



Security beefed up across J&K ahead of Independence Day

Frisking, vehicle checks intensified; multi-layered arrangements in place across cities, highways, sensitive border areas; IGP Kmr directs officers to intensify surveillance

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 10: Security has been beefed up across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Independence Day, with security forces stepping up frisking, vehicle checking and surveillance in Srinagar and other areas of the Union Territory.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) security personnel have increased their presence at several locations and are conducting checks of vehicles and their occupants as part of preventive measures ahead of August 15 celebrations.

In Srinagar, security forces were seen conducting frisking and vehicle checks at multiple points, particularly along busy roads, commercial areas and other important locations. Personnel were also keeping a close watch on the movement of people and vehicles as part of the heightened security arrangements.

Similar measures have been put in place in other parts of the Valley, including Baramulla,



Kupwara, Kulgam and Anantnag, where security personnel have intensified checking and surveillance at key entry and exit points.

Security has also been strengthened in Jammu region, including Jammu city, Samba, Rajouri and Poonch, with additional checking of vehicles and increased deployment of personnel at vulnerable and strategically important locations.

Authorities have also stepped up security along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway. Security personnel are maintaining heightened vigilance along the highway and at important points to monitor vehicular movement and prevent any untoward incident.

Enhanced security measures have been put in place in areas close to the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border, particularly in sensitive sectors.

In North Kashmir, heightened vigilance has been maintained in areas including Uri, Keran, Tangdar and Gurez, with security forces keeping a close watch on movement and conducting checks at important locations.

In the Jammu region, security has been intensified in the Krishna Ghati (KG) sector and Poonch, as well as areas close to the International Border, including Kautha and other sensitive stretches.

Security forces have also increased surveillance in border villages and [More on P6](#)



Water chestnut (goer) harvesting in Wular Lake — a seasonal, labour-intensive practice crucial for local livelihoods
Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Attend national level events: Div Com extends open invitation to all

Preparations underway for 1 Day celebrations at Bakshi Stadium

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 10: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Monday invited people, particularly children and youth, to participate in Independence Day celebrations and other national-level events in large numbers.

Speaking to reporters at SKICC, Div Com Garg, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said preparations for the UT-level August 15 function at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar are underway. “Like every year, the UT-level August 15 event is being organised in Srinagar at Bakshi Stadium. Various arrangements are underway,

LG, CM likely to participate in ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ rally tomorrow

including parade contingents, the cultural programme for the day and illumination of buildings in the tricolour theme,” he said.

He said preparatory meetings, including with security agencies, have already been held and security arrangements are also being put in place. “Rehearsals involving our children and contingents of the forces are also taking place at Bakshi Stadium,” he said.

The Divisional Commissioner appealed to people to participate in the August 15 programme, especially urging children and youth to attend in large numbers.

He said a ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ event [More on P6](#)

CM Omar hints at cabinet reshuffle after Aug 15

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday hinted that cabinet reshuffle will take place after August 15.

Speaking to reporters, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Chief Minister said the reshuffle was “a work in progress” but clarified that it would not happen before Independence Day.

“It is a work in progress, but not before August 15. It would be an injustice to those ministers whose names have been included in the list (for Independence Day) speeches. They are drafting their speeches. Let them finish their speeches, we will talk about it after that,” he said, adding that the reshuffle will take place.

Taking a swipe at journalists over queries on the reshuffle, Omar asked why they were so concerned. “You don’t ask this question to the Prime Minister



in Delhi. There has been talk of a reshuffle there for months, but nobody asks this question. I don’t know why you are so concerned about this,” he remarked.

Sources told KNO that the cabinet reshuffle is expected immediately after August 15, as ministers will need to prepare for the autumn session of the Assembly, likely to begin on September 21.

“It could take place in the first week after August 15,” sources disclosed.

As per law, [More on P6](#)

MeT predicts ‘heavy to very heavy’ rainfall in J&K today

Warns of flash flood, landslides; Sgr records 33.2°C; Jmu settles at 34.6°C

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 10: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to receive widespread rain and thundershowers over the next few days, with the Weather Department forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of the Jammu division on Tuesday August 11.

The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the wet spell is expected to intensify tomorrow, when heavy to very heavy rain could occur at a few places in Jammu, while some areas of Kashmir may experience short-duration intense showers.

According to the forecast, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at most places across Jammu and Kashmir till August 11, with the highest activity expected during the day and night of August 11.

The weather office has specifically warned that one or two locations could receive heavy to very heavy rainfall during the night of August 11.

Intense or torrential showers may lead to flash floods in vulnerable areas and trigger landslides, mudslides and [More on P6](#)

Parl committee recommends time-bound review of rejected forest rights claims in J&K

Flags ‘exceptionally high’ number of rejections



KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Aug 10: The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs has recommended to Jammu & Kashmir administration to undertake a time-bound review of claims rejected under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, citing the “exceptionally high number” of rejections.

In its report tabled in Parliament on August 7, 2026, the committee pointed out that of the 46242 claims received under the Act, only 6172 were approved, while 39898 were rejected.

“The Committee notes the steps taken to implement the Forest Rights Act,

2006. However, it observes that, out of 46242 individual and community claims received, only 6172 claims had been approved, while 39898 claims had been rejected,” reads the report, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The committee observed that the exceptionally high number of rejections require a “careful scrutiny”.

“Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Administration undertake a time-bound review of rejected claims to ascertain whether due process was followed, claimants were given adequate opportunity to furnish evidence, Gram Sabhas were properly involved, and [More on P6](#)

CM Omar honours 580 J&K sportspersons with Rs 2.71 crore

Vows stronger support for talent, calls for world-class facilities, high-altitude training centres, launches anti-drug & doping campaign

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday called a renewed push to strengthen sports infrastructure, training and financial support for athletes as he honoured 580 outstanding sportspersons with cash awards amounting to Rs 2.71 crore.

Addressing a Special Cash Award Ceremony organised by the J&K Sports Council at SKICC Srinagar here, CM Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir



News Observer (KNO), said the government wants to create an environment where athletes can translate their hard work and talent into success at national and international competitions.

“I want to congratulate all the awardees from the bottom of my heart. This is the result of your hard work,” he said.

The awards, pertaining to the years 2023-24 and 2024-25, were [More on P6](#)

Parl panel recommends feasibility study for developing airport in Katra

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Aug 10: The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has recommended that the Ministry of Civil Aviation, along with other stakeholders, undertake a comprehensive techno-economic and environmental feasibility study for developing an airport or an alternative aviation facility in the Katra area of Jammu & Kashmir.

In its report tabled in Parliament on August 7, 2026, the panel emphasized the need to explore the feasibility of establishing such a facility in view of the steadily increasing number of pilgrims visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and the growing [More on P6](#)

Prabhakar Jha is Regional Dir RBI, J&K, Ladakh

KT News Desk

Jammu, Aug 10: Prabhakar Jha, Chief General Manager has taken over charge as Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with effect from August 10, 2026.

Before joining RBI Jammu, he was Regional Director of RBI, Panaji Office. Chandrashekhar Azad, former Regional Director has been transferred to RBI Central Office, Mumbai.



Lolab youth embarks on 9-month bicycle journey for Umrah

‘Parents resisted for over a year, Ramadan prayers helped convince them’: Parvaiz Lachi

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Aug 10: A 29-year-old youth from Diver Lolab in North Kashmir’s Kupwara district has embarked on an ambitious bicycle journey to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, with the strenuous expedition expected to take around nine months.

Parvaiz Ahmed Lachi, an avid cyclist associated with the hotel industry, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that he had been planning to undertake the Umrah journey by

bicycle for more than two years. However, his plans were delayed after he suffered a leg fracture while playing football.

Parvaiz said he resumed cycling after recovering from the injury and gradually increased his pace before finally deciding to begin the sojourn.

“My parents resisted the idea for over a year. I kept trying to convince them. During Ramadan, I prayed for the Umrah journey and eventually my family got convinced,” he said.

Parvaiz said he was inspired by Shihab Chottur, a native



of Valancherry in Kerala’s Malappuram district, who

travelled thousands of kilometres on foot from India to

Makkah to perform Haj. “Since Shihab Chottur walked such a long distance to Makkah, I thought, why couldn’t I do it on my cycle?” he said.

The Lolab cyclist said he currently has visas for Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and has to reach Kazakhstan by September 1 as part of his journey.

He said the complete expedition is expected to take around nine months, during which he will travel through multiple countries before reaching Saudi Arabia.

Parvaiz said his primary motivation is to visit the House of Allah and complete the Umrah pilgrimage after undertaking the journey by road.

“I expect to see the House of Allah. I will also spend the holy month of Ramadan at Masjid an-Nabawi and pray for the entire Ummah,” he said.

Despite the physical demands of the expedition, Parvaiz said he is determined to continue the journey and hopes to complete it safely.

The 29-year-old said his return to cycling after a serious football injury [More on P6](#)

Jammu Accident

Ensure round-the-clock monitoring, best possible care: Sakeena Itoo to doctors

Visits GMC Jammu, enquires about well-being of injured girl students

KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 10: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Monday visited Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu and took detailed stock of the health condition and treatment being provided to girls injured in road accident yesterday evening.

During her visit, the Minister, as per an official statement, went around the hospital wards and interacted with the injured girls, enquiring about their well-being, medical treatment and facilities being extended to them. She also interacted with the attending doctors and hospital authorities and sought a detailed briefing on the nature of injuries and the treatment plan being followed in each case.

The Minister directed the GMC administration and medical teams to ensure the best possible treatment, round-the-clock monitoring and comprehensive medical care to all the injured. She stressed that all necessary medical resources should be mobilised to facilitate their speedy recovery.

"The health and well-being of every injured girl is our foremost concern. The government stands firmly with the affected families in this difficult



time. Every possible facility will be made available to ensure their best possible treatment", the Minister said.

She further directed the doctors and concerned officers to maintain continuous monitoring of the condition of critically injured patients and ensure timely intervention wherever required.

"There must be no lapse in patient care and every injured girl should receive prompt and quality treatment, with special attention to those in critical condition", she said.

The Minister also asked the hospital authorities to ensure proper coordination among various departments and

availability of medicines, diagnostics, surgical facilities and other requisite support for the injured.

She expressed hope that all the injured girls would recover at the earliest and assured that the Health Department would extend all necessary support to the patients and their families.

During the visit, the hospital administration apprised the Minister of the treatment arrangements and the medical condition of the injured, assuring that dedicated teams of doctors and paramedical staff were attending to them.

Transport Commissioner reviews road safety measures in Doda

KT News Desk

DODA, AUGUST 10: Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan reviewed road safety measures in District Doda here at a meeting held in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, on Monday.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was convened under the aegis of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) and was attended by officers from Police, ARTOs of Doda, Udhampur and Ramban, representatives from PWD (R&B), PMGSY, NHIDCL, BRO, Health, Education, Revenue, Forest, SDRF, Municipal Committees and other concerned departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal gave a detailed overview of the road safety scenario in the district. He apprised the Transport Commissioner about accident-prone and vulnerable road stretches, identified black spots, road safety interventions undertaken by the stakeholder departments and measures being taken to strengthen road safety

infrastructure. He also informed about the crash barriers installed along sensitive road stretches and other measures being taken to prevent road accidents.

