rescue, conflict mitigation, tranquilization,



monitoring, and scientific wildlife management.

The workshop was attended by Sohail Ahmad Wagay, ACF, Wildlife Warden Shopian; Feroz Nazir, Range Officer, Tral; Mohd. Younis Bhat, Range Officer, Khangund; Dr. Mohsin Gazi, MVSc, Departmental Veterinarian; Aliya Mir, Head, Wildlife SOS J&K and

Member, Wildlife Board officers and officials of the Wildlife Protection Department, experts from Wildlife SOS, and frontline field staff of the Wildlife Division Shopian.

Welcoming the participants, Sohail Ahmad Wagay, ACF, highlighted the growing challenges posed by increasing

human-wildlife interactions and emphasized the need for continuous capacity building of frontline personnel. He stressed that well-trained staff equipped with modern rescue techniques and scientific knowledge are essential for minimizing response time during wildlife emergencies, ensuring public safety, and safeguarding wild animals during rescue operations.

During the technical sessions, Dr. Mohsin Gazi imparted extensive hands-on training on wildlife tranquilization, chemical immobilization, physical restraint techniques, safe handling protocols, dosage calculations, darting procedures, and post-rescue animal care. The practical demonstrations enabled the participants to familiarize themselves with modern tranquilization equipment and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for safely rescuing wild animals.

DDC Doda reviews implementation of Mission YUVA

KT News Desk

DODA, AUGUST 06: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal on Thursday reviewed the implementation of Mission YUVA in the district at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah; Chief Planning Officer; Assistant Commissioner Revenue; Assistant Director District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC); Cluster Head J&K Bank; District Programme Manager NRLM; officials of the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU); Block Heads; YUVA Doots; and other concerned officers. The Lead Bank Manager and J&K Bank Branch Heads of the district participated through virtual mode.

At the outset, the Assistant



Director DE&CC gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the district's performance under Mission YUVA.

The DDC conducted a comprehensive review of block-wise applications received under the mission and assessed the status of cases pending at the Business Helping Desk (BHD), Small Business Development Unit (SBDU), District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) and bank branches.

The meeting reviewed awareness and application conversion under the Lakhpati Didi initiative, progress of awareness drives, new applications received against assigned

targets, verification by BHDs, SBDU scrutiny, DLIC approvals, bank sanctions, loan disbursements, interest subvention, disposal and re-application of rejected cases, capacity building through training, mentorship and handholding, completion reports, market access through online platforms and the status of zero-product registration.

The DDC also reviewed the performance of YUVA Doots based on panchayat-wise applications, the district's progress in enrolling Lakhpati Didis under Udhyaam Jagriti 5.0 for 2026-27 and the monthly targets assigned to different blocks.

Comm'r Secy IT takes possession of erstwhile ACB building at Jammu



KT News Desk

Jammu, Aug 06: Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology department, Saurabh Bhagat on Thursday formally took possession of 23 rooms in the erstwhile ACB Building behind the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, allotted to the Information Technology Department.

DIG, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Vikas Gupta; Special Secretary IT, Showkat Mehmood; Additional Secretary IT, Devender Singh Bhaur; Deputy Secretary IT, Head SeMT, J/CT Cell, technical officers, and other departmental officials were also present on the occasion.

Commissioner Secretary IT stated that the newly allotted facility is envisioned to function as a dedicated IT Hub for the Department. He said the expanded infrastructure will support the Department's growing technical workforce, foster seamless coordination among various functional verticals, and provide the necessary space and resources to meet the evolving technological and digital governance requirements of the

Government.

He further added that the facility will strengthen the Department's capacity to drive innovation, accelerate e-Governance initiatives, and enhance the overall efficiency of technology-driven public service delivery.

Pertinently, the newly allotted space will suffice the Department's requirement to accommodate officials and technical teams working across various verticals of the Information Technology Department. It will provide a dedicated and collaborative work environment to facilitate efficient project implementation, strengthen digital governance initiatives, and support the Department's future expansion and capacity-building efforts.

A key feature of the facility will be the establishment of a SOC & NOC (Security Operations Centre & Network Operations Centre). The Centre will serve as a centralized command and monitoring facility for safeguarding the Government's digital infrastructure and ensuring the seamless operation of

critical IT systems. It will enable continuous monitoring of networks, servers, applications, and cybersecurity events, facilitate early detection and response to security incidents, support coordinated incident management, and ensure uninterrupted delivery of digital services. The SOC & NOC will also strengthen cyber resilience, enhance operational efficiency, and provide centralized oversight of the Information Technology Department's e-Governance infrastructure and mission-critical digital platforms.

The building will also house a state-of-the-art Video Conferencing (VC) Room equipped with modern communication facilities. This facility will be available for use by various Government Departments, subject to prior booking and approval, enabling seamless virtual meetings, reviews, training sessions, and inter-departmental collaboration.

With adequate office space, the new premises will significantly enhance the operational capacity of the Information Technology Department.

