



# CM Omar directs seamless traffic movement on NH-44

## Calls for swift completion of repairs, prioritising fruit trucks, agri produce movement

**KT News Desk**

Udhampur, Aug 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday travelled by road from Jammu to Srinagar via National Highway-44 to personally assess the condition of the highway and review the restoration works being carried out following the recent spell of adverse weather that triggered landslides and disrupted traffic at several locations.

During the journey, the Chief Minister was briefed by officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the executing agencies on the progress of repair, restoration and stabilisation works being undertaken along the affected stretches of the highway.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta. [| More on P6](#)

## AI must deliver better outcomes for people: CM

### Says technology should strengthen governance create opportunities

**Yogesh**

Jammu, Aug 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said Artificial Intelligence (AI) should be used to improve people's lives rather than remain limited to research, asserting that technology must strengthen governance, public services and

economic opportunities. Launching the J&K Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence and dedicating Project Phoenix at IIT Jammu, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the AI has the potential to transform [| More on P6](#)



## CM urges people to conserve water, avoid wastage

**Yogesh**

Udhampur, Aug 07: Urging people to conserve water and avoid its wastage, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday reaffirmed his government's commitment to provide safe, adequate and quality drinking water to every citizen.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stones of major water supply and sewerage projects in Udhampur and Reasi, CM Omar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said sustainable management of water resources requires collective public participation.

"Water conservation is a shared responsibility. We must use drinking water judiciously and avoid its wastage. I urge people to adopt the 'Catch the Rain' campaign and promote rainwater harvesting for gardening, agriculture [| More on P6](#)

## India-Pak ties can move ahead only in terror-free environment: EAM Jaishankar

### Says Islamabad continues cross-border terrorism

**Raja Syed Rather**

Srinagar, Aug 07: India's relations with Pakistan can only move ahead in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence, Union External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar informed the Lok Sabha on Friday, asserting that Pakistan continues to follow a policy of cross-border terrorism and uses terrorism as an instrument of State policy against India.

The minister was responding to Starred Question No. 289 raised by Member of Parliament (MP) Dharmendra Yadav regarding the bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. The question was answered in the Lok Sabha on August 7, 2026.

The MP, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), had sought to know the present status of bilateral relations between India and Pakistan since the Pulwama terror attack to date, along with changes at



the political, diplomatic and trade levels between the two countries.

He also sought details of the number of bilateral talks held between India and Pakistan at various levels during the last five years and the issues discussed therein, besides asking whether the government still maintained that normal bilateral relations with Pakistan were not possible until cross-border terrorism ends and, if so, the details of its present policy.

In its response, the government said that following the Pulwama terror attack, India withdrew the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan and increased customs duty on all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan to 200 per cent.

Islamabad subsequently announced certain [| More on P6](#)

## J&K, Ladakh likely to face 14% power crunch this Aug

**Riyaz Bhat**

Srinagar, Aug 07: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to face nearly fourteen percent power deficit against the total availability during the peak hours in the ongoing month of August.

According to the official documents figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) in a recent meeting has anticipated a power deficit of minus 13.9 percent during the peak hours for the month of August-2026.

The officials have projected that there will be a total of 2334 Megawatts (MWs) power availability in Jammu and Kashmir

and Ladakh against the total anticipated requirement of 2710 MWs during the peak hours.

The committee however said that there will be surplus power of 4seven percent during the other hours except from the peak hours.

Pertinently, KNO in March this year reported that from the upcoming financial year 2026-27, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 3813 MWs of power during the peak demand.

The authorities had further projected that in the financial year 2027-28 Jammu and Kashmir will require 3964 MWs of electricity during the peak hours followed by 4117 MWs of energy in the financial year 2028-29.

Apart from [| More on P6](#)

## Flash flood sweeps away couple in Udhampur

### MeT warns of heavy showers across J&K from Aug 9

**Sajid Raina**

Srinagar, Aug 07: Flash floods swept away a couple in Udhampur District on Friday, while as the MeT predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall across Jammu and Kashmir between August 9 and 11 and warned of landslides and waterlogging in vulnerable areas.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a couple was swept away in a flash flood while attempting to cross the Kaghote nallah in Udhampur district on Friday. He identified them as Baldev Kumar (58) and his wife Maya Devi (53), both residents of Kaghote village.

Soon after the incident Police, assisted by local



residents, launched a search and rescue operation, one body was recovered in the evening while the search for another missing person is on, the official added.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department

predicted another wet spell across Jammu and Kashmir in coming days, with a warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall in Jammu division and possible flash floods during August 9-11.

A MeT official said that as per the forecast, [| More on P6](#)

## Amarnath Yatra crosses 4.76 lakh mark

### 5,095 devotees pay obeisance Friday

**Umaisar Gull Ganie**

Qazigund, Aug 07: With 21 days left for the conclusion of the annual Amarnath Yatra, 5,095 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine on Friday, taking the total number of devotees who have performed darshan this year to 4,76,683.

According to official figures obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), 2,871 men, 1,544 women, 25 children, 61 sadhus, eight sadhvis, three transgender devotees and 583 security personnel completed the Yatra on Friday.

The 29th batch of 926 pilgrims passed through the Jammu-Srinagar National

Highway under a multi-layer security arrangement en route to the Baltal base camp.

The batch had left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu early Friday in a 42-vehicle convoy comprising 21 buses, three MMVs, 17 LMVs and one two-wheeler. It included 693 men, 178 women, 34 sadhus and 21 sadhvis towards the Baltal base camp as the Pahalgam route remains closed.

On the return journey, the 27th down convoy carrying 133 pilgrims left the Baltal base camp for Jammu in seven vehicles. The returning batch comprised 110 men, 21 women and two children, officials said.

The 57-day [| More on P6](#)

## Labourer found dead in Sopore

**KNO Correspondent**

Sopore, Aug 07: A labourer was found dead at his residence in the Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the labour was shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Sopore after being found unconscious at his residence in Hardushiva.

He said doctors declared him brought dead on arrival, while his identity is yet to be ascertained.

The body has been kept at the mortuary of SDH Sopore for post-mortem examination.

Police have [| More on P6](#)

'Fixed match with agencies'

## Omar says PDP trying to hide 'banta hai' remark

**Rehan Qayoom Mir**

Srinagar, Aug 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday slammed the People's Democratic Party (PDP), alleging a "fixed match" between the party and agencies, and said PDP leader Iltija Mufti was not a five-year-old child who would bite someone.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Omar Abdullah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer

(KNO), said that whenever the PDP's image or credibility takes a hit, agencies come to its rescue.

"The party is a creation of agencies. It did not evolve on its own, and its credibility was under question after the 'banta hai' remark. Agencies come to its rescue whenever its credibility becomes weak. Iltija Mufti is not a five-year-old child that she would bite somebody like this. Even a five-year-old knows that nobody can be [| More on P6](#)

## '3.65 lakh cases pending in J&K district, subordinate courts'

**Raja Syed Rather**

Srinagar, Aug 07: As many as 3,65,645 cases are pending in district and subordinate courts of Jammu and Kashmir, including 63,876 cases pending for more than five years and 20,767 cases pending for over 10 years, the Union Ministry of Law and Justice informed the Lok Sabha on Friday.

As per the reply by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal to an unstarred question by MP Sasikanth Senthil, the figures are based on data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as on



July 30, 2026.

The ministry, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said

that in Jammu and Kashmir, district and subordinate courts have 3,65,645 pending cases. Of these, 20,767 cases have

remained pending for more than 10 years, while 63,876 cases have been pending for more than five years.

Sasikanth Senthil had asked the government about the total number of pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and district and subordinate courts, including cases pending for more than five and 10 years. He also sought details of funds approved and utilised under the e-Courts Project and steps being taken to reduce pendency and strengthen judicial infrastructure.

In response, Meghwal said that as per NJDG data, 44,557 cases were [| More on P6](#)

## Pony operator found dead in Reasi water tank

**KNO Correspondent**

Reasi, Aug 07: A 22-year-old pony operator was found dead inside a water tank in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Friday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the body of the pony operator was recovered from a water tank in the Matyal area of Katra after police were informed about the incident.

He said the body was shifted to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Katra, for post-mortem examination, while the identity of the deceased is yet to be established. [| More on P6](#)

## Cloudbursts, inclement weather stall tourism boom at Kashmir's offbeat destinations

**Sajid Raina**

Srinagar, Aug 07: Repeated cloudbursts and prolonged spells of inclement weather have dealt a blow to tourism at Kashmir's offbeat destinations, with visitor arrivals witnessing a sharp decline in recent weeks in areas such as Gurez, Keran, Sonamarg, Doodhpathri, Bangus Valley and other scenic locations.

Local residents and tourism stakeholders told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the adverse weather conditions, marked by frequent rainfall, flash floods, landslides

and cloudbursts, have disrupted road connectivity and prompted many tourists to either cancel or postpone their travel plans.

According to official figures, the Kashmir has witnessed around 35 cloudbursts this year, triggering flash floods and damaging roads, bridges and other infrastructure in several districts.

In the picturesque Gurez Valley near the Line of Control (LoC), hoteliers and local residents said tourist arrivals have dropped considerably over the past few weeks.

"We had expected this season to be one of the best



after the steady increase in tourist arrivals over the last few years. However, the continuous rains and reports of cloudbursts have discouraged

visitors. Hotels that were nearly full are now witnessing low occupancy," said Mushtaq Ahmad, a hotel owner in Gurez.

He said several tourists cancelled their bookings after news of weather-related incidents emerged from different parts of Kashmir.

In Keran, another emerging tourist destination in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, residents said businesses dependent on tourism have suffered losses.

"Most families here earn during the summer season through homestays, transport services and small eateries. The bad weather has reduced tourist footfall significantly, affecting our income," said Shabir Ahmad, a resident of Keran.

Tour operators in Srinagar said inquiries from domestic tourists have slowed, particularly for offbeat destinations that require long road journeys.

"The concern is not just rainfall but uncertainty over road conditions. Tourists do not want to risk getting stranded because of landslides or road closures. Many are choosing to stay in Srinagar or Gulmarg instead of travelling to remote destinations," said Fayaz Ahmad, a local tour operator.

The impact has also been felt in Sonamarg, where hoteliers and [| More on P6](#)

# CS Atal Dulloo calls for faster assessment, revival of stressed MSMEs across J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 7: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the functioning and progress of the J&K MSME Health Clinic, a digital initiative aimed at monitoring, diagnosing and revitalizing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the Union Territory through timely assessment and targeted interventions.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu/Kashmir; Director Handloom & Handicrafts, Kashmir/Jammu; besides other senior officers of the Industries & Commerce Department.

The meeting deliberated upon the progress made under the initiative, status of assessment of industrial units, capacity-building measures and strategies for expediting rehabilitation of stressed enterprises through coordinated institutional support.

Emphasising the need for strengthening the support ecosystem for MSMEs, the Chief Secretary directed the Industries & Commerce Department to augment the existing Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) functioning across the districts by providing adequate dedicated human resources or inducing representatives from



other stakeholder departments, wherever required, to make these units more effective and result-oriented.

He also stressed the need for conducting regular capacity-building programmes by IIM Jammu for SBDU members across all districts to ensure professional and quality assessment of industrial units. He directed that the SBDUs should actively analyse the reports prepared after health assessment of MSMEs and closely monitor implementation of the recommendations made therein to facilitate timely revival of stressed units.

Calling for expeditious assessment of MSMEs, the Chief Secretary asked the concerned to substantially enhance the pace of health assessment by adopting a hybrid approach involving both physical and virtual visits to industrial units.

He further advised Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, to hold

consultations with J&K Bank for exploring suitable mechanisms for restructuring loans of sick MSMEs based on the recommendations emerging from the Health Clinic assessments.

Earlier, the Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh apprised the meeting that the MSME Health Clinic has emerged as a significant platform for identifying financially stable enterprises as well as units requiring rehabilitation, thereby facilitating evidence-based policy interventions for strengthening the industrial ecosystem across the Union Territory.