The Transport Commissioner stressed the need for close coordination among the concerned departments for effective and timely implementation of road safety measures. "Road safety is a shared responsibility involving engineering agencies, Traffic Police, Transport Department, local bodies, health institutions, educational institutions and the general public," he noted.

He directed the concerned agencies to identify black spots and undertake necessary corrective measures on priority. He also called for regular safety audits of roads and bridges, proper road markings, marking of warnings and regulatory signage, protective parapets and installation of crash barriers, particularly along vulnerable stretches in the hilly terrain of the district.

DC Srinagar takes Tehsil wise stock of Revenue services delivery

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: In order to assess Tehsil-wise progress on key revenue matters, delivery of revenue-related services and the implementation of AgriStack and Farmer IDs under Digital Crop Survey across the district, a meeting of senior Revenue Officers was held Monday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

CBC's 2-day outreach programme begins at Gadakhud, Sumbal

KT News Desk

Bandipora, August 10: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Monday commenced a two-day Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan at Government Higher Secondary School, Gadakhud, Sumbal, Bandipora.

The programme, as per PIB statement, was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib.

The inaugural session witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, parents, officials and members of the local community. Resource persons from the Health, Social Welfare, School Education, Police and District Administration departments sensitised participants about the causes and consequences of substance abuse, as well as measures related to prevention, treatment, counselling and rehabilitation.

Welcoming the participants, Naseer Ahmad Rather, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Srinagar, highlighted the



role of CBC in disseminating information on flagship programmes and welfare initiatives of the Government of India. He emphasised the importance of timely awareness and community participation in addressing the growing challenge of substance abuse and underlined the role of parents and teachers in identifying early signs of addiction among youth.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, reiterated the district administration's

commitment to combating drug abuse and trafficking. She urged young people to channelise their energies towards education, sports and other constructive pursuits, while stressing that awareness, prevention, counselling, rehabilitation and collective social responsibility are essential components of the fight against drugs.

Shri Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Anantnag, reaffirmed CBC's commitment to taking the message of a drug-free society to schools, villages

and communities through sustained outreach activities. He called for a united effort by all stakeholders to address the menace of substance abuse.

Chief Education Officer Bandipora, M. Rafiq Mir, highlighted the importance of education and a supportive environment in shaping responsible and informed youth. Station House Officer, Sumbal, Mohammad Saleem Mir, briefed participants on the role of law enforcement in curbing drug trafficking and explained relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Dr. Reyaz Ahmad, Medical Officer, spoke about the adverse health consequences of substance abuse and highlighted the importance of counselling and timely intervention. He also informed participants about the Government of India's Tele-MANAS mental health support initiative and helpline 14416. Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Sumbal, Shri Fayaz Ahmad Lone, elaborated on welfare and support mechanisms available for affected individuals and families.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT 64 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/5387-96, DATED 08-08-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.(in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	CO lane from HO Umer Khurshid Najar upto main road near Islamia School Ward No 07 MC Bijbehara	1.55 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 1.31 + (18% GST Amount 0.24)	200	3100/-	10 Days	District Capex (UDS Grants)	DEE Class & MSME's Only
2.	CO Drian from HO Nazir Ahmad Allie Upto connecting Drain At Zirpara MC Bijbehara	2.28 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 1.93 + (18% GST Amount 0.35)	200	4560/-	10 Days	District Capex (UDS Grants)	DEE Class & MSME's Only
3.	CO Lane and Drain from HO Mohd Abdullah Shah to HO Mohd Amin Hafiz Ward No 17 near Marriage Hall MC Bijbehara.	1.28 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 1.09 + (18% GST Amount 0.20)	200	2580/-	10 Days	District Capex (UDS Grants)	DEE Class & MSME's Only
4.	CO Lane near HO Gh Rasool Ganie Opposite J abd K Bank Goriwan Bijbehara.	1.26 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 1.07 + (18% GST Amount 0.19)	200	2520/-	10 Days	District Capex (UDS Grants)	DEE Class & MSME's Only
5.	CO Drain from House of Mushtaq Ahmad Dar Aamir Hussain to main Drain connecting near Gh Rasool Bilal Colony B	7.98 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 6.76 + (18% GST Amount 1.22)	300	15960	20 Days	District Capex (UDS Grants)	CEE, DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Anantnag, Position of AAA: Accorded vide Order No. 366 – DDCA of 2026, Dated 01.08.2026.
1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms-and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08-08-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 08-08-2026 To 18-08-2026 (02:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 08-08-2026 To 08-08-2026 (02:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	From 18-08-2026 To 19-08-2026 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag(Tender receiving Authority).(The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/ LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-4367/26
DATED: 10-08-2026

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN,NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in, Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 2ND.

Subject: Shifting of Material lying at premises of Pump House Stage II WSS Pokhrimal and Alastang and dumping of the same at Ground Water Division Nowshara.
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 28-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./ 4036-44.-20, dated: 05-05-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_315997_1.
Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised videe-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 10-08-2026 Up-to 01:00 pM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	24-08-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	25-08-2026 11.00 AM

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

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./6762-71.
Dated: 10-08-2026.

DIPK-4382/26
DATED: 10-08-2026

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

CM Omar congratulates national handloom award winners



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday extended warm congratulations to artisan weavers Manzoor Ahmad Hajam and Fayaz Ahmad Wani on receiving the prestigious National Handloom Award from President of India Droupadi Murmu. Hajam and

Wani were conferred the National Award for their joint entry, "Chand-Daar Kani Shawl," at a function held in New Delhi to commemorate National Handloom Day recently. The award carries a citation and cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh. Congratulating the two artisans, the Chief Minister said their achievement

celebrates the timeless legacy and artistic excellence of Jammu and Kashmir's handloom tradition. He said the Government remains committed to empowering local artisans, preserving traditional heritage and promoting indigenous crafts on national and global platforms.

Satish Sharma pledges robust sports infra in J&K

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 10: Jammu and Kashmir Sports Minister Satish Sharma on Monday said the government is committed to building a world-class sporting ecosystem in the Union Territory, asserting that talent should not be held back by lack of resources.

Speaking at a Special Cash Award Ceremony for outstanding sportspersons at SKICC Srinagar, Minister Sharma said the athletes being honoured had brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir through years of sacrifice, hard work and perseverance.

"For every athlete we honour today, this moment is the culmination of years of early mornings, sacrifice, injuries overcome and an unshakeable belief in themselves," he said.

The minister said the achievements of these sportspersons would inspire youngsters in villages and districts across J&K to dream of reaching the national and international stage. "I want to assure each one of you that this government stands firmly behind our sportspersons," he said. Sharma said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, was working to create an ecosystem where sporting talent would not be limited by financial constraints or lack of



resources. He said the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism for award money reflected the government's commitment to ensuring that athletes receive their financial rewards swiftly, transparently and with dignity.

The minister also launched the 'Icon Against Drugs and Doping' campaign, calling upon athletes to use their influence to spread awareness among youngsters against drug abuse and doping.

"Our athletes are role models for the entire generation. By standing as icons against drugs and doping, we are sending a powerful message to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir that success is built on discipline and clean sport, not shortcuts," he said.

Sharma urged sportspersons

to carry the message to their academies, districts and communities, saying they could play an important role in building a healthier and more disciplined generation.

He acknowledged the contribution of parents, coaches and mentors, saying their efforts behind the scenes form the foundation of every medal won by an athlete.

The minister said the Department of Youth Services and Sports would continue its efforts to produce more champions while strengthening sporting culture among the youth. Sharma congratulated the award recipients and urged them to continue bringing laurels to Jammu and Kashmir at national and international platforms—(KNO)

J&K aims for podium, not just playgrounds: Dr Shahid Iqbal



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 10: Jammu and Kashmir government is working to turn sports into a culture of excellence by taking athletes from the playground to the podium, Commissioner/Secretary Youth Services and Sports Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said on Monday. Addressing a Special Cash Award Ceremony for outstanding sportspersons at SKICC Srinagar, Choudhary said the government's sports strategy is focused on identifying talent early, strengthening infrastructure and providing athletes with the support needed to reach the international stage.

"Today's programme is to promote the culture of excellence in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Choudhary said more than Rs 280 crore is being invested in strengthening the sports ecosystem, including Rs 250 crore for sports infrastructure and Rs 20 crore for team development.

He said J&K's geography offered opportunities across disciplines such as winter sports, water sports, athletics and mountaineering, while a National Centre of Excellence had also been established to provide better facilities and opportunities to young athletes.

The Commissioner/Secretary said integrating sports with education was a key part of the government's strategy so that talent could be identified among schoolchildren and promoted from an early stage.

He said the government also wanted to make sports a mass movement by encouraging wider public participation and using sports as a vehicle for social and economic development.

"Our ambition, the vision of the government, is that every child, every student, every athlete, who has the potential to go to the international level, should be provided with the support infrastructure, training support, development, financial support, or whatever the requirement is," he said.

Choudhary said the J&K Sports Council's focus would extend from infrastructure to comprehensive athlete development.

He also highlighted the incentives under the J&K sports policy, including

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

From The Parliament

1,778 hectares restored in J&K under GIM

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 10: As many as 1,778 hectares of land have been brought under plantation and eco-restoration activities in Jammu and Kashmir under the Green India Mission (GIM) since 2015-16, the Union Government has informed the Lok Sabha.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh, stated this in a written reply to Lok Sabha regarding restoration of degraded forest land.

As per the reply, the Green India Mission, one of the nine Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), has been under implementation since 2015-16 with the objective of restoring degraded forest and non-forest landscapes through an integrated landscape approach.

The Ministry said that the GIM has brought 1,84,467 hectares under eco-restoration across 17 States and one Union Territory since 2015-16. Jammu and Kashmir accounts for 1,778 hectares under creation of plantation/eco-restoration activities.

The government further stated that plantation and maintenance activities under the Green India Mission are undertaken through local



institutions, including Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), Village Forest Committees (VFCs) and other community-based organisations, as per approved Annual Plans of Operation.

Local communities, including JFMCs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs), are also engaged wherever provided for in approved activities, particularly in plantation maintenance, nursery raising and allied livelihood activities.

Regarding monitoring, the Ministry said the plantations under the Green India Mission are monitored through a multi-tiered mechanism involving

both Central and State-level systems.

The Mission promotes technology-enabled monitoring, including geo-tagging of plantation sites, GIS-based mapping, geo-tagged photographs and KML files. State Forest Departments also undertake periodic field inspections and third-party monitoring, with corrective measures such as gap filling and maintenance based on survival assessments.

The reply added that drone-based monitoring, wherever undertaken by States, may supplement field verification, while the Forest Survey of India (FSI) conducts biennial assessments

of forest cover through remote sensing supported by ground verification.

The Ministry also stated that it is implementing the Nagar Van Yojana for development of 600 Nagar Vans and 400 Nagar Vatikas during 2020-21 to 2026-27 to enhance urban green cover and ecological benefits.

Under the Green India Mission, Rs 57.08 crore has been allocated during 2026-27 so far to seven States for approved activities, while funds under Nagar Van Yojana are released from the National Authority CAMPA based on approved proposals of States—(KNO)

Centre pushes Rs 22.72 Cr for J&K heritage preservation

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 10: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has allocated Rs 22.72 crore for conservation, preservation and environmental development of protected monuments in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three financial years and the current fiscal, with Rs 20.13 crore spent so far, according to a Lok Sabha reply.