CS for stronger women-led community institutions to drive rural transformation

Reviews JKRLM performance; strategy for convergence with other flagship programmes

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 06: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday chaired a review meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) and directed the Mission to further strengthen women-led community institutions through enhanced capacity building, institutional reforms and greater convergence with flagship government programmes to accelerate sustainable rural livelihoods across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting reviewed the functioning of the Mission with focus on integration with Mission YUVA, operationalisation of Community Managed Training Centres (CMTCs), qualitative assessment of NRLM institutions, strengthening of Self Help Groups (SHGs), Village Level Organisations (VLOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), besides preparing a comprehensive roadmap for capacity building and institutional development.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director, J&K Bank; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Secretary, Labour & Employment Department; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Managing Director, JKRLM; representatives of Kudumbashree National Resource Organisation (NRO), AP-MAS and senior officers of the Mission.

Reviewing the progress of Community Managed Training Centres (CMTCs), the Chief Secretary directed that these centres be made functional in all districts at the earliest and developed into vibrant institutions of social mobilization.

He observed that CMTCs should empower women through regular training and sensitization to play a proactive role in promoting sanitation and hygiene, school enrolment, nutrition, immunization,



awareness against drug abuse and other important social issues.

He also asked the department to examine the feasibility of developing these centres into fully functional institutions with dedicated infrastructure and resources under this flagship national mission.

Dulloo further directed the Mission to prepare a structured roadmap for capacity building by creating a pool of master trainers who would subsequently impart training to SHG members at the block level, thereby ensuring sustained institutional strengthening across the Union Territory.

Emphasising convergence with flagship programmes, the Chief Secretary called for close integration of JKRLM with Mission YUVA and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) so that rural women can access entrepreneurship, skill development and self-employment opportunities available under these initiatives.

He directed the Mission to bring nearly six lakh SHG members under these programmes based on their aptitude and interests, while leveraging the services of YUVA Doots to ensure effective outreach, awareness generation and handholding support for enabling beneficiaries to avail the benefits.

Highlighting the successful collaboration with Kudumbashree, the Chief Secretary stressed the need to expand women-led food outlets across districts while strengthening bookkeeping practices through simplified digital modules to enhance financial management of

community enterprises.

He also directed the Mission to further enhance bank linkage of SHGs through successive doses of institutional credit to enable expansion of enterprises and sustainable livelihood generation.

The Chief Secretary further called for an independent qualitative assessment of JKRLM by a reputed national-level institution to evaluate its present capacities, identify gaps and recommend measures for strengthening the Mission's institutional framework and service delivery.

Reviewing the implementation of the Kudumbashree partnership, the Chief Secretary assessed the progress made in supporting SHGs to establish and successfully manage enterprises, particularly the Food Street Associations (FSAs). While appreciating the achievements made so far, he remarked that the initiative holds tremendous potential and called for intensified efforts to further expand its reach and impact across Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the Secretary RDD, Aijaz Asad presented a detailed review of the Mission's achievements and future roadmap, highlighting significant progress in social mobilization, financial inclusion, livelihoods promotion and convergence-driven rural development under the flagship programme.

Presenting the details the Managing Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma revealed that JKRLM has established a robust community institutional framework across all 20 districts, 285 blocks and 4,291 Gram Panchayats by mobilizing over 8.14 lakh women into 96,595 Self Help Groups, 7,546

Village Organisations and 652 Cluster Level Federations.

It was further divulged that the Mission has extended capitalization support of over 532 crore to community institutions and facilitated cumulative bank credit exceeding 3,449 crore through nearly 1.46 lakh credit-linked accounts, while maintaining an exceptionally low NPA level of 0.91 per cent, reflecting sound financial discipline among SHGs.

On livelihoods promotion, it was informed that JKRLM currently supports 7.35 lakh Mahila Kisans across 5,255 villages through an extensive network of more than 3,300 Community Resource Persons, including Krishi Sakhis, Pashu Sakhis and Van Sakhis. The Mission has also digitised farmer training through the Daksh Kisan Portal, where over 64,000 farmers have been enrolled and more than 22,000 successfully certified.

Similarly under the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), the Mission has promoted 11,879 enterprises against a target of 14,244, facilitated bank credit for 1,907 enterprises amounting to over 21.77 crore, while utilising 20.26 crore under the Community Enterprise Fund.

The meeting was further informed that under the Lakhpati Didi Initiative, 2.40 lakh rural women have already achieved Lakhpati status, while the Mission has prepared a phased strategy to create 3.64 lakh Lakhpati Didis by 2029.

The Mission also shared its future strategy, which envisages development of self-reliant Cluster Level Federations, establishment of regional aggregation centres in Jammu and Srinagar for marketing SHG products, formal registration of CLFs as independent legal entities, expansion of institutional credit for enterprises and deeper convergence with Panchayati Raj Institutions to ensure sustainable and inclusive rural development across Jammu and Kashmir.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

CM Omar seeks

compensation for structural damage has not been increased for seven to eight years. Construction costs have gone up substantially, but the relief amount has remained unchanged. We will increase it," he said.

The Chief Minister said the scale of destruction was beyond the financial capacity of Jammu and Kashmir alone and announced that the government would seek a special financial package from the Centre.

"We can do some things ourselves, but the reality is that J&K does not have the financial capacity to bear the entire burden of these losses. I have directed the Deputy Commissioners of Rajouri and Poonch to prepare a comprehensive package. As soon as it is ready, I will personally take it to the Prime Minister," CM Omar said.