He also apprised the meeting about the compliance with directions issued by Chief Secretary during the previous meeting. He revealed that an interactive chatbot has been integrated into the MSME Health Clinic portal, while its upgraded version has been shared with IIM Jammu for further refinement.

It was also informed that

district-level training programmes have been successfully completed across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, with trained personnel now available in all the twenty districts to support Health Clinic operations. Additionally, the system has been strengthened to significantly enhance issuance of health certificates, with around 15,000 stability certificates already issued to MSMEs.

Giving details the Director, Industries, Jammu, Arun Manhas informed that 1,00,371 MSMEs have so far been registered on the MSME Health Clinic portal, while 73,907 units have undergone analytical assessment by BISAG. Of these, 68,218 units (92.3%) have been categorised as stable, whereas 5,689 units (7.7%) have been identified as recoverable or vulnerable to sickness, requiring focused handholding and rehabilitation support.

It was further informed that J&K Bank has already accessed

the database of nearly 2.97 lakh MSMEs, which will now be analysed by BISAG over the next two weeks, enabling substantial expansion in the coverage of the Health Clinic programme and bringing a larger number of enterprises under systematic assessment.

The Chief Secretary was also informed that IIM Jammu has completed 338 virtual interactions and 117 field visits with MSMEs, leading to the preparation of 34 rehabilitation reports, all of which have been approved by the respective District Level Approval Committees (DLACs).

Reiterating the importance of early diagnosis and timely intervention, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned officers to intensify registration of MSMEs on the Health Clinic portal, expedite assessment of all eligible enterprises and ensure prompt preparation and implementation of rehabilitation plans for stressed units.

He observed that timely revival support would significantly improve the sustainability, productivity and competitiveness of MSMEs, thereby contributing to industrial growth and employment generation in the Union Territory.

He also emphasised close coordination among the Industries & Commerce Department, J&K Bank, BISAG, IIM Jammu and other stakeholder institutions for seamless implementation of the programme and effective delivery of support services to entrepreneurs.

## DC Srinagar inspects newly developed alternate entry gate, additional parking space at Bone & Joint Hospital



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Friday inspected the newly created alternate entry gate and additional parking space at Bone & Joint Hospital, Barzulla.

The DC, as per an official statement, also took an onsite review of the ongoing Sunner Kul Bund road development works being executed to streamline traffic movement around SMHS Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital.

The inspection was undertaken as part of the District Administration's sustained efforts to improve traffic management and strengthen infrastructure around major healthcare institutions to ensure hassle-free access for patients, attendants, healthcare workers, ambulances and other emergency services.

At Bone & Joint Hospital, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the newly developed alternate entry gate along with the connecting link road and associated infrastructure aimed at facilitating smooth entry and exit of vehicles. He also inspected the additional parking space created to address parking constraints and reduce congestion

around the hospital premises.

The alternate entry and parking facility would significantly ease vehicular movement, particularly during peak hours, besides ensuring uninterrupted passage for ambulances and other emergency vehicles.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the newly developed Sunner Kul Bund road behind Super Speciality Hospital, Shreen Bagh and inspected the progress of the road development works undertaken to provide an alternate traffic corridor for the SMHS Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital area. He took onsite stock of the status of road construction, allied infrastructure works and measures being implemented to improve connectivity and facilitate smooth traffic flow.

The DC stressed the need for timely completion of the remaining works while maintaining quality standards and directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination to ensure early operationalisation and efficient utilisation of the facilities.

On the occasion, the DC said that the road development forms part of the broader mobility improvement and traffic regulation plan along the

## JKRLM emerging a catalyst for women empowerment, rural livelihoods: Secretary RDD

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, AUGUST 7: Describing the Self-Help Group (SHG) movement as one of the largest community-led transformations in Jammu and Kashmir, Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Friday said that the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM-UMEED) has emerged as a powerful catalyst for livelihood



generation, financial inclusion and women empowerment, enabling thousands of rural women to achieve economic self-reliance and contribute meaningfully to the socio-econom-

ic development of their communities. The Secretary, as per an official statement, made these remarks during his visit to Pulwama and Srinagar, where he inspected the "Umeed Ka Zaika" Food Service Enterprises (FSEs) established at Awantipora and Srinagar. The kiosks form part of JKRLM's flagship chain of women-led Food Service Enterprises developed with technical support from the National Resource Organisation (NRO), Kudumbashree.

## J&K Govt notifies Legal Metrology Enforcement Rules to promote EoDB, consumer protection

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 07: In a major reform aimed at promoting Ease of Doing Business and strengthening Consumer Protection, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has notified the "Jammu & Kashmir Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2026".

The new rules mark an important milestone for the Legal Metrology Department and are expected to streamline the regulatory processes while ensuring greater transparency and accountability.

The "J&K Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2026" introduce several business and consumer-friendly measures. Licenses for manufacturer, dealer and repairer of weights and measures have been replaced with registration certificates and the requirement for renewal of such certificates has been done away with. The need for conducting inspection prior to issuance of registration certificates has also been removed. Further, the rules mandate the use of special accuracy weighing instruments for weighing precious metals, prescribe verification fee for different categories of weights and measures and fix compounding fee for offences punishable under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. All these measures are intended to simplify the compliance for businesses and strengthen enforcement for better consumer protection in J&K.

These reforms build upon the recently launched initiatives including the "Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026", increased periodicity for re-verification of specified weights and measures through amendments in the "Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011", business de-regulation in key areas and online service delivery through the "J&K Single Window System".

## Census 2027: DC Kishtwar reviews preparations for Phase-II

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 07: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who is also the Principal Census Officer, Friday chaired a meeting of the District Coordination Committee, Charge Officers and Sub-Divisional Census Officers to review and finalize preparations for the Population Enumeration (Phase-II) of Census 2027.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, appreciated the successful completion of the House Listing Operation (HLO)



and emphasized that Population Enumeration is a crucial phase of the Census. He directed the Charge Officers to ensure 100% accurate, complete and error-free

enumeration, with zero omission and zero duplication of households or individuals.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the rationalization of House Listing Blocks (HLBs), wherein only those HLBs having a population exceeding the prescribed norm would be reorganized as per Census guidelines. The Deputy Commissioner/Principal Census Officer directed the Charge Officers to complete the exercise within the stipulated timeline and submit the final manpower requirement.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SPECIAL FOREST DIVISION TANGMARG

Email Id: dfttangmarg.for-jk@nic.in  
Ph/Fax.No.01954254489

### Extension Notice

Reference to: e-NIT NO: - 02 of 2026-27 DATED: 28-07-2026

| S. No. | Name of Work                                                                                                                                                                                    | Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh) |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1      | Maintenance of Plants in Ziren Nursery of Special Forest Division Tangmarg under Scheme CAMPA (NPV) for the year 2026-27.<br>No. of Polypots: 2nd year 43152<br>No. of Polypots: 3rd year 23748 | 0.95175                 |
| 2      | Maintenance of Plants in Division HQR Nursery of Special Forest Division Tangmarg under Scheme CAMPA (NPV) for the year 2026-27.<br>No. of Polypots: 2nd year 37101                             | 0.39097                 |

Due to poor response the critical dates for above noted e-NIT/ work are hereby extended as per the schedule mentioned below:-

|   |                                                 |                                                                                                        |
|---|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Bid submission End date                         | 13-08-2026 upto 6:00 PM                                                                                |
| 2 | Date of opening of Technical Bid through online | 14-08-2026 at 11:30 AM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle Srinagar. |

All the terms and conditions will be same as mentioned in Tender Notice and Document.

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Special Forest Division,  
Tangmarg.

No: DFO/TNG/Actts/2026-27/379-84  
Dated: 07/08/2026

DIPK-4258/26  
DATED: 07-08-2026

## GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

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

Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

### SHORT TERM

### NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

GIST Detailed e- NIT No: - 51/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27.

For and on of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Registered/Approved (DEE Class Civil Contractor) having good experience in the relevant field /Joint Ventures etc having good experience in the relevant field as per details given below. The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. Cover 1<sup>st</sup> consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

| S.No | Name of work                                                                 | Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs | Earnest money | Cost of Tender Document | Time of completion                                | Class of Contract          | Major Head / Programme | Tender Call     |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
|      | Providing filling of 225 mm Stone Soling at Buchoo Tral in district Pulwama. | Rs. 9.10 Lac          | Rs.27,300 /-  | Rs.300/-                | 03 days (from the date of issuance of work order) | DEE Class Civil Contractor | M & R                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> |

Position of Funds: - Available

> Circular issued by the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir Srinagar's Vide No. CE/PHE/DB/26798-832, Dated: 11-03-2026.

> Action Plan under M&R for the financial year 2026-27 forwarded to the Superintending Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Circle North Srinagar vide letter No. PHE/GWD/2026-27/TS-172-73, Dated: 07-04-2026.

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.jktenders.gov.in>

From 06.08.2026 (06:00 PM) to 12.08.2026 (11:00 AM)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website:

<https://www.jktenders.gov.in>

As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

Table-II

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                     |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Publishing Date                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 06-08-2026 (06:00 P.M)                              |
| 2. | Period of Downloading of Bids                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 06-08-2026 (06:00 P.M) upto 12-08-2026 (11:00 A.M). |
| 3. | Period of Submission of bids                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 06-08-2026 (06:00 P.M) upto 12-08-2026 (11:00 A.M). |
| 4. | Date of opening of Tender.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 12-08-2026 (03:00 P.M)                              |
| 5. | Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                     |
| 6. | Cost of Tender Document : To be deposited online (If available) or Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/ deposited to Account Head 0215 or in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)<br><br>Note: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD /TR/ the hard copies shall have to be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Financial Cover) of e-NIT (if needed) |                                                     |
| 7. | Bid Validity Period: 180 Days                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                     |
| 8. | The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on <a href="http://www.Jktenders.gov.in">www.Jktenders.gov.in</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                     |

of e- NIT No. 28 of 2026-27

No instrument—such as an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Treasury Receipt, or Challan-generated prior to the publication of the tender document will be accepted. Any bid submitted contrary to this requirement is liable for summary rejection. In the event the tender is retendered due to government exigencies or otherwise, an instrument shall be considered valid only if generated after the date of the initial tender publication. The cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 12-08-2026 (03:00 PM) if the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./ 6559-71.  
Dated: 06-08-2026

DIPK-4239/26  
DATED: 07-08-2026

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

## Delegations call on LG Sinha



KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Aug 07: Omar Kakroo, former President, Municipal Council Baramulla, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday. Kakroo projected various development issues of Baram-ulla including maintenance of National Highway stretch from Khanpora to Kanganpora; operationalisation of Bagh-e-Islam Health centre, establishment of Youth hos-tel, Synthetic Hockey Astro turf, augmentation of facilities at Azad Gunj Astro Football Turf.

In the meantime, a delegation of Chamber of Commerce & Industries Kashmir (CCIK) led by its Convener Umar Jan Wani called on the Lieutenant Governor and put forth various important matters related to promotion of busi-ness, industries, tourism and trade sectors of Jammu Kashmir.

## CM Omar inaugurates upgraded Road–High Street in Jammu

KT News Desk

Jammu, Aug 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday inaugurated the upgraded Residency Road–High Street in Jammu, a landmark urban infrastructure project exe-cuted by Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) under the Smart City Mission at a cost of Rs 9.18 crore.

The project has transformed nearly 1.2 kilometres of the Residency Road–High Street corridor, covering the stretches from Raghunathji Mandir to CM House, Vive-kanand Chowk to Raghunath Mandir Chowk, and Vir Marg Chowk to Vivekanand Chowk.

As part of the upgradation, an underground communica-tion corridor has been constructed and communication cables have been shifted underground to streamline utili-ty infrastructure and enhance the area's visual appeal. The project also includes the development of new paver-block footpaths, a bitumi-nous concrete road surface and RCC drains, significantly improving civic infrastructure along the corridor.