The details were provided by Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in a written reply to Lok Sabha regarding conservation of national cultural heritage under the National Culture Fund and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

As per the reply, the ASI undertakes conservation and maintenance of protected monuments every year based on the requirement of monuments and availability of resources. Regular inspections are also carried out by ASI officers to assess conservation and renovation works.

According to the annexure, Jammu and Kashmir received an allocation of Rs 7.17 crore in 2023-24, against which the entire amount was spent.

In 2024-25, Rs 4.90 crore was allocated and Rs 4.89 crore was spent, while in 2025-26, Rs 5.95 crore was allocated and the entire amount was utilised.

For the current financial year 2026-27, Rs 4.70 crore has been allocated to

J&K, of which Rs 2.12 crore had been spent up to August 5, 2026.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has also approved a National Culture Fund (NCF) project worth Rs 1.21 crore for development of amenities at the Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar during 2026-27.

The project is listed under Jammu and Kashmir in the details of NCF projects for conservation, renovation and development works at ASI-protected monuments.

The government clarified that monuments and heritage sites are not protected under the National Culture Fund itself. Instead, the NCF provides financial assistance for conservation, renovation and development works at some monuments and cultural heritage sites protected by the ASI.

The Ministry further stated that ASI regularly reviews visitor facilities, digital documentation, conservation works and heritage promotion programmes at monuments under its jurisdiction across the country.

Through its field offices, ASI also organises community-driven and people-centric heritage promotion programmes, including walkthroughs, talks, drawing and painting competitions, photo exhibitions and consultative meetings with local communities and stakeholders to raise awareness about heritage protection—(KNO)

Centre rules out tourism infra proposal for 4 Kashmir districts

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 10: The Union Ministry of Tourism has informed the Lok Sabha that no proposal for development of tourism infrastructure in Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam and Bandipora districts of Jammu and Kashmir is currently under consideration.

Union Minister of Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat stated this in a written reply to Lok Sabha regarding development of tourism in Kashmir.

As per the reply, development and promotion of tourist destinations and tourism products, including eco-tourism destinations, is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government or Union Territory Administration.

The Ministry, however, complements the efforts of the UT Administration through schemes including Swadesh Darshan (SD), Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0), Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)—a sub-scheme of SD2.0—and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD).

Financial assistance under these schemes is extended subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), availability of funds, government directions and inter-se priority, among other conditions.

The Ministry said sanctioning of new projects under these schemes is a continuous process. However, at present, no proposal for development of tourism infrastructure in Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam and Bandipora districts of J&K is under consideration in the Ministry of Tourism.

The reply also listed projects sanctioned earlier

Continued on
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Ladakh elementary schools drop from 681 to 599 in 2025-26

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Aug 10: The number of elementary-level government schools in Ladakh declined by 82 during 2025-26, while the number of such schools in Jammu and Kashmir remained unchanged at 16,196, according to data submitted by the Union Government in the Lok Sabha.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Jayant Chaudhary, stated this in a written reply to Lok Sabha regarding closure of schools due to lack of students.

As per the reply, the number of elementary-level government schools in Ladakh stood at 681 in 2024-25 and declined to 599 in 2025-26, marking a reduction of 82 schools.

In Jammu and Kashmir, however, the number remained unchanged at 16,196 elementary-level government schools in both 2024-25 and 2025-26, the data showed.

The Ministry clarified that education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and that the

opening, closing and rationalisation of schools fall within the purview of the respective State and Union Territory Governments.

It said the total number of elementary-level government schools, as reported by States and UTs on the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), is reflected in the annexure.

The government also said that advancements have been made in improving universal access across upper-primary, secondary and higher-secondary levels of school education. The Gross Access Ratio increased from 96.49% to 98.14% at the upper-primary level, from 88.24% to 95.05% at the secondary level, and from 65.05% to 94.79% at the higher-secondary level between 2018-19 and 2025-26.

On measures to reduce school dropouts and increase enrolment, the Centre said States and UTs are being supported through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha and the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti

Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme.

Financial assistance is also provided for strengthening school infrastructure, opening and upgrading schools, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, residential schools and hostels, transport allowances, enrolment drives, seasonal hostels, skill education and ICT facilities, besides free textbooks, uniforms and transport or escort facilities.

The government further stated that the PM SHRI Scheme has been launched to develop more than 14,500 selected schools as exemplar schools showcasing the initiatives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

According to the UDISE+ data, the number of elementary-level government schools across India declined from 8,89,806 in 2024-25 to 8,79,940 in 2025-26.

Among neighbouring northern regions, Himachal Pradesh recorded a decline from 11,724 to 11,465 schools, while Haryana saw a marginal reduction from 10,869 to 10,862 during the same period—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

A Well-Deserved Honour

The conferment of the National Handloom Award on Manzoor Ahmad Hajam and Fayaz Ahmad Wani – two master weavers from Kanihama, Budgam – is a celebration of Kashmir's centuries-old craft tradition and a recognition of the skill, patience, and dedication that keep it alive in an age of machines and mass production. The Chand-Daar Kani Shawl, their award-winning creation, is a masterpiece woven through coded Talim scripts and nearly 20 distinct hues. This is storytelling through threads, where every knot carries the memory of generations. The award, carrying a citation and a 2.5 lakh rupees cash prize,

is a fitting tribute to their artistry and the countless hours of labour that went into recreating an antique masterpiece with absolute precision. This recognition also places the Kani weaving technique at the forefront of the crafts sector. For too long, traditional crafts have struggled against industrialisation, cheaper machine-made alternatives, and changing consumer preferences. Awards like these change the narrative. They signal that excellence in traditional crafts is not just valued but celebrated at the highest level of the nation. For thousands of weavers in Kashmir, this is a moment of immense pride and inspiration, a reminder

that their craft is not dying but thriving. The Modi government deserves appreciation for its consistent efforts to promote and empower traditional artisans. By instituting and celebrating awards like the National Handloom Award, the government has created a platform where master weavers receive the recognition they have long deserved. The National Handloom Day celebrations and the awards conferred by the President reflect a genuine commitment to preserving and promoting India's rich textile heritage. By honouring master weavers, the government sends a clear message: traditional artisans are not relics of the past but

contributors to the nation's cultural and economic future. This honour is also a reminder that the Handicrafts and Handloom Department has a vital role to play. It must continue to provide support, training, and market access to weavers, ensuring that such excellence is nurtured and not left to individual effort alone. Congratulations to Manzoor Ahmad Hajam and Fayaz Ahmad Wani. Their hands have woven a legacy that deserves to be cherished, celebrated, and passed on. They have become role models for thousands, and the entire craft community celebrates this joyous moment with great pride.

Atmanirbhar Medtech: The Foundation For Affordable Healthcare And Viksit Bharat

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is steadily building an Atmanirbhar MedTech ecosystem that is not merely about manufacturing devices in India; it is about empowering every citizen with timely access to quality healthcare, strengthening health security, and positioning India as a trusted global partner in advancing better health for humanity



Jagat Prakash Nadda

India has witnessed unprecedented expansion of healthcare infrastructure over the last decade. Rapid increase in the numbers of hospitals in both government and private sector, PHCs, diagnostic centres, medical colleges in both urban and rural areas is testament to Government of India's citizen centric policy towards ensuring health security. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the Government has worked to make quality health care accessible to every citizen. This untiring commitment has led to a significant decline of Out of Pocket Expenses in the country from as high as 65% to 43% in the last few years.

From a newborn in a district hospital to a cancer patient in a tertiary care centre, reliable, high-quality yet affordable medical devices have become indispensable to modern healthcare. The Government is strengthening public health systems in both rural and urban areas through investments in upgradation of laboratories, critical care infrastructure, disease surveillance systems, and emergency response mechanisms under Pradhan Mantri- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM). As India advances towards Viksit Bharat 2047,



the focus is now on building an Atmanirbhar MedTech ecosystem to make healthcare more affordable, accessible and resilient.

Historically, India relied heavily on imports for many sophisticated medical devices. While these technologies improved healthcare, they also contributed to higher costs, supply chain vulnerabilities and limited accessibility. Recognizing this, the National Medical Devices Policy 2023 mandated to enhance domestic manufacturing capacity and capability for newer technologies so as to make the medical devices affordable and thereby reduce diagnostics cost. Government adopted a comprehensive strategy to strengthen the medical devices ecosystem through initiatives such as, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, Medical

Device Parks and the Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech (PRIP) Scheme. These initiatives are creating an enabling ecosystem for manufacturing, innovation, investment and global competitiveness.

The results are encouraging. Manufacturing of more than 50 high-end medical devices has commenced under the PLI Scheme. Equally significant is the growing confidence of global investors, reflected in sustained foreign direct investment into the sector. These achievements demonstrate that India is steadily emerging as a trusted partner in the global MedTech value chain.

Beyond becoming a manufacturing hub, India is also quickly adopting medical technology advancements to improve the lives of citizens. Affordable access to advanced

diagnostics, imaging systems, implants, intensive care equipment and digital health solutions significantly reduce the financial burden on patients while improving the quality and timeliness of care. Domestic manufacturing contributes directly to this objective by reducing import dependence, strengthening supply chain resilience and creating opportunities for cost efficiencies.

India's globally recognized pharmaceutical industry, robust engineering capabilities, rapidly expanding digital public infrastructure, vibrant start-up ecosystem and skilled human resources provide a strong foundation for developing next-generation medical technologies. Emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Software as a Medical Device (SaMD), connected medical devices, robotics and remote diagnostics present opportunities for India to innovate for both domestic and global healthcare needs.

As Indian manufacturers expand globally, quality is also becoming the defining characteristic of Brand India MedTech. Government is focusing on strengthening regulatory systems, expanding accredited testing infrastructure, promoting clinical evidence generation and aligning with international standards to enhance both patient safety and global competitiveness.

Building a globally competitive MedTech ecosystem also requires close collaboration among Government, industry, academia, healthcare providers, start-ups and investors. Innovation flourishes when ideas move seamlessly from laboratories to manufacturing facilities and finally to patients. The Government remains committed to providing a stable and

transparent policy environment that encourages research, investment, technology partnerships and ease of doing business.

As India advances towards becoming a developed nation, healthcare and economic growth will increasingly reinforce each other. A strong medical devices sector creates high-value manufacturing, skilled employment, exports and technological capability while simultaneously making healthcare more affordable, accessible and resilient.

India's MedTech Sector, is the fourth-largest market in Asia and ranks among the top 20 globally. Presently at \$15-16 Billion, the market is growing at almost 12% CAGR, making it one of the fastest growing manufacturing sector in the country. The vision of Viksit Bharat stresses on building global leadership rooted in quality, innovation and inclusivity. Government is working to ensure that technologies address India's public health priorities—from maternal and child health to non-communicable diseases, emergency care, cancer, cardiovascular diseases and rural healthcare delivery. Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, India is steadily building an Atmanirbhar MedTech ecosystem that is not merely about manufacturing devices in India; it is about empowering every citizen with timely access to quality healthcare, strengthening health security, and positioning India as a trusted global partner in advancing better health for humanity.