Reviewing the damage to the Deputy Commissioner's office, CM Omar said the existing Mini Secretariat building has become unsafe and could no longer be used. "This is no longer a choice but a necessity. The building is not fit for use. I have asked the Deputy Commissioner to prepare a project for a new Mini Secretariat. It may cost around RS 50-60 crore and I hope it will be completed within the next two to three years," he said.

The Chief Minister directed the Flood Control Department to immediately undertake protection works at vulnerable spots to prevent further erosion and minimise future losses.

He also instructed the administration to prepare long-term mitigation measures, saying disaster-resilient infrastructure was the need of the hour.

He said proposals should be prepared for installation of hand pumps in feasible locations to ensure drinking water supply, while the Public Works Department was asked to design roads capable of withstanding disasters in hilly terrain.

The Chief Minister said construction along riverbanks would not be allowed in future, observing that rivers reclaim their natural course during extreme weather events.

He said the issues related to the alternate bus stand, Jal Shakti restoration and other public infrastructure would also be examined sympathetically.

Referring to vehicles washed away in the floods, CM Omar directed the police to expedite registration of FIRs to ensure genuine victims do not face hurdles in securing insurance claims.

"A few people may try to misuse the system, but genuine victims should not suffer because of that. FIRs should be processed without delay so that insurance and compensation claims are not held up," he said.

VISITS FAMILIES OF DECEASED VICTIMS

Earlier, the Chief Minister visited the families of those killed in the flash floods, including Jal Shakti daily wageer Abdul Ghani, who was swept away while on duty, and other bereaved families, assuring them of full government support.

He reiterated that rehabilitation of affected families, restoration of damaged infrastructure and strengthening of disaster mitigation measures would remain the government's top priority until normalcy is fully restored in the flood-ravaged district. (KNO)

IFS induction

and 148 security personnel performed darshan during the day.

The number of pilgrims who have paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine during this year's Yatra has reached 4,71,588, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Yatra resumed after remaining suspended for a day. Officials said the 28th batch of pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu at around 2:45 a.m. for the Baltal base camp under tight security arrangements.

A total of 1,801 pilgrims, including 1,347 men, 351 women, 89 sadhus and 14 sadhvis, departed for Baltal in a convoy of 74 vehicles, comprising 40 buses (37+3), 12 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 19 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and three two-wheelers. No convoy was dispatched on the traditional Pahalgam route, which remains closed for maintenance, officials said.

The total number of pilgrims who have departed from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu for the ongoing Yatra has reached 1,43,513.

IFS had remained stalled for the past 13 years due to the absence of a valid "State Forest Service." The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change examined the matter and found that only the J&K Forest (Gazetted) Service (Territorial) satisfies the recruitment, training, and other criteria for promotion into the IFS.

Recruitment into the Indian Forest Service is governed by two methods: direct recruitment through UPSC examinations and induction via the promotion quota. While 66% of posts are filled through the UPSC Civil Services Examination, the remaining 33% are reserved for promotion of eligible State Forest Service (SFS) officers. (KNO)

Amarnath Yatra:

Pertinently, the Yatra remained suspended on Wednesday due to heightened security arrangements ahead of the August 5 anniversary. However, pilgrims already stationed at the Baltal base camp were allowed to proceed to the Holy Cave Shrine for darshan as per the scheduled movement, officials added.

More than 22 lakh devotees have completed the Amarnath Yatra since 2022. According to available data, 3,65,721 pilgrims paid obeisance in 2022, 4,45,338 in 2023, a record 5,12,150 in 2024, 4,14,311 in 2025, and 4,71,588 pilgrims have performed darshan in 2026 (up to August 6). The cumulative figure from 2022 to August 6, 2026 stands at 22,09,108 pilgrims. (KNO)

'J&K power demand

the region jumped from 13,119 MU in 2014-15 to 20,166 MU in 2025-26 plummeted to 0.1 percent.

It also said that in the year 2014-15, the region was facing 3,095 MU unserved energy and the deficit plummeted to 0.1 percent with just 19 MU short by 2025-26.

The house was further informed that for the first quarter of FY 2026-27 from April-June 2026, the energy deficit remains at a minimal 0.6 percent in Jammu and Kashmir —confirming that growing demand is now almost completely matched by grid supply. (KNO)

'J&K power

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Territorial Army key

inspiring young people to join the military, he added.

The statement said the Territorial Army comprises around 44,400 personnel across 59 units and plays a crucial role in disaster response.

Singh commended its personnel for relief and rescue operations during the Kerala floods, Odisha cyclone and the recent floods in Assam.

Highlighting the force's environmental initiatives, Singh said the Ecological Task Forces of the Territorial Army have planted nearly one billion saplings with a survival rate of 80-85 per cent, contributing to the government's climate and sustainability goals.

He also praised the force's role in promoting the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign in Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, Chief of Defence Staff General NS Raja Subramani, Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and other senior defence officials attended the meeting. (KNO)

Man killed, three

son of Khurshed Ahmad; and Mohammad Yousuf (35), son of Mohammad Haneef, all residents of Sarbagni.