The upgraded corridor is expected to enhance pedestrian convenience, improve traffic movement and utility man-agement, and contribute to a cleaner, more



organised ur-ban environment while lending a renewed aesthetic char-acter to one of Jammu city's key commercial and civic corridors. MLA Jammu East Yudhvair Sethi, Additional Chief Secre-tary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj

Gupta, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Smart City Limited, Devansh Yadav, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

## CS reviews '150 Years of Vande Mataram' celebrations action plan



KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Aug 07: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Friday chaired a high-level meeting of all the concerned Adminis-trative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, DCs and HoDs to review the preparations and departmental action plan for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga-2026' campaign, being organised in conjunction with the third phase of the 150 Years of Vande Mataram commemo-rative celebrations.

The meeting reviewed the responsibilities assigned to different departments and the logistical arrange-ments prepared by the Department of Culture, the nodal department, for smooth implementation of the cam-paign across all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir from August 9 to August 17, 2026.

Emphasising the need to sustain this momentum, the Chief Secretary directed the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to ensure maximum public participation by involving every panchayat, ULB and educational institution so that Jammu and Kashmir continues to maintain its premier posi-tion at the national level.

The Chief Secretary directed that all flags procured must strictly conform to the Flag Code of India. He also instructed that procurement should be undertaken through local Self Help Groups and the Department of Posts to ensure quality and timely availability.

Stress was also laid on extensive publicity for the campaign. The Chief Secretary directed the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) and district administrations to under-take widespread awareness drives, highlighting the importance of respectful handling, collection and proper custody of the National

Flag after Independence Day celebrations.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was apprised by the Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma that Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as the leading performer in the nationwide patriotic campaign, securing the No. 1 rank in successive phases of the Vande Mataram celebrations.

The meeting was informed that the Union Territory-level flagship event will be held on August 12 in Srinagar. The event will commence from the lawns of the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) and culmi-nate at the Botanical Garden. Deputy Commissioners from all districts will participate virtually.

As part of the celebrations, a Tiranga Bike Rally involv-ing the Paramilitary and J&K Police, a Tiranga Mela show-casing local handicrafts, Self Help Group products and tri-colour-themed merchandise, besides a patriotic concert featuring renowned national and local artists, will also be organised.

Reviewing the nine-day programme, the Chief Sec-etary was informed that exhibitions on the history and evolution of the National Flag and the freedom movement would be organised at prom-inent public institutions and locations across the Union Ter-ritory. Educational institutions will conduct Tiranga-themed activities, including board art, walkathons, letter-writing campaigns for armed forces personnel and Rakhi-making workshops.

The programme will also feature community singing of the National Song Vande Mat-aram and the Tiranga Anthem across blocks and municipal areas in accordance with the

*Continued on  
www.kashmirthunder.in*

From The Parliament

## J&K has 12 medical colleges with 1,875 MBBS seats

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 07: Jammu and Kashmir has 12 medical col-leges offering a total of 1,875 MBBS seats, including 11 government medical colleges with 1,725 seats and one private medical college with 150 seats, the Union Minis-try of Health and Family Welfare informed the Lok Sabha on Fri-day.

As per the reply by Minister of State for Health and Fami-ly Welfare Anupriya Patel to an unstarred question raised by MP Anto Antony, the figures are based on the State/UT-wise data as on July 30, 2026.

The ministry said Jammu and Kashmir has 11 government medi-cal colleges with an approved capacity of 1,725 MBBS seats, while one private medical college has 150 MBBS seats, taking the total number of colleges to 12 and total MBBS seats to 1,875.

Anto Antony had sought details of students appearing in NEET-UG and NEET-PG, the number of



medical colleges and MBBS seats State/UT-wise, seats per million popula-tion, faculty vacancies in AIIMS and other Central Gov-ernment medical institutions, and steps taken to ensure equitable expansion of medical education.

In response, Patel said the num-ber of medical colleges across the country has increased from 387 to 846, while undergraduate medical seats have risen from 51,348 to

1,39,864 and postgraduate seats from 31,185 to 86,360 be-tween 2014 and July 2026.

The minister said filling vacant faculty posts is a continu-ous process and depends on factors including availability of qualified candidates, reservation roster and location-specific requirements of institutions.

*Continued on  
www.kashmirthunder.in*

## 1,238 PG medical seats available in J&K

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 07: Jammu and Kashmir has a total of 1,238 Post-Graduate (PG) medical seats for the academic year 2026-27, including 1,175 seats in government institutions and 63 seats in private institutions, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed the Lok Sabha on Friday. The details were provided by Union Health and Family Welfare Min-ister Jagat Prakash Nadda in response to Starred Question No. 297, raised by Kumari Sudha R, seeking details of PG medical seats in Central Govern-ment institutions, State Government colleges and deemed univer-sities, seats created since 2014, proposals to in-crease PG seats, conversion of Diploma seats into full-fledged PG medical seats and measures to regulate fees charged by private medical col-leges and deemed univer-sities.

As per the State/UT-wise data for academic year 2026-27, Jammu and Kashmir has 1,175 government PG seats and 63 private PG seats, taking the total to 1,238 seats.

For the Union Territory of

Ladakh, the government said there are 14 PG medical seats, all in the government sec-tor, while no private PG seats have been listed.

Across the country, the National Medical Commission (NMC) and National Board of Examinations in Medical Scienc-es (NBEMS) have informed that there are 86,360 PG medical seats. The year-wise details of PG seats approved by NMC and NBEMS since 2014-15 have also been pro-vided in the reply.

The government said the National Medical Commission has put in place a regula-tory framework under the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations (PGMER), 2023 and Post Graduate Minimum Standards Requirement, 2024 for establishing new PG medical courses and increas-ing seats in existing courses.

Proposals from medical colleges and institutions for start-ing new PG courses or increasing existing seats are con-sidered by the NMC based on applications submitted by institutions, with seats granted

*Continued on  
www.kashmirthunder.in*

## 12 DCCs functional in J&K

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 07: Twelve Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs) are current-ly functional in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed the Lok Sabha on Friday.

The details were provided in response to Starred Question No. 294, raised by Shri Kesineni Sivanath, regarding the number of Day Care Cancer Centres set up or proposed to be set up across the country, the number operational State/UT-wise and district-wise, funds allocated and utilised, and proposals for setting up additional centres.

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, in his reply, said a total of 524 Day Care Cancer Centres are functional across the country, as reported by States and Union Territories.

As per the State/UT-wise details annexed with the reply, Jammu and Kashmir has 12 functional DCCCs.

The Ministry said that DCCCs were envisaged to be established in District Hospitals across the country over a three-year period, as announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.

The government further stated that the requirement for DCCCs is assessed

*Continued on  
www.kashmirthunder.in*

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1<sup>st</sup> CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mohd Amin Mir S/o: Mohd Dilawar Mir R/o: Adipora.  
Versus  
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore  
(Registrar of Birth and Death)

...Non Applicant

#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Mohammad Asair Mir D/o: Mohd Amin Mir as 02-02-2017 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1<sup>st</sup> CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mohd Amin S/o: Gh Ahmad Pir R/o: Sofi Haman Sopore.  
Versus  
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore  
(Registrar of Birth and Death)

...Non Applicant

#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Fahad Amin D/o: Mohd Amin Pir as 19-06-2011 at Home.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1<sup>st</sup> CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mohd Amin Mir S/o: Mohd Dilawar Mir R/o: Adipora.  
Versus  
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore  
(Registrar of Birth and Death)

...Non Applicant

#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Mohd Anas Mir D/o: Mohd Amin Mir as 31-08-2021 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1<sup>st</sup> CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mohd Amin S/o: Gh Ahmad Pir R/o: Sofi Haman Sopore.  
Versus  
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore  
(Registrar of Birth and Death)

...Non Applicant

#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Zikra Amin D/o: Mohd Amin Pir as 01-01-2009 at Home.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

## EDITORIAL

# Time For Nature-Based Solutions

The high-level policy dialogue on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for Jammu and Kashmir hosted by Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has underscored a critical truth: the region's future depends on how well we integrate natural systems into our development planning. As Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Vice Chancellor of the university and a renowned geologist, rightly emphasised, nature-based solutions must be

placed at the centre of inclusive and climate-resilient development. The timing could not be more urgent. Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing an alarming increase in cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides. Between January and August this year alone, the region experienced a natural disaster almost every day. The cost of inaction is mounting, not just in terms of lives lost and infrastructure damaged, but in the growing fiscal burden on the government

and the erosion of livelihoods. The conference brought together government officials, academics, business leaders, and civil society to address interconnected challenges: climate risk, fiscal pressure, and youth unemployment. Investments in natural systems can simultaneously reduce disaster risks, strengthen economic sectors, and create new employment opportunities. Wetlands, forests, and floodplains are infrastructure that protects communities

and sustains livelihoods. However, significant barriers remain. Participants highlighted data limitations, fragmented sectoral planning, and the persistent disconnect between policy formulation and implementation. The need for stronger natural-capital assessment, place-specific data, and integrated planning cannot be overstated. The participation of financial institutions such as ICICI Bank signals growing recognition that investing in nature is not just

an environmental imperative but an economic one. The proposed collaborative platform linking science, government, communities, and the private sector offers a promising way forward. This dialogue has laid the groundwork. Now the challenge is to translate discussions into action—ensuring that NBS becomes a central pillar of Jammu and Kashmir's development strategy, not an afterthought. The Himalayas demand nothing less.

# Roads Reimagined: The Rise Of India's Electric Vehicles Ecosystem

India is rapidly shifting to electric vehicles (EVs). eMobility is now turning into a key driver of economic growth, energy security, and a cleaner future. EV sales have grown ~46x since 2016, showing strong consumer shift. Exports have surged from USD 1.2 million in 2020 to USD 84 million in 2024. This is positioning India as an emerging EV hub. Government schemes like National Mission on Manufacturing, PLI Scheme for Automobile & Auto Components Industry and PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement Scheme (PM E-DRIVE) are strengthening a more self-reliant eMobility ecosystem.

## India's Move Towards Electric Mobility

Daily commutes in crowded cities and last-mile connectivity in small towns are being fundamentally reimagined across India. At the core of this transition is electric mobility. This technological shift is becoming central to the country's climate strategy and sustainable transportation vision. Propelled by Government incentives, rising environmental awareness, rapid technological progress, EVs have become a national priority shaping the future of the automobile industry.

India's mobility transition is not just an environmental imperative but also an economic opportunity. It is reshaping one of its largest and most influential industries. This shift is emerging as a strategic lever to strengthen energy security, reducing dependence on fossil fuel imports, and driving an efficient, low-carbon growth pathway for the economy.

## What is an Electric Vehicle (EV)?

An EV is a vehicle powered by an electric motor that uses energy stored in a battery. It can be recharged from an external power source. There are four types of EVs: Battery EVs (BEVs) that are fully electric; Hybrid EVs (HEVs) and Plug-in HEVs that combine an internal combustion engine and an electric motor; and Fuel Cell EVs (FCEVs) in which electric energy is produced from chemical energy.

## India's EV Revolution: The Last Decade

India's journey towards electric mobility began in 2015 with the launch of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan and FAME scheme to incentivize EV adoption. This move was driven by strategic priorities including reducing the rising import bill on petroleum fuels, tackling worsening urban air pollution, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector, which accounts for ~9% of India's total emissions.

National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP 2020): The NEMMP 2020 outlines a strategic roadmap to accelerate the



adoption and domestic manufacturing of EVs in India, with the twin objective of strengthening energy security and promoting clean, sustainable mobility.

Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) EVs in India (FAME India): Under the NEMMP 2020 framework, the FAME India scheme was launched in 2015 to drive EV adoption. Phase I continued until March 2019, followed by Phase II, implemented over five years until April 2024.