The author is Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India

GOBARdhan: Fuelling Clean Energy And Rural Growth

India currently meets nearly 50 per cent of its natural gas requirement through imports, making energy security a strategic priority. Recent geopolitical developments and disruptions along the Strait of Hormuz, a route that carries nearly 55 to 60 per cent of India's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports, have underscored the importance of strengthening domestic energy production. In this context, the Union Cabinet approved GOBARdhan, the National Circular Bioenergy Scheme, with a total outlay of 23,731 crore on 06 August 2026.

Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) was originally launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) in 2018 as an integral component of Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SWM), converting bio-waste—animal waste, kitchen leftovers, crop residue and market waste—into biogas and bio-slurry, thereby ensuring cleanliness in villages and improving rural lives.

Earlier, the Compressed Biogas (CBG) ecosystem was spread across four different ministries. To ensure better coordination and accelerate the sector's growth, the Government has consolidated the entire scheme under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. This reform enables a unified approach to policy, implementation and sectoral development.

The Scheme will be implemented from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 and will establish Compressed Biogas as a major pillar of India's future energy mix. Through assured demand, remunerative and stable pricing, capital assistance, pipeline infrastructure, credit guarantee and technology development, GOBARdhan will provide a strong framework to scale up India's CBG sector nationwide.

Aim:
- To increase nearly ten-fold domestic CBG production
- To mobilize large-scale private investment
- To create a vibrant circular bio-economy across the country

Vision:
- India's waste will fuel India's growth
- India's villages will become centres of clean energy production
- India's farmers will become partners in the nation's energy security

From a Strong Foundation to National Scale
Over the past several years, the Government of India has systematically built the foundations of the CBG sector through initiatives like SATAT, Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme, Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM) Scheme, Development of Pipeline Infrastructure (DPI) Scheme, and Central Financial Assistance for CBG plants under the National Bioenergy Programme.

The BAM Scheme, with a total outlay of 564.75 crore, supports CBG producers in procuring biomass aggregation equipment. As on 16 March 2026, 37 proposals have been approved with financial assistance of nearly 248 crore. The DPI Scheme, with a total outlay of 994.5 crore, has so far sanctioned 56.31 crore.

The MDA Scheme promotes organic fertilizers produced from GOBARdhan and CBG plants by providing 1,500 per metric tonne for organic manure. As on 4 March 2026, 120 CBG/Biogas plants were registered on the Integrated Fertilizer Management System portal. Under the scheme, 111.72 crore has been released as Market Development Assistance up to 28 February 2026.

A Strategic Opportunity for India



India's demand for natural gas is expanding across transport, households, industry and commercial sectors. CBG can meet a growing share of this demand through domestic renewable production. It will further strengthen energy resilience and reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels. Reduced energy import dependence will save over 40,000 crore in forex.

CBG is chemically equivalent to natural gas and can be seamlessly integrated into the existing gas ecosystem. Each CBG plant also creates a local circular economy around agricultural residue, cattle dung and other organic resources, generating

opportunities in feedstock supply, transportation, plant operations and organic manure production.

Six Growth Engines under GOBARdhan

Component 1: Assured CBG Offtake

GOBARdhan establishes a dedicated CBG Offtake Assurance framework providing a reliable market for producers. Procurement by City Gas Distribution entities will support the notified CBG Obligation trajectory: 3% in FY 2026-27, 4% in FY 2027-28, and 5% from FY 2028-29 onwards.

Component 2: Stable CBG Pricing Framework

The scheme introduces a government-backed administered price of 2,110 per MMBTU (105 per kg of CBG), ensuring stable and remunerative pricing with a minimum ten-year horizon.

Component 3: Capital Assistance
Eligible greenfield CBG projects will receive capital assistance of up to 2 crore per ton per day of installed CBG capacity. Brownfield projects expanding capacity are also eligible.

Component 4: Development of Pipeline Infrastructure

The Scheme supports both cluster-based and standalone pipeline infrastructure connecting CBG plants with trunk pipelines and City Gas Distribution networks.

Component 5: Credit Guarantee Support

A dedicated Credit Guarantee Mechanism will provide coverage of up to 85 per cent on eligible loans for MSME-based CBG projects, improving access to affordable finance.

Component 6: CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund

This Fund supports feedstock assessment, aggregation infrastructure, district-level planning, technology adoption, organic manure value addition, and capacity building.

Expected Outcomes of GOBARdhan

GOBARdhan is expected to deliver:
- Nearly ten-fold growth in domestic CBG production

- Greater energy security through increased domestic production and lower import dependence

- A new wave of private investment with improved project viability

- Stronger rural livelihoods through new income opportunities for farmers and rural entrepreneurs

- Scientific waste management through productive use of

agricultural residue and organic waste

- Lower greenhouse gas emissions through replacement of fossil fuels

- A larger organic manure economy through greater production and utilization

- Faster project implementation through one national framework and digital governance

Benefit Over a Decade

GOBARdhan will deliver measurable gains tracked across a full ten-year horizon:

- CBG production will grow ten-fold, attracting strong private investment

- Reduced import dependence will save over 40,000 crore in forex

- Clean, home-grown gas will displace 10 MMT of fossil fuel use

- Over 75,000 crore added to national GDP

- Over 1.5 lakh jobs generated across the value chain

- More than 40 MT of CO emissions cut

- 250 MMT of organic fertilizer produced

GOBARdhan Unified Registration Portal

Anyone operating or intending to set up a CBG/Bio-CNG plant in India can obtain a registration number through the GOBARdhan Unified Registration Portal (gobardhan.eil.co.in). As on 06 August 2026, a total of 1,908 CBG/Bio-CNG plants have been registered across the country. Of these, 217 plants have already been commissioned producing 0.4 MMSCMD, while 339 plants are under construction.

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.

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Sakeena Itoo calls for coordinated, time-bound public service delivery

Reviews functioning of key departments across Jammu division

KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 10: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Monday called for more resilient construction practices and cost-effective approach to infrastructure development across Jammu and Kashmir in view of increasing frequency of floods.

The Minister, as per an official statement, stated this while chairing a high-level review meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the functioning of various departments and take stock of ongoing development and restoration works across Jammu division in view of recent cloud-bursts. The meeting was attended by Managing Director, J&K Medical Supply Corporation; Mission Director, Poshan/ICDS J&K; Director, FCS&CA Jammu; Director School Education Jammu; Director Social Welfare Jammu; Director Colleges J&K; Director Health Services Jammu; Director Ayush J&K; Director Family Welfare J&K; all concerned Chief Engineers of R&B, PDD, I&F&C and PHE Jammu, besides Principals of GMC Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua, Doda and Rajouri, either in person or through video conferencing

During the meeting, the Minister undertook a comprehensive review of the functioning of the various departments, with particular focus on delivery of essential public services, infrastructure restoration, healthcare preparedness, supply of essential commodities and



implementation of welfare and education-related schemes.

Taking detailed feedback on the damage caused to public infrastructure in Rajouri and other areas due to recent floods, Sakeena Itoo sought status report on restoration of roads, macadamization, drinking water supply and other essential services in the affected areas.

Calling for a pragmatic and cost-effective approach to infrastructure development, the Minister said that the increasing frequency of floods requires to move towards more resilient construction practices.

"We have to learn from the recurring floods and build infrastructure that is capable of withstanding such challenges. Lightweight and cost-effective construction technologies should be explored wherever feasible so that public money is utilized judiciously while ensuring durability and resilience", she observed.

She directed the concerned departments to maintain close coordination during restoration works and ensure that people in affected areas do not face prolonged disruption of essential services.

The Minister also reviewed the healthcare scenario in Jammu and took detailed feedback from the health authorities regarding the preparedness of healthcare institutions on water borne diseases due to monsoon rains.

Sakeena Itoo directed the Health, Education and PHE departments to work in close coordination and undertake preventive and awareness measures on a sustained basis to contain the spread of water borne diseases.

"Dengue prevention requires a coordinated response. Health, Education and PHE departments must work together at the field level and ensure that preventive measures, sanitation and awareness activities reach every vulnerable area", the Minister said.

Emphasizing the importance of hygiene in healthcare institutions, Sakeena Itoo directed the concerned authorities to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation in and around hospitals and other health facilities.

She further called for issuance of a comprehensive public advisory to educate people about preventive measures and symptoms of dengue and advised the health authorities to strengthen public awareness campaigns.

The Minister directed that students be sensitized about preventive measures, including the importance of wearing full-sleeve clothing, particularly in areas vulnerable to mosquito-borne diseases. She also asked the concerned authorities to ensure that testing laboratories remain fully equipped and functional so that suspected cases are tested without unnecessary delay.

"Awareness and timely testing are critical in controlling dengue. Our laboratories and

health facilities must remain prepared, while schools should actively contribute to creating awareness among children and families", Sakeena Itoo added.

The Minister also reviewed the supply and distribution of ration and other essential commodities across Jammu division.

The Minister directed the department to maintain effective monitoring of the supply chain and ensure timely delivery of essential commodities, particularly in areas affected by adverse weather conditions and natural calamities.

Sakeena Itoo laid stress on the need for strengthening co-ordination among departments for effective implementation of government schemes and delivery of citizen-centric services.

"Every department has a direct responsibility towards the people. Our focus should be on timely delivery of services, regular monitoring and prompt resolution of issues. There should be no avoidable delay in matters concerning public welfare", she said.

Minister called for greater accountability at every level and directed senior officers to regularly monitor the progress of works and schemes within their respective jurisdictions.

"Coordination, transparency and accountability must remain the guiding principles of our functioning. Officers should ensure that decisions taken at the government level translate into visible outcomes on the ground", the Minister maintained.

Speaker tours Wanpora, Qazipora, Takiya Hayatpora Sarie, reviews developmental works



KT News Desk

CHRRAR-I-SHARIEF, AUGUST 10: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Monday undertook an extensive tour of Wanpora, Qazipora Takiya Hayatpora and Sarie areas of the Chrar-i-Sharief constituency to take stock of ongoing developmental works.

He interacted with the people to understand their development needs and concerns.

During the visit, the Speaker, as per an official statement, visited different locations across the areas and reviewed the progress of developmental activities being undertaken there. He emphasised on improving road connectivity, strengthening infrastructure and addressing the long-pending demands of the people.

A major highlight of the visit was the launching of macadamisation work on the Wanpora link roads. The project is expected to significantly improve the condition of the existing road network, provide smoother and safer connectivity to the residents and facilitate better access to adjoining areas.

Abdul Rahim Rather stressed that proper quality should be maintained during the execution of the macadamisation work so that the roads provide durable and long-term benefits to the people.

The Speaker also visited various spots where bridges have been proposed for construction and took an on-the-spot assessment of the requirements. He examined the locations and discussed the proposed works with the concerned engineers and local representatives. The importance of bridge infrastructure is essential for

improving connectivity particularly for residents who face difficulties during adverse weather conditions. He announced that bridge on Takiya Nagam - Hayatpora- Dalwan road and bridge on Wanpora Sarie road will be taken up at a cost of Rs 2 crore and Rs 80 lakh respectively.

Abdul Rahim Rather interacted with the local residents at Qazipora and listened to their concerns and demands. The people apprised him of various issues related to roads, connectivity and other basic infrastructure requirements.

The Speaker assured them that their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate and timely action. He said Mukhadam Mohalla and Dooninar link roads in Qazipora will be macadamised soon. He called upon the concerned authorities to maintain close coordination and ensure that approved works are completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising on quality.