Meanwhile, the identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained and police have taken up further investigation into the incident. (KNO)

J&K's post-harvest

on field surveys in major producing states, it does not include any assessment of the impact on farmers' incomes.

According to the data placed before Parliament, Jammu & Kashmir recorded an estimated 9.51 per cent post-harvest loss in apples, 3.92 per cent in maize, 6.08 per cent in eggs, and 7.33 per cent in beans.

The minister further said the Centre is addressing post-harvest losses through schemes including the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) and the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries (PLISFPI).

"These initiatives support creation of cold-chain infrastructure, food processing and preservation facilities, value addition and modern supply chain infrastructure aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and improving farmers' returns," he said. (KNO)

Rain, hailstorm

lasted for around 10 to 20 minutes.

As per preliminary local estimates, nearly 60% of the standing apple crop has been damaged in some areas. However, the extent of losses is yet to be officially assessed, and the district administration has not released any damage report so far.

The Horticulture Department is also yet to issue an official assessment or advisory regarding the losses.

SHEPHERD KILLED BY LIGHTNING

Meanwhile, a shepherd was killed after being struck by lightning in the Dutibegh area of the Keran sector in Kupwara district on Thursday morning.

Officials identified the deceased as Shahmeer Ahmad Khatana, son of Abdul Rasheed Khatana, a resident of Warsun in Kralpora.

The incident occurred during heavy rainfall in the area. Police have taken cognisance of the matter.

The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, has forecast light to moderate rain and thunder-showers at many places across Jammu and Kashmir on August 7 and 8, with brief intense showers expected at isolated locations.

It said the Union Territory is likely to witness light to moderate rain at most places between August 9 and 11, with heavy rainfall and brief intense showers likely in a few districts.

The MeT office has warned that torrential rain and intense showers during the period may trigger flash floods and landslides at vulnerable locations, advising people to remain cautious. (KNO)

J&K national highways

1-650 and Km 14+200 in 2025 due to rainfall, flash floods and cloudbursts. The government said the landslides were cleared and traffic restored.

The reply further mentions a landslide incident in 2023 on the NH-1 Sonamarg Tunnel Project. An audit was conducted following the incident and slope-protection measures were installed.

The Ministry said extreme rainfall and landslides are generally witnessed in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats, causing damage to infrastructure, including NH sections. Debris removal and restoration of affected roads are undertaken immediately, while long-term remedial measures are also taken up in landslide-prone areas.

On drainage-related flooding, the government said NH drainage systems are designed considering expected traffic, road configuration, hydrology, hydro-geological conditions, catchment areas, road geometry, cross slopes, excavation and landfill areas and existing drainage systems.

It, however, said localised drainage problems can occur due to non-clearance of existing drainage systems, blockage of drainage outfalls by unauthorised construction, poor maintenance and unprecedented rainfall, which can lead to flooding of drainage systems and low-lying areas or agricultural fields near NHs.

The Centre also outlined several measures for developing disaster-resilient NH infrastructure in hilly areas, including improved DPRs, hill-slope protection, better construction practices, slope stabilisation, landslide monitoring and early-warning systems.

It said MoUs have also been signed with agencies including the Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE), Geological Survey of India (GSI) and National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM) for geo-hazard mitigation, geological investigations, tunnel safety, rock mechanics and related technical support.

The government further stated that a research scheme through IIT Roorkee has been taken up for developing guidelines for assessment of hillslope instability using instrumentation and real-time monitoring.

The question was raised by Captain Viriato Fernandes, while Union Minister Nitin Jairam Gadkari provided the reply in the Lok Sabha on August 6, 2026. (KNO)

LS passes bill to authorise govt to permit banks to levy charges on UPI transactions

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 6: Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a Bill to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 that authorises the government to permit banks and other service providers to levy charges on payments through unified payments interface (UPI) and other notified electronic payment modes.

The amendment passed by the House without discussion amid din seeks to remove the existing legal provision that prevents banks and payment service providers from charging Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on notified electronic payment modes.

Real-time payments made through RTGS and NEFT are done by paying a service charge. However, UPI transactions have been exempted from such charges so far. The proposed changes in Payment and Settlement Systems Act is a part of comprehensive legislation on taxation, which was introduced in the House on Tuesday. The Bill was passed through voice vote in the Lok Sabha after the House resumed at 2 pm after the earlier adjournment.

As soon as the House re-assembled, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 further to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 and the Income Tax Act, 2025, and to amend the Finance Act, 2026, to be taken into consideration. The



government's approach aims to levy small charge on digital payment services for consumers and small businesses while ensuring a sustainable revenue model for banks, payment service providers (PSPs), and payment infrastructure firms that drive the digital payments ecosystem.

"In the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, in Section 10A, for the words, figures and letters 'the electronic modes of payment prescribed under section 269SU of the Income-tax Act, 1961', the words 'one or more electronic modes of payment as the central government may, by notification, specify' shall be substituted with effect from the date of publication of this Act in the Official Gazette," the Bill said.

Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 prohibits banks and system providers from imposing any charges on

electronic payments while Section 269SU of the Income Tax Act requires large businesses with a turnover exceeding Rs 50 crore to accept payments through specific electronic modes, including RuPay debit cards and BHIM-UPI QR codes.