EV adoption has seen a multifold surge, growing from 0.08% in FY15-16 to 8.26% in FY25-26. A decisive turning point came in the post-COVID period in FY22. Supported by targeted policy incentives, enhanced subsidies, and improved vehicle availability, EV adoption entered a phase of accelerated growth. While early adoption was dominated by e-rickshaws, electric two-wheelers soon gained significant traction.

## India in the Fast Lane: Scaling EV Growth Amid Global Expansion

Worldwide, consumer adoption of EVs is rising with competitively priced models and improved driving ranges entering the market. In India, this momentum is mirrored by strong policy support, rising sales and registrations, and a growing ecosystem of domestic manufacturing and charging

networks.

India's EV Scorecard - Rising Sales, Registrations and Exports: From a relatively small base of ~50,000 EVs sold in 2016, 2.3 million units have been sold in 2025, reflecting 46 times growth. India's growth has outpaced global trends, where EV sales increased ~20 times from 918,000 in 2016 to 18.78 million in 2024.

In 2025, Uttar Pradesh emerged as the largest EV market with 4 lakh+ units representing 18% of national EV sales, followed by Maharashtra with 2.66 lakh units (12%) and Karnataka with 2 lakh units (9% of total sales). India's EV penetration ramped up from one-fifth of global penetration in 2020 to over two-fifth in 2024. Much of this progress was driven by motorised two-wheelers (12.8 lakh units) and three-wheelers (8 lakh units) sold in 2025.

EV registrations have grown at a CAGR of over 62% in the past decade. After considerable domestic uptake, Indian EVs have begun making strong headway in international markets, with exports rising from USD 1.2 million in 2020 to USD 84 million in 2024. Top export destinations included Nepal, Indonesia and Japan.

Expanding Infrastructure: India's public EV charging network is expanding rapidly. According to BHEL, 16,561 of the 52,718 public charging stations available as of July



2026 are equipped with fast EV charging facilities. The e-Amrit tool helps locate charging stations based on one's location. Major industry players are actively enhancing charging infrastructure.

India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI): NITI Aayog launched the IEMI in August 2025, a first-of-its-kind framework tracking and comparing States and UTs in advancing electric mobility across 16 indicators. Delhi, Maharashtra, and Chandigarh have emerged as Frontrunners.

## Domestic Manufacturing at Speed: Powered by Startups and AI

India is transitioning from an assembly-led market to a comprehensive EV manufacturing hub. Domestic production now covers battery packs, motors, drivetrains, power electronics, wiring, and charging equipment. Leading OEMs like Tata Motors, Mahindra, TVS, Bajaj Auto are expanding capacity. Global players like VinFast, Tesla, and major Korean and Japanese battery firms are exploring large-scale manufacturing in India.

A historic milestone was achieved in August 2025 with the inauguration of Suzuki's first global strategic Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV), the "e VITARA," a Made-in-India vehicle aimed to be exported to 100+ countries. With ~400 EV startups currently operating, they are emerging as central players in India's evolving EV ecosystem. The advancing EV ecosystem is leveraging Artificial Intelligence to enhance the driving experience through voice-enabled navigation, real-time traffic insights, and intelligent route planning.

Rising Investment Momentum: India's EV ecosystem raised over USD 1.4 billion in FY 2025, ~27% higher than 2024. EV manufacturers attracted the bulk of this funding, securing around USD 1.2 billion.

## Strategic Policy Interventions for India's EVs

The Government has been driving electric mobility since 2015 with multiple schemes. As of December 2025, 29 states and UTs had notified EV policies. Leading states like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh have become major EV hubs.

Delhi's EV Policy: One of the most progressive EV policies in India, it aims to reduce vehicular emissions and improve air quality. In June 2026, the Government approved a comprehensive scheme with an outlay of 9,585 crore to replace around 2.07 lakh old commercial vehicles in Delhi-NCR.

National Mission on Manufacturing (NMM): The NMM (2025) identifies EVs as a key "seed" sector for innovation-led growth with ambitious targets for 2035, including doubling manufacturing's contribution to GDP to 25%.

PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement Scheme (PM E-DRIVE): Notified in 2024 with an outlay of 10,900 crore, the scheme aims to accelerate EV adoption through demand incentives, support for domestic manufacturing, and charging infrastructure expansion. Under the scheme, 22.12 lakh EVs have already been sold as of January 2026. 4,391 crore has been allocated for 14,028 e-buses, with 13,800 buses allocated to seven major cities. 2,000 crore has been earmarked for EV public charging stations across the country.

PM e-Bus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) Scheme: This scheme (2024) provides payment security coverage to each bus deployed for up to 12 years. A total of 10,000 electric buses are to be deployed via Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI): This scheme (2024) promotes electric car manufacturing, mandating a minimum investment of 4,150 crore and at least 25% Domestic Value Addition by year three and 50% by year five.

PLI Scheme for Automobile & Auto Components Industry (PLI-Auto Scheme): Launched in 2021, the scheme provides financial incentives to promote domestic manufacturing. A cumulative incentive of 2,377.56 crore has been disbursed, with 2,319.88 crore allocated to EV manufacturers.

PLI Scheme for National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage: With an outlay of 18,100 crore, the scheme aims to establish a cumulative ACC capacity of 50 GWh in India. Batteries account for 35-40% of an EV's total cost, making domestic ACC manufacturing critical.

Low GST on EVs: EVs in India attract a concessional GST rate of 5%.

## Driving Forward: India's EV Growth Outlook

India is reshaping itself from an import-dependent market into a globally competitive hub for EV production. The focus is on complete domestic EV production through 'Make in India'. India's EV market, valued at USD 3.71 billion in 2025, is projected to grow to USD 191.04 billion by 2034 at a CAGR of 54.94%. The Indian EV battery market is likely to grow from USD 2.71 billion in 2025 to USD 15.90 billion by 2034 at a CAGR of 21.70%.

India aims for 30% of all vehicle sales to be electric by 2030, aligning with the global EV30@30 initiative. The EV ecosystem is strengthened with the establishment of 1.32 million charging stations across India by 2030. India is expected to emerge as an export hub for electric two-wheelers, compact EVs, battery packs, and key drivetrain components.

The Government is developing the next phases of Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) norms, CAFE III (2027-2032) and CAFE IV (2033-2037), proposing stricter CO emission targets.

## At The Threshold of Transformation

India stands at the cusp of a defining mobility transformation. Demand is surging, manufacturing is scaling up, and technological capabilities are advancing. Key drivers like better finance access, rising awareness, tech advances, reliable charging, and a skilled workforce are accelerating India's EV transition. A reform-driven policy environment further provides compelling and durable advantage at scale. The road ahead will be shaped by deeper supply chain integration, accelerated localization of batteries, and a robust charging infrastructure. Together, these pillars are poised to define India's leadership in the global EV landscape.

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

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

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Induction Training

Justice must not only be done but be seen to be done: Acting Chief Justice

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 07: The Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy, under the patronage of Acting Chief Justice High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Sanjeev Kumar and the guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Chairman, Governing Committee, J&K Judicial Academy, Friday concluded the academy-based phase of the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme for 39 Trainee Civil Judges (Junior Division), Batch-2026.

The programme, as per an official statement, was graced by Acting Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, M K Sharma and other Judicial Officers of the registry.

In an engaging interactive session, the Acting Chief Justice congratulated the trainee Civil Judges on successfully completing the Academy-based phase of the induction programme. He said that the training had equipped them with the knowledge, skills and values essential for discharge of judicial functions effectively.

He emphasized that the office of a Judge is not merely a position of authority but a solemn constitutional trust, requiring the highest standards of integrity, impartiality, patience,



humility and unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

Stressing that justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done, the Acting Chief Justice exhorted the trainee officers to consciously guard against every form of bias, whether personal, social, cultural or unconscious. He asked them to ensure that every judicial determination is guided solely by the Constitution, the law and the evidence placed on record.

The Acting Chief Justice further highlighted the contemporary challenges confronting the justice delivery system, including inadequate judicial infrastructure, shortage of judicial officers, among other challenges. He observed that these challenges call for greater efficiency, resilience and commitment from judicial officers while reaffirming that they should never compromise the quality or fairness of justice.

He urged the trainee officers to remain fearless and independent in discharge of their judicial duties, courteous and

compassionate in their conduct. He impressed upon to embrace technology as an aid to justice and pursue continuous learning and self-improvement to effectively meet the evolving demands of judicial service.

Appreciating the dedicated efforts of the Director, Resource Persons, officers and staff of the J&K Judicial Academy in successfully conducting the induction programme, the Acting Chief Justice expressed confidence that the newly appointed Civil Judges would uphold the highest traditions of the Indian judiciary and discharge their constitutional responsibilities with courage, wisdom, integrity and compassion.

In his special address to the trainee officers, M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, described their appointment as the acceptance of a solemn constitutional responsibility. Emphasizing that the office of a Judge is a public trust, he exhorted them to uphold the highest standards of integrity,

impartiality, patience, humility and diligence in the discharge of their judicial functions. He urged them to treat every litigant with dignity, remain steadfast in upholding the rule of law without fear or favour and continue enriching their legal knowledge through constant learning and technological advancement.

Stressing that public confidence in the judiciary is earned through fairness, competence and exemplary conduct, he encouraged the officers to discharge their duties with courage, wisdom and compassion. He also appreciated the dedicated efforts of the Academy, its Resource Persons and staff in successfully conducting the induction programme.

Earlier, welcoming the dignitaries, Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, expressed his gratitude to Chief Justice for his continued encouragement to judicial education. He said that the academy-based phase had equipped the trainee Civil Judges with a sound foundation in law,

judicial skills, court administration, technology-enabled justice delivery and the core values of the judicial office. He informed the trainees that the forthcoming Court Attachment would provide them with valuable practical exposure to court proceedings and judicial administration, enabling them to translate classroom learning into courtroom practice.

Urging the officers to approach the attachment with sincerity, discipline and keen observation, he encouraged them to learn from experienced judicial officers and make the most of this formative phase of their training.

He also expressed gratitude to Justice Rajnesh Oswal, the Members of the Governing Committee, M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, all the Resource Persons and the officers and staff of the Academy for their constant guidance, support and contributions towards the successful conduct of the programme.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Saiga Sharief Khan, Trainee Civil Judge, while the proceedings were moderated by Priyanka Bhardwaj, Trainee Civil Judge. The academy-based phase of the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme concluded with the trainee officers poised to commence their Court Attachment, marking the next phase of their journey towards judicial service.

Aesthetic Packaging, GI Labelling

National Handloom Day celebrated in Srinagar



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 7: Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Friday organised an exhibition of high-value textile products made by the finest artisans and weavers from Kashmir, to commemorate the National Handloom Day.

The exhibition, as per an official statement, was inaugurated by Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, at S. K. Park, here. Development Officer, Textiles, Arjumand Yaqub, AD Srinagar, Sadia Ahmed, PEO, Riyaz Ahmad Kawoosa and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

In a press statement issued here Friday, a spokesperson, as per an official statement, of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department Kashmir stated that every year on August 7, a fervent appeal is issued to the buyers and art lovers to join the 'Be Vocal for Local' campaign, which goes a long way in making our artisans and weavers self-sustained. "It is very pleasing to note that a large number of visitors turned up at SK Park to buy famous handcrafted Pashmina, Kani and Sozni shawls made by the golden

hands of artisans and weavers from Kashmir," he added.

Earlier, the Director went around the stalls and interacted with the artisans and weavers and encouraged them to get their products tested and labelled at Pashmina Testing & Quality Certification Centre (PTQCC), CDI Srinagar. "Apart from Vocal for Local campaign, our Department urges tourists and buyers to insist on QR Coded GI products to overcome the serious challenge posed by the counterfeit products, sold in the garb of genuine handmade products," he added.

The Director also highlighted the importance of aesthetic packaging of high-value Pashmina and Kani Shawls so that its brand value is enhanced. "Towards this, the Department under RAMP is soon organising capacity building workshops with Indian Institute of Packaging, New Delhi," he added.