The Speaker said that better road connectivity and robust infrastructure are essential for socio-economic development of rural areas, as improved connectivity not only facilitates the movement of people but also provides better access to educational institutions, healthcare facilities, markets and other essential services.

During the tour, the Speaker maintained that every effort would be made to ensure equitable development and address infrastructure-related issues on priority.

The Speaker directed the concerned departments to remain responsive to public concerns and work in a coordinated manner to improve and upgrade public amenities in the constituency.

District Capex Budget 2026-27: DC Srinagar reviews status of works

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Monday convened a comprehensive meeting of all executing agencies and line departments here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the progress of works taken up under the District Capex Budget 2026-27.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi-Ud Din, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Bashir Ahmad, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDC, SMC, UEED, Block Development Officers and all other District and Sectoral Officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook an executing-agency-wise detailed review of the progress made in the submission of estimates, floating of tenders and allotment of works, approved under the District Capex Budget 2026-27.

On the occasion, the DC was

apprised that estimates for all approved works have been submitted and tenders for over 97 percent of the works have already been floated, with several works allotted for execution on ground.

The DC directed all executing agencies to fast track the pending tendering and allotment process for approved works and ensure that physical execution of all projects commences without further delay. He underscored the importance of fully utilising the ongoing working season to expedite development works, adhere strictly to prescribed technical standards and stipulated timelines to ensure timely delivery of tangible benefits to the public.

Underscoring the need for coordinated and result-oriented efforts, the Deputy Commissioner directed all line departments and executing agencies to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, adopt proactive planning and ensure optimum utilisation of available resources to expedite the implementation of developmental projects and maximise their intended benefits for the people across the district.

Committee on Government Assurances reviews functioning of PWD, HUDD

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: The Committee on Government Assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Monday convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex here to review the functioning of the Public Works Department (PWD) and Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD).

The meeting, as per an official statement, was chaired by Chairman of the Committee, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members including MLA Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Mir, MLA Iftkar Ahmad, MLA Waheed ur Rehman Para and MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay.

Commissioner Secretary, HUDD, Mandeep Kaur; Commissioner SMC, Fazlul Haseeb; Commissioner JMC, Devansh Yadav; VCA LCMA, VCs of JDA and SDA besides Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandita and officers of the Assembly Secretariat were also present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Committee held detailed deliberations on the constituency-wise allocation of funds under the Roads Sector for 2026-27.



The Committee also reviewed the status of UT Capex Budget, NABARD works and PMGSY projects across J&K.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman Ali Mohammad Sagar emphasized that development must reach every corner of J&K without any bias and directed the departments to ensure equitable distribution of resources.

Taking serious note of water logging in Srinagar, he observed that citizens face immense difficulties during rains. He directed the HUDD to furnish detailed ATRs and submit a time-bound action plan to resolve drainage issues before the onset of the next season.

Ali Sagar, while addressing the officers, said that the Committee values the experience and institutional knowledge of officers. He said that

J&K has some of the most seasoned engineers and administrators who understand the local terrain, weather challenges and public needs better than anyone else. He stressed that this vast experience must be utilized to ensure quality, durability and transparency in execution of all developmental projects.

The Chairman stressed that all members of the Committee have been assigned the responsibility to ensure that development reaches the grassroots and all projects are executed in a transparent and time-bound manner in line with the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision of the Prime Minister. He added that coordination between Legislature and Executive is the key to responsive governance and timely delivery of public services.

3-day student training programme on psychology-driven STEM Learning concludes at Govt College for Women M.A. Road, Srinagar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: Organised in collaboration with NIT Srinagar, the programme was conducted under the JKST&IC (SREP 2025-26) funded project titled "Psychology-Driven STEM Learning to Build Scientific Temper in the Border Villages of Kashmir." The initiative is led by Dr. Eshrat Ara (Principal Investigator, GCW M.A. Road) in collaboration with Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran (Co-Principal Investigator, NIT Srinagar).

The programme, as per a statement, aims at integrating psychological principles with hands-on STEM learning, enabling students to develop critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving skills, and innovation capacity.

A major highlight of the initiative is its structured capacity-building approach. Prior to the student training, 35 teachers

were trained through an intensive 3-day Master Training Programme, creating a strong foundation for sustained implementation. From this cohort, selected Master Trainers actively contributed to the student training programme, reflecting an effective cascade model of knowledge transfer and scalability.

The trained Master Trainers who contributed significantly to the student programme include Dr. Mateen Yousuf, Ms. Samiya Manzoor, Ms. Abida Wahad, Dr. Sheezan Rasool, and Ms. Iqra Akhter. These Master Trainers not only facilitated the sessions but also worked alongside the resource persons, strengthening the delivery and ensuring effective engagement throughout the programme. The resource persons included Dr. Parsa Sarosh, Faculty of Electronics, GCW M.A. Road, and Prof. Naureen Naseer, Faculty of

Psychology, GCW M.A. Road, among others.

Over the course of three days, 60 students from different Higher Secondary Schools of Srinagar participated in the programme. The training offered a carefully designed blend of psychology-driven learning and practical STEM exposure. Students were introduced to problem-solving frameworks, stress management techniques, and design thinking, alongside hands-on engagement with Arduino, sensors, IoT-based automation, 3D printing, drone simulation, and robotics.

The training emphasized learning by doing, with students actively participating in building models such as smart dustbin systems and home automation prototypes, as well as engaging in simulation-based and collaborative activities.

The involvement of trained Master Trainers ensured

peer-supported learning, effective facilitation, and continuity of training outcomes, demonstrating the success of the project's capacity-building strategy.

The programme concluded with a brainstorming and feedback session, where students were encouraged to conceptualize and submit project ideas addressing real-life and community-based challenges. The session reflected strong engagement, creativity, and the practical application of learned concepts.

The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, marking the successful completion of the training. The initiative represents a significant step toward building a sustainable ecosystem of psychology-driven STEM education, with planned outreach to border and underserved regions including Gurez, Uri, Karnah, and Keran.

DC Baramulla chairs meeting of My Bharat District Advisory Committee

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid Monday chaired a meeting of the My Bharat District Advisory Committee (MYB-DAC) to review and deliberate upon the implementation of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) initiatives in the district.

The meeting focused on strengthening inter-departmental convergence, youth participation and effective implementation of youth-oriented programmes under the MY Bharat framework.

The DC stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all concerned departments and stakeholders to ensure meaningful engagement of youth in developmental, social, cultural, sports and nation-building activities.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Pranjal J. Hazarika, District Youth Officer, MY Bharat, Baramulla, and representatives



from various departments and institutions, including Industries, Health, Education, Panchayati Raj, Social Welfare, Information, Employment, Skill Development, NSS, NCC, Bharat Scouts & Guides, Youth Services & Sports and other stakeholder organisations.

The DC emphasised that the MY Bharat platform should be effectively utilised to connect young people with opportunities for volunteering, leadership, skill development and community participation. He called for regular coordination and monitoring so that youth-centric initiatives reach beneficiaries at the grassroots level.

The meeting also deliberated on the role of the My Bharat District Samavay Committee

(MYB-DSC) as the executive mechanism for translating the strategic directions of the District Advisory Committee into actionable plans and ensuring timely field-level implementation.

The DC directed the concerned stakeholders to maintain close coordination, prepare actionable plans and ensure regular reviews of progress, with a focus on providing young people with greater opportunities to contribute to the development of the district.

The meeting marked an important step towards building a coordinated district-level ecosystem for empowering youth and channelising their energy towards constructive community engagement and nation-building.

Frame by Frame: The story tellers' meet held at Jammu ahead of 1st IFFJK-2026

DIPR invites Film fraternity to participate in large numbers

KT News Desk

Jammu, Aug 10: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Monday organised Frame by Frame: The Storytellers' Meet at DIPR Media Complex, Jammu, as a precursor to the upcoming 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK)-2026.

Commissioner Secretary, Information, R Alice Vaz graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and interacted with filmmakers, actors, producers, artists and other stakeholders from the film and media fraternity.

Director Information, Shreya Singhal; Special Secretary, Information, Pawan Singh Rathore; Director Floriculture, Nagendra Jamwal; Director Tourism, Jammu, Vikas Gupta; Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Sonali Arun Gupta; Joint Director Information, Jammu, Deepak Dubey; and prominent members of the film fraternity, including Padma Shri awardee and artist Mohan Singh Slathia, actor Ajay Pal Andotra, director/producer Tariq Khan, line producer Atul Duggal, artist Kusum Tickoo, Rajesh Khajuria of Cine Association of J&K, members from media fraternity, artists, writers and other distinguished were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Secretary Information, R Alice Vaz, described the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir as a landmark initiative aimed at opening a new chapter in the cultural and creative journey of the Union Territory.

"Jammu and Kashmir has a rich and enduring association with cinema. The first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir is an important step towards building on this legacy and creating new



opportunities for the film fraternity," she said.

She said that the department has taken note of the valuable suggestions and expectations put forth by members of the film fraternity during the interaction and assured that these inputs would be duly considered while framing policies and initiatives to facilitate the growth of the film sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

"The department is committed to creating a more conducive and enabling environment for filmmakers, artists and other creative professionals. The suggestions received today will certainly be considered while shaping future initiatives for the benefit of the fraternity," she added.

R Alice Vaz said that the festival, being organised by DIPR, is envisioned not merely as a platform for film screenings but also as a space for meaningful dialogue, interaction, collaboration and cultural exchange.

She invited filmmakers, producers, directors, actors and other members of the film fraternity to participate in the festival in large numbers, saying that

elaborate arrangements have been made for the screenings and associated activities.

"The festival is not only about showcasing films, it is about bringing together filmmakers, producers, artists, audiences and the wider creative community. We want this platform to encourage dialogue, collaboration and new creative possibilities," she said.

The Commissioner Secretary also underlined the wider potential of the festival in promoting Jammu & Kashmir as an attractive destination for filmmakers and visitors.

"While cinema remains at the heart of the festival, we also expect important collateral benefits, particularly in terms of tourism and showcasing the breathtaking landscapes, culture and creative potential of Jammu & Kashmir to audiences across the country and the world," she said.

She expressed satisfaction over the enthusiasm displayed by the young artists and members of the creative community and said that their energy and aspirations would be an

important part of the festival's journey.

Director Information, Shreya Singhal, in her address, said that the first IFFJK marks a significant moment for Jammu & Kashmir, which has shared a deep and historic relationship with cinema.

"Jammu & Kashmir has been closely associated with films for decades. For many people across the country and the world, the landscapes and identity of Jammu & Kashmir have been introduced through cinema. It is therefore fitting that the Jammu and Kashmir now hosts an International Film Festival of its own," she said.

Giving an overview of the festival, the Director Information said that IFFJK-2026 will be held from September 7 to 10 in Srinagar, Jammu and Gulmarg, bringing together actors, producers, directors, writers, cinematographers and other professionals from across India and the world.

She said the festival seeks to establish Jammu & Kashmir as a premier destination for filmmaking while reigniting

the spirit of filmmaking in the region.

"The festival seeks to reignite the spirit of filmmaking in Jammu & Kashmir and establish it as a premier destination for filmmakers. At the same time, one of our key objectives is to celebrate and empower the immensely talented young people of J&K associated with the film industry," she said.