As on date, no bank or payment system provider could impose any charge upon anyone, either directly or indirectly, for using the electronic modes of payment prescribed under Section 269SU of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Speaking on the issue RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday said it is "premature" to talk about MDR on payment through digital means.

Investment in public infrastructure like payments is necessary, he said, reiterating that someone will have to pay for it.

"The choices before us are simple: either the general public has to pay for it through taxes, or we

have to levy the merchant discount rate (MDR), following the 'user pays' model.

"Right now the government is getting us the amendment. Costs have to be paid by someone. We all want this public infrastructure to strengthen and become more efficient, etc. We continue to do that. That is our focus right now; let us wait and watch for further developments," Malhotra said.

Levy of MDR has become a vexed issue in the country as bankers and other stakeholders in the payment industry have been pressing for it, and the government has so far not moved in the matter, and the usage of digital payments like the UPI platform has continued to grow at a handsome pace.

Some watchers have been expecting MDR to set in for UPI transactions above a certain value between a merchant and customer, and not in the case of peer-to-peer payments.

The important aspect is that someone has to pay for the service, the RBI Governor said.

Malhotra said under the 'user-pays' principle, it is the person or the merchant who is transacting who gets charged through the levy of MDR, but added that even if there is no MDR in place, the general public pays for it through the taxes. "What is important is that we continue to invest and continue to find the means, whether it is MDR or others. Let us wait and see how the situation evolves," he said.

Rahul, Kharge spreading false narrative about HM, avoiding debate in Parl: BJP MP Prasad



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 6: BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad on Thursday accused Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge of spreading a "false narrative" about Home Minister Amit Shah and disrupting Parliament to avoid a debate on issues raised by the opposition.

The remarks came amid continued adjournments of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha due to relentless protests by the opposition over student issues and the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Speaking to reporters in the Parliament House complex, Prasad said Home Minister Shah remains available in Parliament every day and is prepared to respond to the opposition's allegations if the House is allowed to function.

"Rahul Gandhi and Kharge ji come up with a new story and poster every day and

keep demanding that Amit Shah be called to the House. The Union home minister sits in his chamber from 10 am to 7 pm every day.

"He is there even now. Let the House function first and let a debate take place. Once the debate begins, he will speak and give a strong reply," Prasad said.

The former Union minister alleged that the opposition has been preventing Parliament from functioning while simultaneously accusing the government of avoiding discussion.

"But you do not allow the House to function; you do not allow any debate. You keep creating a ruckus while Amit Shah is sitting there and then demand that he be called. We also come and sit in the House, but there is continuous disruption and then proceedings are adjourned," he said.

"Kharge ji, Rahul Gandhi ji, just look ahead. He (Shah) is sitting in his chamber, ready

to hear your arguments and respond," he added.

Prasad alleged that Gandhi and Kharge, the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha respectively, have sought to mislead the country through a false "narrative".

"Whether it is the prime minister, the home minister, the BJP or the NDA, everyone is ready to answer every single point. They are ready to listen and respond.

"Completely false and baseless allegations are being made. The country must know the truth," he said.

Prasad also targeted the Congress over alleged irregularities in examinations conducted in Jharkhand, claiming that the state government had entrusted multiple examinations to a blacklisted company.

"The reality is that the Jharkhand government has entrusted several examinations to a blacklisted company. That company has been blacklisted in Uttar Pradesh by the Yogi government and in Rajasthan as well, yet it has been given responsibility for multiple examinations," he alleged.

Questioning Gandhi's "two-faces" on student-related issues, the BJP leader accused the Congress MP of maintaining silence over the alleged developments in Jharkhand.

"If jobs are being sold there, why is Rahul Gandhi silent? Why is he going to Allahabad and other places to hold dialogues with the youth?

Civil Aviation Min says no proposal to blend ethanol with ATF



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 6: Civil Aviation Minister K Ram-mohan Naidu on Thursday said there is no proposal to blend ethanol with Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and that spreading misinformation on aviation safety creates needless anxiety among air travellers.

His comments come against the backdrop of former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claiming that the central government was planning to blend ethanol in ATF.

"Sources indicate that the Modi government plans to mix ethanol in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). Experts say that this could seriously compromise the safety of flights," Kejriwal said in a post on X. Naidu said the

claim that the government plans to blend ethanol with ATF is completely false and irresponsible and added that there is no such proposal.

"Spreading misinformation on aviation safety only creates needless anxiety among air travellers. Passenger safety remains the Government's highest priority," the minister said in a post on X.

Elaborating, Naidu said ethanol and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) are entirely different and should not be conflated.

"SAF is an internationally certified aviation fuel recognised by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and adopted globally. It undergoes rigorous testing and meets stringent global safety standards," he said.

Amid din, LS passes taxation bill to promote domestic electronic manufacturing

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 6: The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Taxation and other Laws (Amendment) Bill without a debate due to persistent sloganeering by the Opposition over various issues, including alleged theft of donation at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. After the passage of the bill, through which the government also amended the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the House was adjourned for the day.

Through the Bill the government seeks to attract more foreign capital, promote domestic electronics manufacturing and make it easier for foreign cloud companies to use Indian data centres by providing "process certainty".