The spokesman further stated that the National Handloom Day also provided an opportunity to give traction to Srinagar city's unique distinction of having been notified as a Craft City by World Craft Council and UNESCO City under its Creative Cities Network.

DC Ramban, SSP conduct security review of vital Installations

KT News Desk

RAMBAN, AUGUST 07: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alys Khan and SSP Arun Gupta Friday chaired a Joint Security Review (JSR) meeting to review the security of vital installations, critical infrastructure and vulnerable areas.

The meeting attended by senior officers and representatives from companies operating in the district assessed adherence to prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the safety, security and welfare measures undertaken for their employees.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Lead District Manager, General Managers from various companies, representatives from NHPC and other concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner sought detailed information from the companies operating in the district regarding total workforce, including local and non-local employees. He also reviewed the safety and security arrangements in place for employees residing and working at various project sites.

Emphasizing the importance

of employee safety and welfare, the DC directed all companies to conduct monthly reviews of their security and safety arrangements. He further stated that compliance reports would be monitored regularly at the district level to ensure effective implementation of prescribed safety protocols.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed all General Managers to ensure that every eligible employee is covered under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), thereby providing financial security to employees and their families in case of unforeseen incidents.

Addressing the meeting, the SSP stressed the need to strengthen security infrastructure at all company establishments. He directed the companies to install adequate CCTV surveillance systems at employees' residential accommodations as well as work sites.

The SSP further directed the companies to sensitize the employees about the emergency helpline 112 and advised them to immediately contact the emergency service or the concerned Police Station/Police Post in case of any emergency.

Digital Public Service Delivery

Commissioner SMC launches online Community Hall booking portal

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 07: In a significant step towards strengthening e-governance and enhancing citizen-centric municipal services, the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, on Friday inaugurated the Online Community Hall Booking Portal at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar.

The newly launched portal, as per an official statement, has been developed to provide a seamless, transparent, and user-friendly digital platform for the online booking and management of SMC community halls. The initiative aims to simplify the booking process, eliminate unnecessary manual procedures, improve operational efficiency, and ensure greater transparency, accountability, and convenience in the allotment of community halls.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner stated that the launch of the portal reflects Srinagar Municipal Corporation's continued commitment to leveraging technology for improving governance



and delivering efficient public services. He observed that the adoption of digital platforms is essential for building a responsive, transparent, accountable, and citizen-friendly urban administration.

The Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure the effective implementation, smooth operation, and regular monitoring of the portal to provide hassle-free services to the public. He also emphasized the importance of conducting widespread public awareness and outreach initiatives so that citizens are well informed about the online booking facility and can conveniently avail themselves of its benefits.

Highlighting the broader vision behind the initiative, the Commissioner remarked that the portal is fully aligned with the Government's objective of promoting digital governance and transforming public service delivery through technology-driven solutions that enhance accessibility, efficiency, and transparency.

The launch of the Online Community Hall Booking Portal marks another significant milestone in SMC's digital transformation journey and reaffirms the Corporation's commitment to delivering modern, accessible, efficient, transparent, and technology-enabled municipal services to the citizens of Srinagar.

MMU Camps: 170 people avail free healthcare services in remote villages of Medical Block Ghat



KT News Desk

DODA, AUGUST 07: The Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) Chief Medical Officer Friday organised free medical camps at the remote villages of Banjoi and Sorouna in Medical Block Ghat.

The camps were organised under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner and the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer.

Block Medical Officer coordinated the camp held with the objective of providing quality healthcare services at the doorsteps of people residing in far-flung areas. A total of 170 people availed the services at the camps.

The medical team, as per an official statement, provided a wide range of healthcare services, including general health

check-ups, screening for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) & TB, haemoglobin (Hb) testing, dental screening, health counselling and free distribution of essential medicines.

The team also conducted health education and IEC activities to promote preventive healthcare practices and healthy lifestyle habits. Beneficiaries were sensitised to the JK Sehat App and provided hands-on guidance regarding the registration process to enable them to conveniently access digital healthcare services.

The medical team consisted of Dr. Nasir Hussain (MLHP), Dr. Tarif Younas (MLHP), Irshad Hussain (Dental Technician), besides the staff of the MMU Doda, who rendered their services during the camps.

Enforcement of food safety measures stepped up in Kishtwar

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 07: A meeting of the District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) on Food Safety and Healthy Diets was Friday held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma here in the Meeting Hall, New DC Office Complex.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the measures in place to ensure the availability of quality food to the public and the effective implementation and monitoring of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

At the outset, the DC took a comprehensive review of the functioning and achievements of the Food Safety Department, including the activities carried out. A detailed discussion was held on issues related to food safety standards, hygiene practices and compliance by Food Business Operators (FBOs) in the district.

The meeting was apprised of



the current status of food safety measures in the district and the proactive steps undertaken by the department to ensure the supply of safe and healthy food to the public.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Food Safety Department to ensure 100% installation of glass frames in all mutton and chicken shops by FBOs to enhance hygiene conditions. The Department was asked to conduct special drives to check the quality of milk, milk products, chicken, mutton, poultry and other items on a regular basis. Directions were issued to ensure registration of all food business

establishments in the district.

Additionally, the DC emphasized conducting intensive awareness programmes to familiarize the FBOs, including ICDS and MDM workers, regarding fortified food and mandatory registration under the Food Safety and Standards Act. He also directed the CEO and PO ICDS and set a 5-day deadline for the submission of lists of ICDS and MDM workers.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed strict enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and directed officers to take legal action against FBOs found violating the Act,

especially in relation to milk and milk products, honey and ghee.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the DO, Drugs & Food Control Department, to organise a License Registration Mela at Sub-Division Paddar.

The Food Safety Department, Kishtwar, apprised the Deputy Commissioner that 4 milk samples collected within District Kishtwar had failed. The DC directed the department to impose heavy penalties for violations related to milk and milk products.

The meeting was attended by committee members, including ADC Pawan Kotwal; CMO; Designated Officer, Food Safety Farooq Ahmad Sheikh; CMO Dr. Sanjay Bhat; CEO Sanjay Dogra; CAO Kushal Chandel; Food Safety Officer Sajad Hussain; Food Safety Expert, Rajni Devi and Retired Food Safety Officer, Prethpal Singh; besides representatives from consumer organizations, Food Business Associations and enforcement departments.

Fixation Committee discusses procurement rates for Rabi 2026-27

KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 07: The Committee constituted to finalize the procurement, landed and sale rates of Toria (all varieties) and open-pollinated vegetable seeds for Rabi 2026-27, along with the sale rates of potato seed tubers met here Friday.

Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu Anil Gupta chaired the meeting held at Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo. Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) Sanjay Anand; Chief Scientist, Plant Breeding & Genetics, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Parveen Singh; Professor, Department of Vegetable Science and Floriculture, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Anil Bhushan; Nodal Officer (Seed), SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Vijay Bharti; Potato Development Officer, Ravi Sharma; Divisional Seed Certification Officer, Nimal Prakash Sharma, besides other committee members attended the meeting. Director Agriculture, Kashmir Sartaj Ahmad Shah, participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The Committee, as per an official statement, held detailed deliberations on the prevailing procurement and landed costs of different seed categories and examined the rates proposed for the forthcoming Rabi season. The discussions focused on ensuring timely availability of quality seed material at appropriate rates to farmers across the Jammu Division.

The Director stressed the need to ensure timely availability of high-quality vegetable and potato seeds to farmers. "Open-pollinated varieties, hybrid vegetable seeds shall also be included in the procurement plan, with hybrid seeds comprising more than 25 percent of the total supply," he directed. He further directed the officials of the Vegetable Improvement Scheme (VIS), Jammu, to collect district-wise seed demand from all Chief Agriculture Officers, clearly indicating the major crops and varieties required, so that procurement could be planned in accordance with field-level

requirements.

Anil Gupta also called for strict adherence to the mandated cropping pattern at departmental farms and emphasized that production and procurement planning should remain aligned with the actual requirements of farmers.

Highlighting the emerging trend of urban farming, the Director suggested inclusion of vegetable seed mini-kits in the procurement plan to facilitate urban growers and encourage vegetable cultivation in urban and peri-urban areas.

After detailed deliberations, the committee finalized the procurement rates for seeds of major vegetable crops and potato seed tubers for the forthcoming Rabi season. The exercise is aimed at ensuring transparent and rational fixation of seed rates, timely availability of quality planting material and effective implementation of the Rabi season seed distribution programme, thereby facilitating farmers in making timely arrangements for sowing.

# Opposition cannot dictate which minister will come to House and respond: Rijiju

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 07: Amid a demand from the Congress and other parties that Home Minister Amit Shah should answer questions on the recent police action on protesting students here, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday asserted in the Lok Sabha that the opposition cannot dictate which minister will come to the House and respond.

As the House proceedings were disrupted again, Rijiju also said that Shah comes to Parliament every day and stays till late night. Shah is a man whose name sends shivers down the spine of extremists and terrorists, he said amid thumping of desks by members of the treasury benches.

"The day discussion begins here (in Lok Sabha) and when Amit Shah responds, you (opposition) won't be able to hear (digest)," Rijiju told the protesting members.

According to the procedure, the minister who has listed business has to come to the House.

"You cannot dictate which minister will come to the House and who will respond. That is decided by the government and the Chair," the parliamentary affairs minister said.

The opposition has been



demanding a response from Shah on the police crackdown on students, who were protesting against the NEET paper leak in the national capital last month.

As a result of the protests on this issue and other matters, the Monsoon session, which commenced on July 20, has witnessed continuous disruptions. Rijiju also told the opposition members to stop disrupting the proceedings.

Chairman C P Radhakrishnan had on Thursday asked Rijiju to "echo the sentiments" of the opposition to the home minister as the opposition members continued with their demand for a response from Shah.

Amid the din on Friday, the House was adjourned to meet on Monday. During the Zero

Hour, which went on for nearly 16 minutes, the House passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSME) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 without debate. Besides, papers were listed as well as reports of various parliamentary committees were tabled.

Speaking to reporters in the Parliament House complex, Rijiju said Parliament continues to function despite repeated disruptions by the opposition.

"We have transacted business and passed the MSME Bill in the Lok Sabha. Business is continuing. Discussions have been fewer because the Congress and opposition parties disrupted proceedings by raising slogans.

"But business has been transacted and all NDA members in

the Rajya Sabha participated in the debate and presented their views. There should be no confusion that the House has not functioned," he said.

Rijiju added that the House has functioned and bills have been passed. Only the discussions have been fewer because of the disruptions," he told reporters.

The minister clarified that there is no question of a special session while Parliament is already in session.

"There is no proposal for a special session. The Monsoon session is currently underway. How can we talk about a special session while the current session is still in progress?" he said.

Rejecting the opposition's claims over Shah's non-participation in Parliament, Rijiju said Shah remains in the Parliament complex from morning till late at night and accused the opposition of indulging in "drama" over the issue.

"The home minister remains in Parliament from morning till late at night. There should not be any drama over this. I have said this in the House as well," he said.

The minister asserted that under the principle of collective responsibility, it is for the government to decide which minister replies to a particular debate. The parliamentary

affairs minister said the government decides the appropriate time for Shah to intervene in Parliament.

"Whenever Home Minister Amit Shah speaks, it will be on the relevant issue at the right time. The opposition cannot demand that any minister should come and speak on a particular day. They cannot direct the Chair. They can only make a request," he said.

He said the government has several important bills lined up, including legislation relating to tribunals and mines and minerals.

"Every bill is important for the government and every bill is a priority. Which bill is to be brought at what time and on which day, I cannot definitely say," he said.

Rijiju also accused the Congress of opposing delimitation and women's reservation.

"Delimitation and women's reservation are very important issues. The Congress opposes both," he said.

This is a betrayal of the women of the country, Rijiju charged.

"Our commitment is known to everyone. The prime minister has repeatedly said that we will ensure women get their rights. The Congress continues to oppose it and will have to face the charge of being anti-women," he said.