Shreya Singhal said the festival would provide local talent with opportunities to interact with leading voices from the film industry, hone their skills and develop professional networks.

"We want to give our young filmmakers and artists a platform where they can learn, interact with established names and gradually emerge as leading voices themselves," she said.

She informed that the festival has received an overwhelming response in its maiden edition, with entries coming from more than 80 countries, describing it as a strong indication of the global interest in Jammu & Kashmir as a cultural and cinematic destination.

The Director Information said the festival will feature screenings of feature films, short films and documentaries from international, national and regional cinema, besides masterclasses and technical sessions on contemporary aspects of filmmaking.

She said sessions would cover diverse themes including the filmmaking process, sound and editing, emerging technologies, artificial intelligence in filmmaking, animation and other contemporary areas.

Emphasising the importance of sustained outreach, Shreya Singhal said DIPR has undertaken an extensive publicity and social media campaign through a dedicated team to give the festival a distinct identity and reach audiences beyond the region.

"Our endeavour is that IFFJK should not remain merely a local or regional celebration. We want it to develop its own identity as a distinctive international platform that creates value for filmmakers, artists, audiences, tourism stakeholders and the wider creative ecosystem," she said.

She added that a dedicated

website and application have also been developed to facilitate registrations, film submissions and dissemination of curated festival updates.

The Director Information further informed that gala opening and closing ceremonies would be held on September 7 and 10 respectively, with participation of acclaimed members of the film fraternity.

Earlier, the meet provided an opportunity to members of the film fraternity and creative community to share their views, experiences and suggestions regarding the development of the film sector and the upcoming festival.

They appreciated the Government and Information department for organising 1st IFFJK 2026 in Jammu and Kashmir. They underlined that there is a need to promote local artists also so that they can get due exposure from these kind of grand events.

Pertinently, the 1st IFFJK-2026 is slated to be held from 7th to 10th September, 2026, with an aim to promote artistic excellence, cinematic innovation, and cultural exchange, while fostering a deeper appreciation for world cinema.

In a significant initiative to encourage and promote emerging filmmaking talent from Jammu & Kashmir, the DIPR has also announced the IFFJK Emerging Filmmakers Competition 2026, as part of the festival with registrations for the competition commenced from 6th August, 2026.

The competition is exclusively open to aspiring filmmakers from Jammu & Kashmir and aims to provide a prestigious platform for young storytellers to showcase their creativity, cinematic vision and technical skills through original short films. The last date for submission is August 26, 2026.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Security beefed up

along important routes leading towards frontier areas as part of the overall security arrangements ahead of Independence Day.

The measures are aimed at maintaining a high level of alertness and ensuring smooth and peaceful Independence Day celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials have maintained that preventive security measures, including intensified checking, frisking and surveillance, are being undertaken as part of the routine arrangements ahead of the national event.

Security personnel have urged commuters and motorists to cooperate with checking teams, with authorities maintaining that the heightened presence is intended to ensure safety and security during the Independence Day celebrations.

The security arrangements are expected to remain in place in the run-up to August 15, with forces maintaining enhanced vigil across urban centres, highways, border areas and other strategically important locations in Jammu and Kashmir.

IGP BIRDI REVIEWS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS
Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi reviewed security arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations and other scheduled events across Kashmir, directing officers to strengthen checkpoints, patrolling and area domination in vulnerable areas.

IGP Birdi chaired a security review meeting at Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir, which was attended by senior officers from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, CRPF, BSF, SSB, ITBP, RPF, CID, traffic police and other security agencies.

During the meeting, senior officers briefed the IGP on the arrangements put in place for the smooth and peaceful conduct of Independence Day celebrations across all districts of the Valley.

District Superintendents of Police also briefed the meeting about preparations and security arrangements in their respective districts.

IGP Birdi directed the officers to ensure that all necessary preparations are completed well in advance and assigned specific responsibilities for various events planned across the Valley, including rallies.

The IGP also reviewed security arrangements for the main Independence Day function at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar and directed officers concerned to further strengthen security measures and ensure comprehensive arrangements at the venue.

He directed officers to strengthen security checkpoints, particularly during night hours, at vulnerable locations and along entry and exit routes of Srinagar city.

The IGP also called for intensified area domination and patrolling, particularly in sensitive and vulnerable areas, to maintain a robust security presence and ensure effective surveillance.

He stressed the need for strict vigilance against elements inimical to peace and security and called for enhanced alertness across all jurisdictions.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including IG BSF Frontier Headquarters Kashmir, IG CRPF Kashmir Operations Sector, IG CRPF Srinagar, DIG SSB Srinagar, DIG CID Kashmir, range DIGs of Kashmir Zone, DIG Traffic Kashmir, DIG ITBP Srinagar, DIG RPF Kashmir and district SSPs.

Senior officers from the Army, including Col GS (IS), 15 Corps, besides officials from the Security Wing, CID, Armed Police, SDRF, Railway Police, traffic police and other agencies also participated in the meeting.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to heightened vigilance, enhanced inter-agency co-ordination and effective implementation of security protocols to ensure the peaceful and orderly conduct of Independence Day celebrations and other scheduled events across the Valley. (KNO)

Parl committee recommends

reasoned orders were communicated in an accessible language," the report said.

The committee recommended that suitable action be taken to distribute titles based on the review. "Further, based on the review suitable action be taken to distribute approved titles without delay, and legal and administrative assistance should also be provided to genuine claimants, particularly members of migratory and tribal communities," reads the report.

The Forest Rights Act was made applicable to Jammu & Kashmir on October 31, 2019. Under the law, the tribal and forest-dwelling communities are granted rights to reside in and cultivate forest land.

As per the 2011 Census, the tribal population of Jammu & Kashmir is 12.75 lakh, constituting 10.39 percent of the UT's total population. In 2024, the Government of India also granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to four other communities, including the Paharis. (KNO)

Attend national level

will also be held on August 12, in which Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are expected to participate.

He said the colourful tricolour-themed rally would begin at 7 am from SKICC and proceed towards the Botanical Garden. "The Divisional Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Culture, is making necessary arrangements for the rally," he said.

"All people, especially youth, are invited to attend the national-level events and participate in large numbers," Garg said. (KNO)

CM Omar hints

the strength of the council of ministers, currently six, cannot exceed nine. According to sources, two to three new faces from the Kashmir Valley are likely to be inducted in the council of ministers.

"There could also be a rejig in portfolios, and one minister from Jammu may lose a key portfolio," sources added. (KNO)

CM Omar honours

presented to 580 sportspersons and international athletes. The Chief Minister personally handed over awards to 22 sportspersons, while the remaining beneficiaries received the amount through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

CM Omar said the government would make efforts to ensure that athletes do not face financial pressure for coaching, training, equipment and travel, stressing that such expenses should not become a burden on their parents and families.

"The player should not have any tension about the investment being made in coaching, travel or other expenses. The pressure should not fall on their families or parents," he said.

The Chief Minister said athletes can achieve their true potential when provided with the right facilities and assured the sportspersons that the government would extend all possible support.

"The right fruits of your hard work will come when you get the right facilities. We are quite behind in this regard and need to improve going forward," he said.

CM Omar said the government had studied models of states and regions that have produced international-level athletes and would work towards strengthening sports infrastructure in J&K.

The Chief Minister called for improved facilities at the grassroots level, including synthetic tracks, quality playing surfaces, indoor facilities and training infrastructure, particularly in mountainous and winter areas where adverse weather restricts outdoor training.

He further stressed the need to make greater use of J&K's high-altitude areas for specialised training. "We have to utilise our high altitude to promote high-quality sports," he said.

The Chief Minister called for greater attention to both established and emerging sporting disciplines, saying J&K has considerable talent beyond conventional sports.

Referring to the overwhelming focus on cricket, CM Omar said other disciplines also require greater attention and investment.

"Unfortunately, when we talk about sports, perhaps more than 80% of the attention goes towards cricket. Most of the money is also in cricket, followed by football and then other sports," he said.

He said India's ambitions at major international sporting events require athletes to be encouraged across different disciplines, while welcoming growing corporate participation

in sports, particularly in coaching and athlete development.

Referring to emerging disciplines such as BMX, skateboarding and gymnastics, CM Omar said the achievements of J&K sportspersons have demonstrated the potential among young athletes.

"Our children have potential. These awards have shown that. They have an interest in these sports and we have to encourage them," he said.

He also pointed to the need for better basic training facilities, saying athletes in J&K often compete with sportspersons who have access to advanced infrastructure and year-round training.

"I can count the synthetic tracks on the fingers of one hand. I can see four. When we cannot provide our athletes with synthetic tracks, what medals can we expect from them?" the Chief Minister asked.

"Your competition is with those who are practising for 12 months of the year," he added.

Linking sports promotion with the government's anti-drug campaign, Omar said sustained engagement of young people through sports is essential to keeping them away from drugs.

"Staying away from drugs cannot be a slogan for just one day in the year. It has to be for 12 months in a year, and that will happen only when we provide infrastructure for sports," he said.

CM Omar said sports activities and competitions being promoted through schools and other institutions should be expanded to more areas, with greater participation of children and youth.

On the occasion, CM Omar felicitated J&K MMA fighter Owais Yaqoob for his remarkable victory at BRAVE CF 107 in Bulgaria, where he defeated an unbeaten two-time IMMAF World Champion.

He also launched an anti-drugs and antidoping campaign by handing over a campaign torch to a sports icon from Jammu and Kashmir. The torch will travel through schools and different areas of Srinagar as part of the awareness campaign.

The Chief Minister said sports icons would play an important role in spreading awareness against drug abuse and doping while promoting clean and fair competition.

He also said the sportspersons receiving cash awards should remain connected with sports and inspire the next generation of athletes.

Minister for Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Secretary Sports Council, sports icons, sportspersons, athletes, coaches, awardees and their parents were present on the occasion. (KNO)

Parl panel recommends

tourist inflow to the Jammu region.

"The Committee is of the considered view that such a facility has the potential to substantially

reduce travel time, improve accessibility, decongest existing transport networks and provide a significant impetus to pilgrimage, tourism and regional economic development," reads the report, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

It recommended that the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in consultation with the Airports Authority of India, the Government of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and other concerned stakeholders, carry out a detailed feasibility study to assess the viability of developing an airport or an alternative aviation facility in the Katra region.

During its study visit to Jammu & Kashmir between May 11 to 16, the parliamentary panel visited Katra, and held discussions with representatives of the Shrine Board, the district administration and other concerned agencies. (KNO)

MeT predicts 'heavy

waterlogging, particularly in low-lying areas, it said.

The advisory comes amid an active monsoon phase in the Union Territory, where intense rainfall has triggered flash floods and landslides at several locations in recent weeks.

The weather is likely to remain unsettled thereafter, with light rain and thundershowers expected at many places from August 12 to 16. Brief spells of intense rain cannot be ruled out at isolated locations during this period.

Another spell of light to moderate rain and thundershowers is forecast across many areas from August 17 to 19, with isolated intense showers also possible.

SRINAGAR RECORDS 33.2 C

Meanwhile, the weather remained largely dry across Jammu and Kashmir during the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Monday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2 degrees Celsius, which was 3.2 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 19.4 degrees Celsius.