The Bill also proposes to remove the linkage between the Payment and Settlement Systems Act and the Income Tax Act, and give a legal backing to the government to modify the zero-MDR framework on UPI and RuPay card transactions.

SC asks petitioners seeking NTA reforms to file their replies to Centre's affidavit

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 6: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked petitioners, including a doctors' association, to file their replies to the Centre's affidavit, which said that the migration of the NEET (UG) examination from the pen-and-paper mode to a computer-based mode on the pattern of JEE (Mains and Advanced), is under active consideration.

A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe said that the court will take up the matter on August 19 and the petitioners can file their replies to the counter-affidavit filed by the Centre. Advocate Tanvi Dubey, appearing for the Federation of All



India Medical Association (FAIMA), informed the bench that in case there is any plan for transition to a computer-based model, then the same should be done at the earliest since the students' preparation right now was driven by the pen-and-paper mode. The bench said that it would consider everything and asked the parties to file their replies and suggestions. Senior advocate Pijush

Kanti Roy and advocate Satyam Singh Rajput appeared for RJD MP Sudhakar Singh, who has sought reforms in the National Testing Agency (NTA).

In its affidavit, the Centre said in respect of NEET (UG), the migration from the pen-and-paper mode to a computer-based mode, whether in a single-stage or a two-stage examination on the pattern of the Joint Entrance Examination

(Mains and Advanced), is presently under active consideration by all stakeholders.

"The Union of India respectfully submits that the final approach will be adopted after considering, and with the benefit of, the recommendations of the High-Powered Task Force under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani... The composition of the task force, with domain expertise drawn from technology, space, intelligence, academia and public administration, ensures a rigorous and holistic examination of the technological, security, equity, infrastructure and pedagogic dimensions of the transition," it had said.

Bombay HC sentences Tarun Tejpal to 10 years in jail in 2013 rape case

PTI

Panaji, Aug 6: The Bombay High Court on Thursday convicted former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal of raping a colleague in 2013, setting aside his acquittal by a Goa sessions court five years ago, and sentenced him to ten years' rigorous imprisonment.

Justices Neela Gokhale and Amit Jamsandekar of the HC's Goa bench initially said Tejpal shall surrender within two weeks, but following a request from his lawyers, the court extended the time to four weeks.

The court, while imposing the minimum punishment, said the incident occurred 13 years ago, and Tejpal has since then not committed any other offence.

"Both parties (victim and Tejpal) may have moved on in life now," it observed.

NOTICE

I Abdul Ahad Dar S/oD/oW/o Ab Rahim R/o 112 Gulabad Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ab Ahad Dar to Abdul Ahad Dar for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 678630409652 Henceforth, I shall be known as Abdul Ahad Dar

NOTICE

I Madiha Zehra S/oD/oW/o Syed Jawhar Razvi R/o Sadat Mohalla Said pora Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Syed Madiha to Madiha Zehra for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 627326217527 Henceforth, I shall be known as Madiha Zehra

NOTICE

I Mehraj U Din Khan F/o Sidrat Ul Muntaha R/o Kulangam Handwara Jammu & Kashmir 193221 do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Mirha Binti Mehraj to Sidrat Ul Muntaha for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 974961186498 Henceforth, I shall be known as Sidrat Ul Muntaha

NOTICE

I Aayat parvaiz S/oD/oW/o parvaiz ahmad malla R/o umar abad malamapan pora hathlangoo Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from adfar parvaiz to Aayat parvaiz for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 414908929853 Henceforth, I shall be known as Aayat parvaiz

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-mail, id, xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (SHORT-TERM)

e-NIT No:	MHDH/TS/2026-27/eNIT/42
Date:	05/08/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from experienced registered/reputed firms or authorized dealer's/workshop holders for the below mentioned work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Repair cum maintenance works to departmental snow clearance machines, vehicles and DG Set, stationed at snow clearance control room Dawar Gurez, pertaining to MHSD 2nd, Handwara.	1.5192	200.00	3040.00	15 days	Accorded	Accorded

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 05/08/2026 (1800hrs) to 12/08/2026 (1400hrs) in two covers.

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 06/08/2026 (1000hrs) to 12/08/2026 (1400hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 12/08/2026 (1600hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.

The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Mechanical & Hospitals

Division

Handwara

No. - MHDH/TS/1342-49

Dated: -05/08/2026 Copy to be:

DIPK-4204/26

DATED: 06-08-2026

Iran threatens to hit Gulf states if US launches new strikes

REUTERS

Tehran, Aug 6: Iran has warned Gulf states that any new US attack on its territory would trigger retaliation against critical energy infrastructure across the region, according to five sources, as Tehran seeks to raise the cost of military action by threatening Washington's closest regional allies.

The warning was delivered through a flurry of high-level diplomatic contacts after President Donald Trump threatened on July 28 to strike Iran's energy network and infrastructure, the sources said.

Two senior Iranian officials, two Gulf sources and a senior regional diplomat with knowledge of the discussions said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi spoke with his Saudi, Turkish and Qatari counterparts, as well as Pakistan's army chief. All spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Araqchi urged Washington's Gulf allies to use their influence with Trump to dissuade him from launching renewed strikes, the senior diplomat said, warning that any attack on Iran would prompt retaliation against US assets and energy facilities across the Gulf.