# Gold rises for fourth day to Rs 1.54 lakh/10g in Delhi; silver remains flat

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 07: Gold prices rose by Rs 200 to Rs 1.54 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, tracking a sharp rally in overseas markets as a weaker US dollar and softer crude oil prices lifted bullion demand.

Rising for the fourth consecutive session, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity increased by Rs 200 to Rs 1,54,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Thursday's closing level of Rs 1,53,800 per 10 grams, according to local traders.

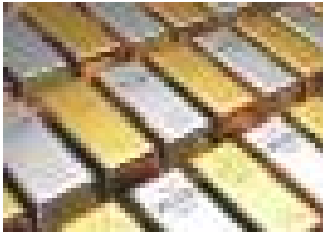
However, silver remained unchanged at Rs 2,34,800 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) after witnessing a sharp rise in the previous session, according to local traders.

Gold extended its gains for the fourth consecutive session, with the precious metal heading for its strongest weekly performance since January, said Gaurav Garg, Head of Research, Lemonn Markets Desk.

He attributed the rally to a weak dollar, easing inflation expectations and continued demand for bullion ahead of the US non-farm payrolls report, which could influence the Federal Reserve's next policy decision.

Garg said silver prices also advanced on the back of improving sentiment among investors.

In the international markets, spot gold rose USD 84.74, or 2 per



cent, to USD 4,325.43 per ounce, while silver gained strength by advancing more than 4 per cent to USD 64.17 per ounce.

Spot gold edged higher in the overseas markets to near USD 4,350 per ounce on Friday, while silver climbed over 4 per cent to around USD 64 an ounce, Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, said.

She said both metals were on course for their strongest weekly performance since January, supported by softer crude oil prices and a weak US dollar as hopes of a shipping arrangement through the Strait of Hormuz eased concerns over supply disruptions.

Chainwala further said renewed institutional demand remained supportive, with global gold exchange-traded funds recording inflows of 23.5 tonnes in July after two consecutive months of outflows.

Market participants are awaiting the US non-farm payrolls report later in the day, which is expected to provide fresh cues on the Federal Reserve's interest rate outlook, she added.

# Despite efforts, Indian seafarers missing after Black Sea drone attack couldn't be traced: Govt

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 07: The government on Friday told the Supreme Court that two Indian seafarers, who went missing after their cargo vessel was attacked in the Black Sea near Ukraine, could not be located despite exhaustive search and rescue operations.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the search and rescue operations were undertaken by Ukrainian authorities, the Romanian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre

(MRCC), the Romanian Coast Guard and other associated rescue services.

The bench took note of the Action Taken Report filed by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and said that according to information received up to August 5, Deepak Kumar Gupta and Rama Chandra could not be located despite these extensive search operations.

"It is stated that search operations presently remain suspended pending receipt of fresh information while DGMA continues to pursue all pending investigation and SAR (search and rescue operations) reports and remains engaged with all

concerned stakeholders", the bench recorded in the order.

The bench asked the Centre to facilitate insurance claims for the families of the missing seafarers.

The top court was hearing a plea by Deepak Kumar Gupta's elder brother Sandeep Kumar Gupta, seeking directions to the MEA to coordinate with Indian embassies in Ukraine and Romania to undertake search and rescue operations.

The petitioner said the plea was filed after his family's persistent requests to the government of India and Indian embassies in the two countries went unheard.



The plea contended that the family wrote to the MEA and the Indian embassies in the two countries between July 26 and July 30 but the representations did not evoke any response or any positive assurance.

Deepak Gupta, 22, went missing after their merchant vessel carrying Indian crew members came under attack near Ukraine's Odesa port.

At the outset, Mehta said the MEA and the Directorate General

of Maritime Administration (DGMA) had jointly filed the action taken report and despite best efforts, the two seafarers could not be traced.

Justice Bagchi told Mehta that the employment contracts of the seamen provided for insurance and the government may facilitate insurance claims for the families.

The counsel for families alleged that no search and rescue operations were carried out and the embassy's account shows the position as on July 26.

Mehta submitted that there was no practical purpose in continuing search and rescue operations in the sea but stated that

the authorities were maintaining continuous follow-up with all stakeholders.

On August 3, the top court had asked the MEA to use its diplomatic channel and trace the seafarers missing after their cargo ship was attacked.

It had asked Mehta to seek instruction from the Indian Embassy in Ukraine and Embassy of India, Bucharest, Romania and enquire about the whereabouts of Deepak Gupta.

According to family members, Deepak Gupta, a resident of Bharataul village in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh, was working as a crew member aboard the merchant vessel MV AGN Ragnar.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### CM Omar directs

senior NHAI officials, Traffic Police officers and other concerned officers.

Emphasising that the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is the lifeline of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister directed the concerned agencies to expedite restoration works and take all necessary measures to ensure smooth, safe and uninterrupted movement of traffic.

He laid particular emphasis on facilitating the movement of trucks carrying fruit and other agricultural produce, noting that any prolonged disruption on the highway adversely impacts growers, traders and the overall economy.

The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among the NHAI, executing agencies, Traffic Police and the district administration to minimise inconvenience to commuters and ensure effective traffic management during the ongoing restoration works.

He instructed the officers to closely monitor vulnerable stretches, deploy adequate manpower and machinery wherever required, and complete the remaining works at the earliest while maintaining the highest safety standards.

The Chief Minister's visit comes in the wake of the recent spell of heavy rainfall that triggered landslides, shooting stones and mudslides at multiple locations along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, leading to repeated closures of the arterial road over the past several days.

### AI must deliver

governance and bridge the gap between technology and citizens. "Artificial Intelligence must ultimately translate into better outcomes for people. The Centre of Excellence will help us build more efficient, responsive and citizen-centric governance, while Project Phoenix will create new opportunities for artisans, self-help groups, startups and MSMEs to access wider markets," he said.

The Chief Minister said AI should be deployed in healthcare, education, agriculture and disaster management to improve service delivery and support informed decision-making.

Referring to the recent cloudbursts in Rajouri and Poonch, Omar said AI-enabled early warning systems could help identify localised risks and save lives through timely alerts.

He also said the technology could assist farmers and horticulturists by providing timely information on crop diseases, treatment methods and the scientific use of agrochemicals.

CM Omar said Project Phoenix would complement the government's Mission YUVA

initiative by improving market access, mentorship and incubation support for startups and local enterprises while strengthening the innovation ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

### CM urges people

and other non-potable uses," he said.

CM Omar said preserving water resources and constructing check dams would strengthen water conservation and groundwater recharge.

Describing Rs 124.19-crore Udampur water supply project as a significant step towards strengthening the town's water infrastructure, CM Omar said it would ensure a sustainable supply of safe and quality drinking water while meeting the needs of its growing population.

Reiterating his government's commitment to inclusive development, the Chief Minister said all genuine public demands raised by people and their elected representatives would be examined and addressed on priority. (KNO)

### India-Pak ties can

unilateral measures, including downgrading diplomatic relations and suspension of bilateral trade with India.

The government said that in response to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, perpetrated by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists, India took several diplomatic measures. These included holding in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty, closing the check-post at Attari, restricting visas and downsizing diplomatic and official presence at the respective Missions.

Military action targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) was also undertaken, the government said.

The government said India and Pakistan currently maintain their respective diplomatic Missions in each other's capitals.

It said both sides continue to have functional engagements, including DGMO-level talks, exchange of pre-notification of flight testing of ballistic missiles, exchange of lists of nuclear installations and exchange of lists of prisoners in each other's custody.

The government said India has made clear its approach of responding appropriately against cross-border terrorism and its infrastructure, while not tolerating any form of blackmail and taking comprehensive steps to protect its citizens.

"These considerations," the government said, "shape India's conviction that normal bilateral relations require an end to cross-border terrorism".

The government reiterated that

India-Pakistan relations can move ahead only in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence, maintaining that Pakistan continues to follow a policy of cross-border terrorism and uses terrorism as an instrument of State policy against India. (KNO)

### Flash flood sweeps

August 8 will witness one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places. Brief intense showers are also expected at a few places.

The MeT predicted few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at most places between August 9 and 11.

It specifically warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall in a few districts of Jammu division and brief intense heavy showers are likely at a few districts in Kashmir division.

From August 12 to 17, the weather department said there is a possibility of light rain and thundershower at many places, with brief intense showers at a few places.

The department has issued an advisory for August 9 to 11, citing the possibility of heavy to very heavy rain and brief intense heavy showers at a few districts.

Torrential rain and brief intense heavy showers may generate flashfloods and landslides at vulnerable places and cause water logging in low lying areas," the MeT said.

People have been advised to stay away from nallahs, landslide-prone areas and other vulnerable spots, while authorities have been asked to remain alert

### TEMPERATURES REMAIN BELOW NORMAL

According to the MeT Department, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 28.5 degrees Celsius, 1.4 degrees below normal, while Pahalgam settled at 23.5 degrees Celsius, 2.2 degrees below the seasonal average. Kupwara recorded 28.3 degrees Celsius, 2.4 degrees below normal, and Gulmarg registered a maximum of 20.2 degrees Celsius.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 33.7 degrees Celsius, marginally above normal. Light rainfall was recorded at Qazigund (1.3 mm), Katra (2 mm) and Bhaderwah (1.4 mm) during the day, while several stations in Kashmir reported trace rainfall over the previous 24 hours. (KNO)

### Amarnath Yatra crosses

annual pilgrimage began on July 3 and is scheduled to conclude on August 28. (KNO)

### J&K, Ladakh likely

peak demand, the authorities had also projected that there will be an electrical energy

requirement of 23,372 Million Units (MU) in the financial year 2026-2027.

It also said that in the year 2027-28, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 24,559 MU of energy followed by 25,780 MU in the year 2028-29. (KNO)

### Omar says PDP

bitten like this," he said.

The Chief Minister alleged that the party was trying to mislead people through "cheap publicity stunts".

"They are only trying to overshadow the 'banta hai' image, but unfortunately, the PDP deserves such things," he added.

He also welcomed RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks that criticism of the government during recent student protests should not be treated as anti-national.

"Opposing the government is not the same as opposing the country. Often, criticism of the government benefits the country because mistakes are corrected. Whatever action was taken over the irregularities in the NEET examination happened because of this movement.

Perhaps the examination process will improve from now on. This was in the country's interest," he said. (KNO)

### 3.65 lakh cases

pending before the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as on July 30, 2026. Of these, 6,106 cases were pending for more than 10 years, and 7,328 cases had been pending for more than five years.

For Ladakh, the Ministry said 1,745 cases were pending in district and subordinate courts as on July 30, 2026. Of these, 12 cases had been pending for more than 10 years, while 98 cases had been pending for more than five years.

On the e-Courts Project, Meghwal said the government has approved Phase III for 2023-27 with a budget outlay of Rs 7,210 crore. The phase aims to transform courts into digital and paperless courts, expand video conferencing facilities to all courts, jails and hospitals, and integrate stakeholders of the criminal justice system.

The minister said the project also envisages universal saturation of eSewa Kendras, a cloud-based repository for digitised court records and deployment of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR), for case analysis and forecasting.

"More than 753 crore pages of court records have been digitised so far, while 2,584 eSewa Kendras have been established across the country. Courts have conducted more than

4.18 crore hearings through video conferencing and around 1.25 crore cases have been filed electronically through the eFiling platform," he said.

According to the ministry, Rs 3,225 crore was allocated under Phase III of the e-Courts Project from 2023-24 to 2026-27, against which Rs 2,543.81 crore had been spent.

The government also said the primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for district and subordinate courts rests with state governments and UT administrations. However, the Centre has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of judicial infrastructure since 1993-94.

The scheme covers court halls, residential units for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms. The Centre has provided Rs 12,858.25 crore to States and UTs under the scheme since its inception, the reply said. (KNO)

### Cloudbursts, inclement

pony operators said the number of visitors has fallen compared to expectations for the peak tourist season.