Jammu recorded a maximum of 34.6 degrees Celsius against a normal of 33.1 degrees, while the minimum temperature was 25.1 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 27.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 17 degrees, while Gulmarg saw a high of 22.8 degrees and a low of 11.8 degrees.

The Meteorological Centre has advised people and authorities to remain cautious in vulnerable areas and stay alert to the possibility of flash floods, landslides and temporary waterlogging during periods of intense rainfall. (KNO)

Lolab youth

strengthened his resolve to undertake the long journey. He has now set out from Kashmir with the aim of reaching the holy cities of Saudi Arabia on his bicycle. (KNO)

Govt ready for debate on students' stir; Oppn will have to listen to Amit Shah's reply peacefully: Rijiju

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 10: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday said the government is ready for a debate in the Lok Sabha on the student protests as well as police action, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah will reply to the debate but the Opposition should give an assurance that they will not run away from it and listen peacefully.

There has been a persistent demand from the Opposition for a statement from the home minister on the police action against students protesting in the city last month. Shah has not been seen in the House even though he has been regularly coming to Parliament House complex.

Rijiju also said that since the



government is ready for the debate on the student protests in different parts of the country,

the Opposition can't create any turmoil and resort to any sloganeering during the discussion in

the House as well as reply to the debate. "We have made it clear to the BAC (Business Advisory Committee) of the Lok Sabha that the government is ready for a detailed discussion on the students and youth agitations that have been going on in different parts of the country as well as police action. The home minister will reply to the debate on behalf of the government," he told reporters after a meeting of the BAC held in Parliament House complex.

However, Rijiju said, the Opposition has to assure that they will take part in the debate peacefully and will not disrupt the proceedings, listen to the reply of the home minister and will not run away after creating turmoil and sloganeering.

The Monsoon Session, which started on July 20, has seen

repeated adjournments and virtually no business except the debate on the anti-paper leaks bill -- The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 -- which was passed by both Houses of Parliament.

Three more bills were passed in the two Houses with little or no debate and two other bills were passed by the Lok Sabha, amid unrelenting protests by the Opposition.

The Opposition parties initially protested over the NEET paper leaks and alleged theft of donations at the Ayodhya Ram temple. They later pressed for a discussion on police action against students protesting over the NEET paper leaks and also demanded the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the home minister and their statements.

Sensex, Nifty fall in early trade amid crude oil price surge, geopolitical tensions

PTI

Mumbai, Aug 10: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty drifted lower in early trade on Monday amid a spike in crude oil prices due to geopolitical uncertainties.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 19.38 points to 78,479.79 in early deals. The 50-share NSE Nifty skidded 5.10 points to 24,567.45.

Later in the trade, the BSE benchmark declined 158.62 points to 78,340.55, and the Nifty edged lower by 45.20 points to 24,524.95.

From the Sensex pack, Eternal, State Bank of India, InterGlobe Aviation, Power Grid, NTPC and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

Titan, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and HCL Tech were among the winners.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 1.03 per cent higher at USD 84.41 per barrel.

"Elevated crude prices remain a key risk. Brent crude has risen for the third consecutive session to around USD 84.4 a barrel from Iran indicated no immediate reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, while weekend attacks on Gulf shipping have kept the geopolitical risk premium elevated," Rajesh Palviya, Head of Research, Axis Direct, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 480.24 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. "The undertone of the market is mildly bullish. The principal bullish factor is the better-than-expected Q1 results. With the earnings season coming to an end this week, vast majority of companies have reported earnings growth that has beaten expectations," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Police use water cannon, tear gas, lathi charge as job aspirants attempt to reach J'khand assembly

PTI

Ranchi, Aug 10: Police used water cannons, lobbed tear gas shells, and lathi-charged job aspirants as they breached barricades and attempted to reach the state assembly, protesting the alleged recruitment exam irregularities.

Several protesters claimed they were injured in the police action, which took place when they reached the final barricade near Jagannathpur Temple on the road to the assembly, which is in session.

"The baton charge was barbaric. We were protesting peacefully, but the government used batons against us. They can only inflict physical injuries, not harm our thoughts," Piyush Kumar Soni, a protester, told PTI.

"Many female students sustained injuries. Police hit us on our head, arms, face everywhere," he claimed.

Vikram Kumar, who came from Hazaribag district, claimed to have sustained a head injury.

"Whatever the Hemant Soren government is doing to us is not good. We were protesting peacefully; then why is your police baton charging us," he asked.

The march, which coincided with the 51st birthday of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, began from outside the old assembly building around 10.30 am as the protest over the recruitment exam irregularities entered the 17th day. JMKM leader Devendra Nath Mahto, who has been on a fast for nine days over the issue, joined the march in an ambulance.



He was seen carrying a portrait of former chief minister Shibu Soren.

Objecting to the installation of barbed-wire barricades along the route of the assembly march, Mahto said anger was brewing among students over the injustices done to them.

Armed with tricolours and placards that read "Cancel JSSC-CGL Exams or Conduct a CBI Probe", "Why is CID escaping from conducting a raid on JSSC?" and "Conduct an impartial investigation, bring out the truth", thousands of young men and women breached one barricade after the other amid heavy security deployment.

As police used water cannons when the march reached Jagannathpur Temple, the demonstrators broke into dance, waving tricolours. But the situation soon escalated when the protesters attempted to march forward, prompting the police to baton

charge. Failing to restrain the gathering, the police fired several rounds of tear gas shells when the protesters were about 200 meters away from the assembly.

"If we cannot reach the assembly, our voices must reach them. We do not fear the government, which is treating us like traitors. We have been compelled to take to the streets," a protester said.

The JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch, which is spearheading the agitation, said it has deployed around 500 volunteers to prevent anti-social elements from joining the march.

JMKM MLA Jairam Mahto, who joined the march a day after holding a fast over the issue, said, "The students are protesting peacefully; why is the police trying to restrain them? They are not carrying lathis in their hands."

Meanwhile, state minister Sudivya Kumar claimed that the

BJP had "hijacked" the protest for its political ambition.

Talking to reporters outside the assembly, he said it was unfortunate that the job aspirants were agitating despite the government fulfilling 95 per cent of their demands.

Earlier, replying to a query on the protests in the assembly, Kumar alleged the agitation has shifted from being a students' movement to one dominated by "BJP's evil mentality and political designs".

Besides imposing prohibitory orders, heavy security was deployed on the entire stretch, around 4 km long, with senior officers keeping a close watch, officials said.

More than 1,500 personnel from the Rapid Action Force, Indian Reserve Battalion, district police and QRT have been deployed, they said.

The government has held several rounds of talks with the demonstrators, but failed to break the deadlock.

The protesters said the government had agreed to cancel only three of the 13 exams they wanted scrapped. The agitators are demanding comprehensive reforms in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) and Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC).

They are also seeking cancellation of several recruitment tests, including the 14th Jharkhand PSC Civil Services Examination, and an independent probe into the alleged irregularities, either by the CBI or by a panel of retired high court judges from outside the state.

UGC-NET June 2026 provisional answer key to be out this week: NTA



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 10: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Monday said it will publish the provisional answer key for the UGC-NET June 2026 examination on its official website this week. The NTA will also release answer keys for CSIR-NET and ICAR AIEEA (PG) and AICE (PhD) 2026 examinations.

"The provisional answer keys for the UGC-NET June 2026 examination will be published on the official website this week, along with the provisional answer keys for the CSIR-NET and ICAR AIEEA (PG) & AICE (PhD) 2026 examinations," the NTA said in a public notice.

The NTA said candidates will be able to view the provisional answer keys and raise challenges within the notified window. Detailed instructions will be provided at the time of publication, it said.

The NTA advised candidates to regularly check

its official website and rely only on official communications from the agency.

The NTA conducted the UGC NET examinations on six days between June 22-30 and a retest on July 5, 2026.

UGC-NET is conducted to determine the eligibility of candidates for the posts of Assistant Professor and admission to PhD programmes. The examination consists of two papers: Paper I, which includes 50 questions on teaching aptitude, reasoning ability, and general awareness, and Paper II, which contains 100 subject-related multiple-choice questions.

The joint CSIR-UGC NET June 2026 examination were held on July 17-18 in computer-based test (CBT) mode to determine the eligibility for the award of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), appointment as Assistant Professor, and admission to PhD programmes in institutions across India.

8th Central Pay Commission has not submitted report yet: Govt

IANIS

New Delhi, Aug 10: The 8th Central Pay Commission has not yet submitted its recommendations to the government, the Parliament was informed on Monday.

The commission chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai was constituted by the government on November 3, 2025. It had been given 18 months from the date of its constitution to submit its recommendations. It may also submit interim reports on matters where recommendations are finalised earlier. The effective date for the 8th Pay Commission recommendations has not been announced by the government.

The government said there were around 35.77 lakh Central government civilian employees as of March 1, 2026. The number of pensioners and family pensioners stood at around 33.76 lakh as of December 31, 2025, excluding defence pensioners.

The Terms of Reference require the commission to examine matters relating to pay revision, allowances, pension, family pension, and service conditions.

The commission is currently holding regional meetings with employee unions, service associations, and pensioner organisations.

India considers curbs on use of cane for ethanol to tame record-high sugar prices

REUTERS

New Delhi, Aug 10: India is considering restricting the amount of sugarcane used for ethanol in the season beginning October to boost sugar output and try to calm record prices, two government and two industry sources said.

Reduced rainfall in Maharashtra and Karnataka, India's biggest sugarcane-producing states, has raised concerns about next year's sugar output, the sources said, declining to be named because the deliberations are not public. They said prioritising sugar supplies over ethanol could help India to avoid sugar imports by boosting domestic supplies as production falls and a decision on the issue could be made by the end of next month.

A government spokesperson did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment.

Roughly 3 million metric tons of sugar at stake

Mills diverted about 3 million metric tons of sugar, or around 10% of total output, to ethanol production during the current year to the end of September.

Restricting that next season could add a similar volume to domestic sugar supplies, offsetting



the expected drop in output due to weak rains in the biggest cane-growing states, the sources said.

Indian sugar prices have risen about 10% over the last month to a record high and are expected to remain high for at least the next three months as supplies tighten and demand from the Indian festival season, when people travel more, gathers pace, Reuters reported last week.

To keep its programme of blending 20% ethanol into petrol on track, the government would need to increase the use of corn and rice for

ethanol production to offset the reduced amount from sugar cane. Corn and rice stocks are ample.

The sources with direct knowledge of the matter said mills would be asked to stop producing ethanol from sugarcane juice and B-heavy molasses, a byproduct with a relatively high sugar content.

Mills would instead be allowed to produce ethanol mainly from C-heavy molasses, a byproduct left after most of the sugar has been extracted, they said.

The ethanol allocation for the sugar industry for the

marketing year beginning November is expected to be finalised before the season starts, after which state fuel retailers will float tenders for ethanol purchases, the sources said. New Delhi has already banned sugar exports and last month imposed limits on the stocks that dealers can hold.

The new curbs under consideration are unlikely to significantly hurt the sugar industry because mills are expected to earn more from producing and selling sugar than from diverting sugarcane for ethanol, industry officials said.