His message was consistent in



every conversation, the diplomat said: "We're ready to retaliate, but finding a diplomatic solution is the best way to avoid wider escalation and destruction across the region."

"The Iranian warning was unequivocal: if America targeted Iran's infrastructure, they would retaliate by striking Gulf energy facilities and other regional targets," one Gulf source said.

The diplomatic maneuvering underscores how Iran is attempting to use the threat of wider regional destruction as leverage against further US strikes, putting Gulf states that host US military bases and depend on energy

exports in a difficult position between Washington and Tehran.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman subsequently spoke with Trump, urging him to delay military action, return to negotiations, secure a ceasefire and pursue a diplomatic settlement, the senior diplomat and Gulf sources said.

The warning was intended for every Gulf state, another Gulf source said, but was conveyed primarily through Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia have all urged Washington to resume talks with Tehran and avert renewed conflict amid

Iranian warnings that another round of US strikes could "turn the region into a fireball," the second Iranian official said. On August 2, Trump said he agreed to cancel the attack on Iran "subject to being able to rapidly make a deal."

Threats of wider regional escalation, says Iranian official

"Saudi Arabia believes further escalation will only bring more destruction," the first Gulf source said. "That is why it urged Trump to give diplomacy a chance."

While urging Washington to pursue diplomacy, Riyadh also made clear it would defend itself if threatened.

Ali Shihabi, a Saudi analyst close to the Royal Court, said the kingdom's assessment is that further escalation is unlikely to achieve the desired result. "The Kingdom believes a combination of proportionate military responses and sustained pressure on Iran in the Strait of Hormuz offers the strongest path toward a practical diplomatic settlement," Shihabi said. Iran's clerical leadership has repeatedly demanded the closure of US military bases in the Gulf and called on Gulf Arab states to stop sharing intelligence with Washington, which Tehran believes has been used to facilitate attacks against it.

According to one Iranian

official, Tehran's warning made clear that any new US strike would be met with attacks on energy facilities, refineries, electricity grids, water infrastructure, transport networks and oil fields across the Gulf.

"The enemy continues to threaten Iranian infrastructure. If Iran suffers damage, it will inflict far greater damage in return," the official said.

By threatening infrastructure critical to Gulf economies, Tehran is seeking to convince both Washington and its Arab partners that another attack on Iran would carry unacceptable economic and strategic consequences, encouraging regional states to press Trump to avoid renewed military action.

From Tehran's perspective, Trump now faces two unpalatable choices, the senior Iranian official said: escalate a conflict that could engulf the Gulf and disrupt global energy supplies, or accept a negotiated outcome that falls short of the decisive victory Washington seeks. One of the principal obstacles to an agreement, the senior regional diplomat said, is Washington's reluctance to allow Tehran to emerge claiming victory.

"The United States wants something it can present as proof that it won the war," the diplomat said.

Oil prices slip as Iran cites progress with Oman on Hormuz agreement



REUTERS

Tokyo/Singapore, Aug 6: Oil prices trended lower on Thursday on the progress in Iran-Oman talks, with investors cautiously waiting for signs of a US-Iran peace deal and progress on reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Brent crude futures fell 33 cents, or 0.42 percent, to \$79.12 a barrel by 07:18 a.m. Saudi time. US West Texas Intermediate futures declined 42 cents, or 0.56 percent, to \$74.80 a barrel. Brent settled up slightly on Wednesday, while WTI edged lower.

Iran and Oman have reached an understanding on the geographic coordinates for a shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz, and a joint announcement is being finalised, provided certain third parties did not interfere, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said on Wednesday.

"Some selling pressure emerged following reports that talks between Iran and Oman are making progress," said Yuki Takashima, economist at Nomura Securities.

Prices have returned to the levels seen when the US and Iran signed an interim peace agreement on June 17, with investors closely watching whether the two sides can reach a final deal, he added.

A proposed deal between Iran and Oman to help end the US-Iran conflict would give Tehran control over ships entering the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz, a senior Iranian source and two regional officials told Reuters on Wednesday, one of the biggest concessions yet to Iran.

There was no immediate US comment on the proposal. While President Donald

Trump has said a deal reopening the strait is imminent, US officials have repeatedly insisted they would never agree to Iran controlling access to one of the world's most important trade route for energy supplies.

Iran has warned Gulf states that any new US attack on its territory would trigger retaliation against critical energy infrastructure across the region, according to five sources, as Tehran seeks to raise the cost of military action by threatening Washington's closest regional allies.

"The real hinge point now becomes the trajectory of US-Iran discussions, because meaningful progress there is essential before disrupted energy flows can realistically resume," ING analysts said in a note on Thursday.

Gulf countries' crude oil and condensate exports were largely steady in July and remained about 40 percent below pre-war levels, shipping data showed.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said on Wednesday they had launched a missile attack on a Saudi oil tanker off the coast of the kingdom's Red Sea port city of Yanbu and another missile attack on a Saudi oil tanker in the Gulf of Aden. There was no confirmation from Saudi Arabia on either incident. Takashima said concerns that Houthi attacks could hit Red Sea shipping were limiting optimism about the outlook for an end to shipping disruptions in the Middle East. Separately, US crude stocks rose as refineries eased processing slightly and imports edged higher, data from the Energy Information Administration showed on Wednesday.