"We were hoping for a busy August, but repeated weather advisories and intermittent road disruptions have affected business. Most tourists are making only day visits instead of staying overnight," said Ghulam Nabi, a hotelier in Sonamarg.

Officials said restoration work is underway at affected locations, with road clearance and repair operations being carried out to ensure connectivity wherever weather conditions permit.

The Meteorological Department has forecast intermittent rainfall over the coming days and advised tourists and residents to remain cautious, particularly in vulnerable areas prone to landslides, flash floods and cloudbursts.

Tourism stakeholders expressed hope that an improvement in weather conditions would revive tourist arrivals during the remaining part of the summer season, especially to Kashmir's lesser-known destinations that have emerged as popular attractions in recent years. (KNO)

### Labourer found

initiated inquest proceedings and the body will be handed over to the family after completion of legal formalities. (KNO)

### Pony operator

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and launched an investigation. (KNO)

# NEET paper leak: Experts breached 'obligation of secrecy'; face life imprisonment, Rs 1 cr fine

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 7: The three National Testing Agency (NTA) subject experts breached an "obligation of secrecy" and circulated the question papers of the NEET UG exam, said the the chargesheet filed by the CBI before a Delhi court.

According to the provisions invoked against them, each faces the prospect of life imprisonment and a Rs 1 crore fine. Interestingly, the agency has considered them "public servants" while invoking the charges against them as they were entrusted with "confidential" property or question papers.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET-UG, is conducted by the NTA for medical aspirants. On May 12, the NTA cancelled the NEET-UG held on May 3 for admissions in medical courses amid allegations of paper leak. A re-examination was conducted on June 21.

Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan later resigned over the NEET paper leak row following the protests.

According to the chargesheet, biology subject expert



Manisha Gurunath Mandhare, chemistry subject expert P V Kulkarni and physics expert Manisha Sanjay Havaladar had signed a "certificate of confidentiality".

It said each of them declared they were "not directly or indirectly involved in coaching for any entrance examination conducted by NTA, that the question/question paper would not be written or typed personally by them, that it would be kept under lock and key while in their possession, and that they would not retain any note, copy or rough draft of questions".

The final report said that despite this obligation of secrecy, the investigation revealed that Mandhare conducted coaching classes at her Pune residence, Kulkarni conducted "special classes" for candidates

shortly before the exam at his residence and also in Pune, and Havaladar "circulated" the confidential question papers herself and through her associates.

It said, "Thus, the investigation establishes that, despite being entrusted with confidential work as a Biology subject expert for NEET UG 2026, accused Manisha Gurunath Mandhare was involved in coaching candidates, was connected with the circulation of confidential questions prior to the examination, received and handled such material through electronic means and through coaccused persons, facilitated the printing and onward handing over of question notes for unlawful gain."

It said that despite being entrusted with confidential work as a chemistry subject

expert, Kulkarni "conducted special classes immediately before the examination, shared leaked Chemistry questions with candidates for monetary gain, remained in contact with candidates, parents and co-accused persons, participated in the collection and receipt of money, and was part of the wider conspiracy for leaking confidential examination material before the exam".

According to the agency's final report, its probe revealed that despite being entrusted with confidential physics-related work and being bound by a confidentiality undertaking, Manisha Sanjay Havaladar was involved in the leakage and circulation of physics questions before the examination herself or through persons connected with her.

It said that Havaladar transmitted and handled such material through electronic means, facilitated the printing and delivery of leaked question notes, remained in contact with co-accused persons and acted for monetary gain.

The CBI has booked the three experts under the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act provisions for criminal misconduct by a public servant.

## Reach of handloom products in global mkts can be expanded through e-comm platforms: President

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 7: The country's handloom sector offers significant employment opportunities, and the reach of these products in global markets can be expanded through e-commerce platforms, President Droupadi Murmu said on Friday.

Speaking at the 12th National Handloom Day celebrations here, she said about 35 lakh people are engaged in the sector and out of that over 25 lakh are women.

The President also exuded confidence that the sector will serve as a robust foundation for the country's inclusive growth and self-reliance.

She also conferred the prestigious Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards 2025 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre.

The President also said the appropriate use of new technologies is essential for the sustainable



development of this sector.

Market access can be made more effective through modern digital solutions, she said.

"Moreover, the reach of Indian handloom products to global markets can be significantly strengthened through e-commerce platforms," she said adding many talented young entrepreneurs, equipped with technology and innovative designs, are entering this sector. She said that there

should be proactive hand-holding of the youth through government schemes and institutions so that their enthusiasm and skills can ensure long-term, multifaceted success of this sector.

Young entrepreneurs, designers, and startups can create new opportunities in this field by linking traditional crafts with modern trends, brands, and global value chains, the President added.

## PM to address IIT-Delhi convocation today

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday address the 57th convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

Over 3000 graduating students, including 587 PhD scholars, will be conferred their degrees during the ceremony.

Recognising outstanding academic excellence, the prime minister will present the institute's most prestigious honours, including the President's Gold Medal, Director's Gold Medal, Shankar Dayal Sharma Gold Medal, and Perfect Ten Gold Medals to meritorious students, an official statement said on Friday.

Emphasising India's commitment to advancing cutting-edge research and artificial intelligence, Modi will inaugurate Param Pragma, an AI-powered high-performance supercomputing facility established at the Sonipat Campus of IIT Delhi.

The state-of-the-art facility is expected to significantly enhance the institute's



Emphasising India's commitment to advancing cutting-edge research and artificial intelligence, Modi will inaugurate Param Pragma, an AI-powered high-performance supercomputing facility established at the Sonipat Campus of IIT Delhi.

## India has 86,360 PG medical seats: Govt

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 7: India currently has over 86,000 post-graduate medical seats, with Karnataka accounting for the highest number, while there is no proposal to convert all diploma seats into full-fledged Diplome of National Board (DNB) seats, the government informed Parliament on Friday.

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Health Minister J P Nadda said the National Medical Commission (NMC) and the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) have informed the government that there are a total of 86,360 PG medical seats across the country.

## Over 1,000 One Stop Centres set up across country: Govt tells LS



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 7: Government has set up over 1,000 one stop centres (OSCs) for helping women affected by violence and those in distress, both in private and public spaces all across the country, Lok Sabha was informed on Friday.

Since the inception of this program in April, 2015 to June, 2026, over 15 lakh women have been assisted in the country through these OSCs, said the Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur in response to a question by Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav. The minister said under the Mission Shakti guidelines, one stop centre provides integrated and immediate support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence and those in distress, both in private and public spaces all across the country. The centres are required to meet the prescribed minimum infrastructure and service standards, including adequate space for counselling, temporary shelter, medical and legal support, accessibility for persons with disabilities, a dedicated vehicle with scheme branding, trained staff and convergence with the Police, Health Department and District Legal Services Authority to provide integrated support and assistance to women in distress.

## India weathered Hormuz disruption without fuel shortages: Puri

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 7: India successfully shielded consumers from supply disruptions triggered by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz earlier this year through diversified sourcing, expanded refining capacity and higher domestic production, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Friday, while outlining the government's broader strategy to strengthen the country's energy security.

Addressing an industry event organised by the

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Puri said India had moved beyond viewing energy security solely through the lens of access to hydrocarbons, citing diversified imports, strategic partnerships, infrastructure expansion and alternative fuels as key pillars of its approach.

"Today, I think we are in the happy situation of being able to say that, as far as India is concerned, we have moved on from that," he said. He said India maintained uninterrupted fuel supplies despite disruptions

to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy transit route. The Iran war disrupted energy supplies through the strait. Pre-war, India imported as much as half its crude oil from countries using the strait as a transit. Also, 90 per cent of cooking gas LPG and 60 per cent of gas imports passed through the strait.

These supplies were disrupted, but India diversified its sources to prevent any dryout anywhere in the country.

"I can say with a degree

## BRICS nations must work together on education challenges: Pralhad Joshi

PTI

Bhubaneswar, Aug 7: Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday called on BRICS countries to work together to address common challenges in the education sector, saying issues such as resilience, innovation and sustainability cannot be tackled in isolation.

Chairing the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting, which concluded with the adoption of a five-point BRICS Education Ministers' Declaration, Joshi said India's chairship was guided by the principles of resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability.

Reaffirming India's commitment to a 'people-centric' and 'humanity-first' approach to BRICS cooperation, Joshi said innovation is essential to ensure education systems continuously evolve to meet the aspirations of future generations.

Explaining the importance of resilience, Joshi said education systems must be capable of withstanding disruptions caused by pandemics, economic uncertainties, climate-related challenges and the rapid pace of technological change.

On innovation, the minister said education systems cannot afford to remain static.

"This is because the world around us is changing rapidly. Education systems must continue to evolve to meet the aspirations of each new generation and prepare our young people for opportunities that may not even exist today," he said.

Emphasising the need for collaboration, Joshi said cooperation and sustainability are essential to effectively address shared challenges.

"More of us can meet these challenges, but none of us can address them in



isolation. The knowledge we create, the technology we develop and the institutions we strengthen must serve not only the present generation but also the generations to come," he said.

He said that education systems must prepare young people for emerging opportunities while remaining firmly rooted in human values.

Learners, teachers, researchers and young people should remain at the centre of policy-making and international cooperation, he said.

Joshi said education is the foundation of inclusive growth and shared prosperity, and that the adopted declaration reflected the collective commitment of BRICS nations to strengthen cooperation across the five priority areas. He also stressed the importance of preserving and promoting traditional and indigenous knowledge systems.

He said innovation and heritage complement one another.

"The rich civilisational traditions of BRICS nations presented a unique opportunity to preserve traditional knowledge, study it rigorously, and pass on its value to future generations," the minister said.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR RAJPORA (EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS)

Subject-. Application of Shri Ashok Kumar Bhat S/o Shri Janki Nath Phat (Migrant-) bearing Online Application No. 05461706202623014865 for attestation of inheritance mutation for land titled Shri Janki Nath (Deceased) in estate Hawal Rajpora District Pulwama.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This office has received an application from Shri Ashok Kumar Bhat S/o Shri Janki Nath Bhat (Migrant), seeking, attestation of the inheritance mutation in estate Hawal for land recorded in the name of Shri Janki Nath Bhat S/o Late Shri Gopi Nadi Bhat. (Deceased).

The applicant has submitted the death certificate of the deceased, which reveals that late Shri Yudhishter Dewan expired on 05/04/1996 The applicant has also furnished a Legal Heir Certificate, which indicates that the deceased has left behind the following legal heir:

- 1) Ashok Kumar Bhat — (Son)
- 2) Anita Raina Daughter of Jagar Nath Bhat — (Grand-daughter)
- 3) Baby Bhat Pandita Daughter of Jagar Nath Bhat — (Grand-daughter)
- 4) Dazy Bhat Daughter of Jagar Nath Bhat — (Grand-daughter)
- 5) Rani Bhat Widow of Jagar Nath Bhat — (Daughter in Law)
- 6) Pummy Kumari Bhat Daughter of Mot Lai Bhat — (Grand-daughter)
- 7) Sanjay Bhat Son of Jagar Nath Bhat (Grandson)
- 8) Sunita Bhat Daughter of Jagar Nath Bhat — (Grand-daughter)
- 9) Kunal Bhat Son of Roop Krishan Bhat — (Grandson)
- 10) Rakhshit Bhat Son of Roop Krishan Bhat — (Grandson)

in this connection, the case for attestation of the inheritance mutation is under process In the of-fice of the undersigned. Based on local verification, it came to fore that Shri Janki Nath (Deceased) Is further survived by five daughters namely Mohini Mujoo, Phula Raina, Ratna Reshi, Nancy Jalali and Kheema Koul, who have already furnished an affidavit with respect to relinquish their share. Consequent upon which, the inheritance mutation of Shri Janki Nath (Deceased) stands already attested vide Mu-tation No. 6 In estate Kuchowpora, wherein all the daughters of Shri Janki Nath have relinquished their share.