SC permits TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee to travel abroad for three weeks for eye treatment

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 10: In a relief to Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, the Supreme Court on Monday permitted him to travel abroad for three weeks for eye treatment, brushing aside the West Bengal government's apprehension that he may not come back due to 16 pending cases against him.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana observed that every individual has a right to choose medical treatment and asked Banerjee to share his itinerary of the visit, including the place of stay, with the probe agency.

It was hearing the Diamond Harbour MP's plea challenging the Calcutta High Court's August 5 order denying him permission to travel abroad for the treatment.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the West Bengal government, told the bench that there were 16 cases against Banerjee.

"We apprehend that he may not come back," he said.

The bench observed, "Every individual has a right to go abroad. Every individual has a right to choose his medical treatment".

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Banerjee, opposed Raju's submissions and said the TMC leader was an MP and his family is in India.

He said most of these cases were registered against Banerjee after the change of government in West Bengal.



The law officer said they don't have any objection to Banerjee getting medical treatment abroad, but it has to be ascertained after medical assessment whether he will need to go abroad or not.

He said if Banerjee was not willing to undergo medical assessment, then adverse inference must be drawn against him. The bench observed that seeking treatment for illness or condition sometimes is a part of the right to privacy. After hearing the submissions, the apex court allowed Banerjee's appeal and permitted him to go abroad for three weeks. The high court had on August 5 dismissed Banerjee's plea seeking permission to travel abroad, noting that he was unwilling to appear before the medical board at the state-run SSKM Hospital the next day for an assessment of his medical condition.

The high court noted that had

Banerjee appeared before the medical board, based on the opinion furnished by the medical experts, the issue could have been examined by the court in order to find out whether he needed to go abroad for treatment or not. On August 3, the apex court had asked the high court to take up within a week Banerjee's plea seeking permission to travel abroad for eye treatment.

The top court was then told by Banerjee's counsel that the plea sought modification of the high court order to allow the MP to travel for medical treatment.

The high court had earlier extended till October 6 Banerjee's interim protection from coercive action in a case related to alleged comments against leaders and workers of a rival party at a public meeting on April 27 in the run-up to the second phase of the West Bengal assembly polls.

Iran won't reopen Strait of Hormuz without US concessions



AP

Dubai, Aug 10: Iran on Monday said it will not reopen the Strait of Hormuz until the United States met its conditions.

"It is up to the US side to stop and make amends for its illegal and destructive

actions," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said, noting the American blockade of Iranian ports. Iran wants the US to lift the blockade, pay compensation for months of war damage, lift economic sanctions and release Iran's frozen assets. The closure of the Strait of

Hormuz - a waterway that normally carries roughly one-fifth of the world's traded oil supplies - has become the war's most lasting consequence. The impasse has kept energy prices as a major focus of US politics ahead of November's midterm elections.

Cricket Scotland, KNCB criticise ICC's changes to ODI World Cup format

PTI

Dubai, Aug 10: Cricket Scotland and the Royal Dutch Cricket Association (KNCB) on Monday said the changes to next year's ODI World Cup format "risk weakening the integrity and credibility of international cricket", questioning the process through which the changes have been introduced.

While the 2027 ODI World Cup will have a total of 14 countries, the teams ranked 12th, 13th and 14th will face off in a qualifying round from which only one team will progress to join the final 12 sides. These 12 teams will be further divided into two groups of six each for the main round.

The two national boards issued a joint statement on Monday criticising the global governing body's decision to change the format with less than 18 months left for the competition, which will be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

"Cricket Scotland and the Royal Dutch Cricket Association are deeply disappointed by the International Cricket Council's recent decision to implement significant structural changes to the ICC Men's 50-over World Cup qualification pathway and tournament format with less than 18 months until the competition begins," the statement said. "These changes represent a setback to Associate Member cricket and risk undermining the progress

India wins 17 medals at U-23 Commonwealth fencing C'ship



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 10: India secured 17 medals, including four gold at the U-23 Commonwealth Fencing Championship, dominating both the men's and women's individual events currently underway in Lagos, Nigeria.

Team India captured four gold, four silver, and nine bronze medals after the opening day of the event which began on Sunday and will run till August 14.

The national squad displayed absolute dominance across every discipline, ensuring at least one Indian fencer reached the podium in all six individual events spanning Sabre, Foil, and Epee categories, stated a release from the Fencing

Association of India.

In the men's Sabre competition, Team India was led by Nikhil Wagh, who secured the gold medal. Lakshay Badser took the silver, while Ashwini Arya and Laishram Moramba shared the Bronze medals to complete a four-way victory.

In the men's Foil, Tejas Patil captured silver and Hemash Sanasam took bronze. In men's Epee, Lokesh Vemani brought home a silver, with Shaurya Ashwini and Godwin Anbkess earning bronze medals.

India's women athletes were equally dominant, securing top honours in two out of three categories.

Joy's Ashita won gold in women's Foil ahead of teammate Kanaglakshmi, who earned silver.

PM's meeting with Commonwealth Games medallists Modi lauds Lovlina for objecting to distorted India map

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 10: Boxer Lovlina Borgohain got appreciation for objecting to a distorted Indian flag, weightlifter Mirabai Chanu opened up about the "turmoil" of her last four years while some other Commonwealth Games medallists took the opportunity to share jokes with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who hosted them for an interaction here.

The PM heard from the medallists about their experiences building up to the Commonwealth Games and during their stay in Glasgow during a meeting at his residence on Sunday. It was also attended by Sports Minister Manu Sukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Sports Raksha Khadse and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President P T Usha.

"Kya hua wo restaurant waale se jhagda kar rahi thi? (What happened, you were fighting with that restaurant guy?)" Modi asked Lovlina, who won the 75kg category silver, in the little over 10-minute video of the interaction shared by his office on Monday.

The Assam boxer laughed and replied, "We had such a good performance and it was the last day of the Games. It was a happy occasion sir, we were celebrating and I didn't like it when I saw the distorted flag. I politely told them and they have made the changes also."

The PM, while applauding her, said it was a thoughtful gesture at a time when she was just out to



celebrate her triumph. India won 39 medals in the truncated Games to finish fourth. The tally included 13 gold medals, seven of them coming in boxing.

"To be able to recognise the significance of that map at a time when you were celebrating and the Games were over, I can tell you truthfully, that video was not ordinary. It will be remembered by people for a very long time," he told the Tokyo Olympics bronze-winner.

In his one-on-one chat with Mirabai, who won the 48kg category gold in Glasgow with a Games record lift of 190kg, the PM asked about her breakdown on the podium. He also fed her a laddu during the interaction.

Mirabai said it was a moment of letting go emotions that she had been holding on for the past four years. "Itne aansu tapak rahe the (So many tears were rolling down),"

'US not disengaging from Asia, seeks 'partners, not protectorates'

REUTERS

Manila, Aug 10: The United States is not disengaging from Asia and is instead "digging in" to maintain a favorable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, but wants its partners to shoulder more responsibility for their defense, a senior Pentagon official said on Monday.

Seeking to counter concerns about Washington's reliability, Elbridge Colby, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, reiterated the US interest in the region as he called for greater burden-sharing and "partnership, not dependency."

"America is definitely not disengaging from Asia," Colby said in a speech in Manila. "We are not leaving; in fact, we are digging in, to ensure a favorable balance of power



where it matters most."

The Philippines, the United States' oldest treaty ally in Asia, is the first stop on a Southeast Asian trip that also will take Colby to Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia.

Colby said maintaining a favorable balance of power

in the Indo-Pacific required a "posture of deterrence by denial along the First Island Chain" and pointed to what he said was a growing US military commitment in the region.

The First Island Chain refers to an area stretching from Japan down to Taiwan, the Philippines and Borneo.

The strategy could not rest on American forces alone, he said, arguing that allies should invest more in their security.

"When we ask our allies and partners to step up, to invest more in their own defense, and to take responsibility for their own sovereign security, we are not signaling abandonment," Colby said. "We are looking for partners, not protectorates."

"When our partners are strong, deterrence is strong," he added

S Korea, US to begin exercises next week to bolster readiness against North's threats

AP

Seoul, Aug 10: South Korean and US troops will begin their annual exercises next week to beef up readiness against North Korean threats, the allies announced Monday, days after North Korea resumed ballistic missile testing activities that are banned by the UN.

The Ulchi Freedom Shield is to begin next Monday for a 11-day run and its scale will be similar to previous years with about 18,000 South Korean soldiers participating in it, South Korean military spokesperson Jang Do-young told reporters.

Speaking at the same news conference, US military spokesperson Ryan Donald said by incorporating realistic threats including "lessons from recent conflicts," the exercise will serve as an opportunity to further strengthen the alliance's readiness and capabilities through combined, joint, all-domain operations.

He cited North Korea's dispatch of troops to support Russia's war against Ukraine in recent years.

Neeraj urges junior athletes to 'keep up momentum' after good show at World U20 C'ships

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 10: Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra on Monday urged the junior athletes of the country to keep up the momentum after their good show in the World Athletics U20 Championships in the USA where they won three medals. With two silver and one bronze in the championships in Eugene, India equalled the medal haul of the 2021 and 2022 editions.

Chopra, who had won a javelin gold and set still-standing world junior record of 86.48m in the 2016 edition, said not only winning the medals, the youngsters must have gained experience of competing with international athletes in the championships.

"Congratulations to the entire Indian contingent at the U-20 World Athletics Championships, who gave their best for the country and returned not just with medals, but so much of exposure and experience of competing with international athletes," Chopra wrote on 'X'.

"Keep building on this momentum!" High jumper Basant Kumar Meghwal



and long jumper Shah Nawaz Khan won a silver and a bronze to become the first Indians to win a medal each in their respective events in the global U20 showcase.

"A first of many for Basant Kumar Meghwal and Shah Nawaz Khan, who won Silver and Bronze at the U-20 Worlds in the Men's High Jump and Long Jump, respectively. Kudos to them and the team behind the scenes working with such incredible talent!" Chopra said in another message. Ashish Yadav had opened India's medal account with

a silver in the men's javelin throw, and Chopra had already expressed his happiness about another javelin thrower from the country winning yet another medal in the junior showcase.

"Always a great feeling to see Indian athletes competing and winning at the International level, this one is little more special for me as a javelin thrower. Super proud of you Ashish on your Silver at the U-20 Worlds, this is just the start!"

From 2002 to 2018, India won just four medals in the World Athletics U20

Championships, including a gold each from Chopra (men's javelin throw in 2016) and Hima Das (women's 400m race in 2018).

Discus thrower Seema Antil won India's first ever medal in the World Athletics U20 Championships with a silver in the 2002 edition in Jamaica, before Navjeet Kaur Dhillon won a bronze in the same event in 2014 in the USA. In 2021 edition, Amit (men's 10,000m race walk) and Shaili Singh (women's long jump) won a silver each while the mixed 4x400m relay team bagged a bronze.

SPIDER-MAN
BRAND NEW DAY

THE ODYSSEY

INOX SRINAGAR

MOVIES Schedule

TUESDAY, 11TH AUGUST

	SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY - HINDI (U/A 13+)	03:10 PM
	SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY - 3D ENGLISH ATOMS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES (U/A 13+)	11:00 AM 02:05 PM 05:10 PM 08:15 PM
	SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY - ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES (U/A 13+)	12:05 PM 03:40 PM 06:45 PM
	THE ODYSSEY - ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES (U)	12:15 PM 06:15 PM

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