American rifle shooter trains in India, returns home to win national title

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 6: After spending nearly two years honing his skills in India, American shooter Jeff Browning returned to the United States with a sharper edge, and a national title has underlined the progress.

The seasoned marksman capped off his journey by winning the prestigious 10m air rifle event at the US National Championship in Camp Perry, Ohio, turning his overseas training into championship success.

A competitive shooter since 2012, Browning trained extensively at the Topgun Shooting Academy in New Delhi during his stay in India. The experience proved invaluable, helping him refine his technique and elevate his performance.

AFP

Rabat, Aug 6: FIFA president Gianni Infantino has received the "full support" of senior directors on Wednesday but world football's governing body apologized for the controversy of the now-shelved plan to open the World Cup to private investment.

Facing a barrage of criticism following the aborted plan, FIFA's leadership acknowledged "errors," while nonetheless backing under-fire Infantino following a crisis meeting in Morocco.

Infantino has come under increasing pressure, even from within his organization, over his handling of the proposal, and calls for him to step down had grown since he abandoned it last Saturday. In a statement Wednesday, FIFA's leadership acknowledged "that errors were also made after the proposal was leaked to

FIFA back Infantino, apologize for World Cup privatization plan



media." FIFA floated the plan, saying it could raise up to \$4.2 billion based on a valuation of \$20 billion for a new commercial subsidiary, called the FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), which it proposed would run events such as the World Cup and Club World Cup.

It said that, if approved, the project could provide each of FIFA's 211 member associations with a

one-off payment of \$20 million in early 2027, and increase their funding allocation for the 2027-2030 cycle from \$8 million to \$20 million.

Instead of acting as a sweetener it produced a furious backlash, with European football's governing body UEFA resorting on Thursday to the nuclear option of boycotting the sport's jewel in the

crown, the World Cup.

By Saturday, Infantino held his hands up and withdrew the plan. "Our purpose has always been — and will always be — to unite and improve," said Infantino.

After Wednesday's meeting in Rabat, the FIFA Secretary General and members of the FIFA Management Board in attendance said in a statement they "reaffirmed their full support for FIFA President Gianni Infantino, as the only official elected by the 211 FIFA Member Associations."

"The meeting also addressed the FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal, where mistakes made were acknowledged," the statement said. "It was agreed that it was not the intention for the FIFA Council and FIFA Member Associations to feel excluded from the process and that the process should have been handled differently."

Indian batters aim to ace spin test in warm-up before Test series against SL



PTI

Colombo, Aug 6: Indian batters will be keen to fine-tune their skills against spin during a three-day warm-up match against a local Sri Lanka XI at the Nondescripts Cricket Club here on Friday as they gear up for a two-match Test series against the Islanders next week.

Quality spin proved to be India's Achilles Heel against New Zealand and South Africa at home recently, and the challenge will not be any different against Sri Lanka.

The Islanders have a capable unit of tweakers, particularly in home conditions, and thus this warm-up match assumes massive importance for Indian batters ahead of the first Test at Galle on August 15.

Some frontline batters like skipper Shubman Gill, KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal had started preparations against spin individually at their home facilities

before boarding the flight to Colombo, but that cannot really supplant an outing on a Sri Lankan pitch.

The three-day match will give them valuable first-hand idea about local conditions, and it is important because many of them are playing the red-ball format for the first time on these shores.

India's last Test series in Sri Lanka was in 2017, and the team composition has undergone vast changes in the last decade.

In fact, only Rahul, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja in this squad have appeared in Test matches in Sri Lanka.

In the absence of an injured Jasprit Bumrah, pacer Mohammed Siraj will be India's bowling lead with support coming from Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Manav Suthar and Saransh Jain.

This largely inexperienced bowling lineup, except Siraj and Kuldeep, will be eager to bowl on

a Lankan pitch once again.

Both Brar and Jain had very good outings for India A against Sri Lanka A last month at Galle, and they will be raring to have another round of practice under their belt.

Head Coach Gautam Gambhir emphasised on this point.

"We know what is in front of us. We can do volume, we can push our limits, we can tick all the boxes and come 15th morning whether we are batting first or bowling first we will be absolutely ready with every answer to every question thrown at us.

"So make sure to tick all the boxes from now on," Gambhir exhorted his wards in a video posted by BCCI.

However, intermittent rain is predicted to lash the city from Friday and that may jeopardise India's designs.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka also announced a strong SLC XI that contained some frontrunners to make it to the Test squad.

Led by Sonal Dinusha, who has played three Tests for SL, the squad features pacers Vishwa Fernando, Lahiru Kumara and spinners Isitha Wijesundara and Ramesh Mendis.

Teams (from)
India: Shubman Gill (Captain), KL Rahul (Vice-Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sai Sudharsan, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain, Auqib Nahi.

INOX

SRINAGAR

MOVIES

Schedule

FRIDAY

7TH AUGUST

01

SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY (HINDI) (U/A 13+)

04:10 PM
07:15 PM

02

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

02:05 PM
05:10 PM
08:15 PM

03

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

06:20 PM

04

THE ODYSSEY (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (A)

02:55 PM

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