Furthermore, Legal Heir No. 6 and 7 namely Pummy Kumari Bhat and Sunita Bhat respectively as per the affidavit produced vide online application have relinquished their share in favour of their brother namely Sanjay Bhat.

Therefore, if any person has any objection regarding the proposed inheritance mutation, they may submit their objections in writing to the undersigned within seven 07 days form the date of publication of this notice. If no objection in received within the stipulated period, the case shall be processed further in accordance with law.

No: NT/MN-26/254-256

DATED: 26/07/2026

DIPK-4280/26  
DATED: 07-08-2026

Executive Magistrate Ist Class Naib Tehsildar

## Europe heat wave puts all major Italian cities on red alert Austria, Slovakia break national heat records; Rome opens 'Urban Beach'

AP

Rome, Aug 7: Italy placed all its major cities under the highest heat alert Thursday as a blistering heat wave gripped Europe, setting a national temperature record in Austria, fueling wildfires in France and disrupting energy and transport systems across the continent.

The extreme weather has pushed temperatures above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in several countries, prompting health warnings for millions of people. Scientists and officials warn that such events are becoming more frequent and intense as the climate warms.

The current heat wave has exposed vulnerabilities in public health systems, power generation, transportation networks and tourism infrastructure, forcing governments and businesses to adapt to more frequent periods of extreme weather.

Italy's red alert in all major cities is a first.

Italy's Health Ministry placed all 27 cities monitored under its national heat surveillance system on red alert Thursday — the first time this year that the entire network has been under the highest warning level simultaneously.

The alerts stretch from Trieste in the northeast to Palermo in Sicily and signal a health risk for the entire population, not only vulnerable groups such as older adults and people with chronic illnesses.

Authorities urged residents and tourists to avoid direct sunlight during the hottest hours of the day, remain indoors where possible and drink plenty of water.

The heat has also forced adjustments at major tourist attractions.

The ministries of tourism and culture extended evening opening hours at landmarks including Rome's Colosseum and Pantheon.

Mist fans and an 'urban beach' set up to cool residents.

Cooling mist fans have been installed at the Colosseum's entrances and additional medical stations have been made available.

Rome has also introduced another unusual response to the heat emergency: a free municipal "urban beach" along the Tiber River in the Marconi neighborhood, where residents can cool off in swimming pools, water fountains and shaded areas.

The site, known as Tiberis, has become a refuge for families and children seeking relief from record temperatures. Residents praised the initiative, saying it allowed them to better cope with the heat and offered a rare opportunity to escape the city's scorching asphalt and concrete.

"It is excellent, it is a great initiative. They did the right thing, specially with such hot days it is important to cool down with water, specially for children," Rome resident Claudio Rocchi said.

Austria and Slovakia break national temperature records.

Later on Thursday, Slovakia recorded another all-time high temperature. The new record set at Dolne Plachtince in the south was 42.2 C (108 F), the Slovak Meteorological Institute said.

In Slovakia, the low levels of water in the Danube forced the country's biggest hydroelectric power plant in Gabčíkovo to shut down seven of its eight turbines, the TASR news agency said.

So far this year, the power plant



The Zollburg Pfalzgrafenstein, located in the middle of the Rhine, is surrounded by extremely low water levels, in Kaub, Germany, Wednesday Aug. 5, 2026. (Thomas Frey/dpa via AP)

produced 15 percent less electricity than a year ago due to a lack of water in the river.

The authorities recorded the lowest flow of water in the Danube for July on record, the Academy of Sciences said.

An all-time high temperature of 41.2 C (106.2 F) was also recorded in Austria on Wednesday in the village of Bad Deutsch-Altenburg near the Slovak border, according to Geosphere Austria.

Austria is also facing severe drought. Rainfall from Jan. 1 through June 30 was 27 percent below the long-term average nationwide, while

some eastern regions received only half their normal precipitation.

Climatologist Alexander Orlik said some parts of the country had not experienced such dry conditions since 1885.

Hungary cuts power use as drought hits nuclear plant

In Hungary, prolonged drought and record-low water levels on the Danube River have severely affected the country's only nuclear power plant, which relies on river water to cool its reactors.

Plant operators have reduced output to about 10 percent of normal production, prompting the

government to introduce emergency conservation measures as a record-breaking heat wave grips the country.

Authorities have asked major industrial users and households to cut electricity consumption, particularly during peak demand hours between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. Freight trains have been barred from operating during those hours, while decorative lighting on landmarks in Budapest has been switched off.

Several major companies, including energy company Mol, pharmaceutical maker Gedeon Richter and automakers Suzuki, Mercedes-Benz, Audi and BMW have announced plans to curb electricity use.

The government also canceled parliamentary sessions this week in an effort to conserve power.

The heat wave has shattered temperature records across the country. On Wednesday night, Budapest recorded its warmest overnight temperature on record, with temperatures falling only to 28 C (82 F), underscoring the persistence of the extreme heat.

Germany worries about shrinking rivers

Germany faced growing concerns over the impact of drought on transportation and industry as water levels on the Rhine and other rivers continued to fall.

Transport Minister Steffen Bilger met affected organizations Thursday and warned that low water levels posed major challenges for inland waterway shipping, industry and the broader logistics chain.

Environmental group BUND urged authorities to focus not only on the economic impacts but also on

making rivers more resilient to climate change by retaining more water in landscapes and reducing withdrawals during periods of drought.

France remains on high wildfire alert

In southeastern France, firefighters maintained a large presence in the Var region after authorities said a major wildfire there was no longer spreading but remained capable of reigniting.

The blaze, which began July 20, has burned more than 60 square kilometers (23 square miles), making it the largest recorded in the region in recent decades.

Authorities warned that strong winds and extremely dry conditions left southeastern France at very high risk for additional wildfires.

Temperatures cooled in England, but the impact from the driest July on record was on display as a grass fire temporarily shut down the southern runway at Heathrow Airport in London on Thursday.

Balkans battle fires and drought  
The heat wave reached its peak across the Balkans on Thursday as temperatures neared 40 C (104 F) and authorities battled drought and wildfires.

In Serbia, firefighters struggled to contain several blazes after days of dry weather. One major fire burned through pine forests west of Belgrade, while another spread near the central town of Kraljevo, where difficult terrain complicated firefighting efforts.

In neighboring Croatia, tourists in Dubrovnik sought refuge in shade and avoided beaches during the hottest hours of the day as temperatures soared along the Adriatic coast.

### Sri Lanka deploys troops to contain growing prison unrest

AFP

Colombo, Aug 7: Sri Lanka deployed troops to its main maximum-security prison in Colombo and two other jails on Friday, following unsuccessful breakout attempts in which three inmates were killed and 23 wounded, a government minister said.

Public Security Minister Ananda Wijepala said an inmate was killed and 10 others wounded after guards thwarted an attempt by about 40 convicts to escape from Colombo's maximum-security Welikada Prison on Thursday night.

Sri Lankan jails have been hit by a spate of unrest in recent weeks, with 10 guards and 23 inmates killed in two separate riots at two other prisons outside Colombo since last month.

Officials have attributed the growing unrest to acute overcrowding. Sri Lanka's prisons hold about four times their intended capacity.

## PGTI wants to make J&K Open golf an annual event: Mathur

PTI

Srinagar, Aug 7: The Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) in Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital here is a paradise of golf, and there is no golf course in the world as stunning, beautiful, and spectacular, Commissioner, PGTI's 72 The League, Amrit Mathur, said on Friday.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) tournament at the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) here, Mathur said the PGTI wants to make the tournament an annual event in Srinagar.

"The Royal Springs Golf Course is a paradise. It is a paradise of golf. There is no golf course in the world as



stunning, beautiful, and spectacular as this," he said.

He said the PGTI wants to make the tournament an annual event here, and also to make Srinagar a golf destination in India. "Along with this event,

development activities related to golf, such as golf academies and coaching for youngsters, will take place. We will be engaged with the Jammu and Kashmir government to take these things forward. We want

golf to grow, youngsters to play, and Srinagar and Jammu and Kashmir to grow together with India," he said.

Mathur expressed gratitude to the J-K government and its tourism department.

"PGTI is very happy that this tour and the first event of this season, 2026, was in Srinagar. I want to thank all the players, the media for their support, and the course authority for providing fantastic conditions to the players. That is essential for the good performance of players, and we are all thankful that the course was in such fantastic condition, and that is why there was such good quality of golf played," he added.

He said 132 players, including foreigners, played in the tournament.

### Pope Leo to meet clerical abuse victims during France visit



AFP

Vatican City, Aug 7: Pope Leo XIV will meet victims of clerical sexual abuse during an official visit to France in September, the Vatican said Friday as it released the itinerary for the trip.

The Holy See did not

immediately provide further details about the private meeting, which comes as the pontiff promised to further efforts to reform the Catholic Church in the wake of the global sexual abuse scandal.

"During his upcoming Apostolic Journey to France, Pope Leo XIV will meet privately with individuals who have been victims of abuse within the Church," the Vatican said.

"The victims themselves will be involved in preparing this meeting."

A 2021 inquiry found that about 330,000 people in France had been abused as minors by clergy or lay members of the Church, over the span of 70 years.

## How cricket star Shane Watson's book taught archer Jadhav pressure-management

PTI

Kolkata, Aug 7: When archer Sahil Jadhav picked up former Australian cricketer Shane Watson's self-help book 'The Winner's Mindset', all he wanted was it to be engaging enough to reduce the time he spent scrolling his phone.

A month into the book that promises to bring the "best version of you to every game and to life", Jadhav says he has also gained useful insights into managing pressure at big events as he gears up for the Asian Games in Japan in September-October.

"I started reading a book called 'The Winner's Mindset' by Shane Watson around a month ago. My initial intent was to reduce the time I spent scrolling my phone. However, I have received valuable knowledge on how to deal with pressure and keep myself focussed during competitions," Jadhav said during an interaction with SAI (Sports Authority of India) Media.

In the book, the former T20 swash-buckler uses his in-game experiences to prescribe "easy-to-understand mental skills framework that helps one be performance ready for every situation, eliminating stress and anxiety."

Mental strength and patience are qualities which Jadhav has required throughout his career. The 25-year-old endured seven years of disappointment before winning his first national title that also helped him break into the



Indian squad.

It was the support and sacrifices of his family that kept Jadhav going during those difficult years.

"I took up archery quite late, at the age of 19. But my family was extremely supportive. In fact, my family have sacrificed more than me. They stood by me during those difficult years and supported me in every way possible."

"I took seven years to win my first medal at the national level. It was a test of patience and grit as every year I used to miss out by extremely small margins," Jadhav recalled.

Jadhav won his first national medal in 2024 -- a gold -- before tasting

international success by emerging champion in the individual category and clinching a team silver at the World University Games last year.

The Satara native is in good form this year, having clinched a bronze medal in the men's individual compound event at the Archery World Cup 2026 Stage 2 in Shanghai.

"As I stood on the podium, I thought about my parents, their sacrifices and all the struggle I had to undergo over these last few years," he said.

While he is confident about his personal form, Jadhav feels that the Indian squad needs to pay attention to the "minor details" in order to upstage global archery powerhouses such as South Korea, China and Japan at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya.

"The selection trial for the Indian squad is the toughest in the world. If we have managed to earn our spots in the Indian team, it means we have the potential to beat the best in the world."

"However, sometimes our archers choke under pressure, make minor errors or slip up by one or two points. We lost bronze medals at three World Cups in this manner," he said.

"We need to address this issue. If we give our 100 percent, there should be no problem."

Jadhav is currently training at SAI's National Centre of Excellence here and the Asian Games will be his biggest international assignment so far.

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SHOW

Timings

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST

SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY

(HINDI) (U/A 13+)

10:00 AM

04:10 PM

07:15 PM

SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY

(3D ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A 13+)

11:00 AM

02:05 PM

05:10 PM

08:15 PM

SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY

(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A 13+)

12:00 PM

01:05 PM

06:20 PM

THE ODYSSEY

(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (A)

02:55 PM

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