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National Space Day

Dream bigger, innovate more: PM Modi to space startups

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Aug 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday extended greetings on National Space Day and called upon India's space startups to dream even bigger, innovate more, and push newer frontiers, as he interacted with CEOs of leading space companies who have successfully launched India's first private rocket and are now working on cutting-edge technologies including space docking, refueling, and space-based pharmaceutical manufacturing.

"Happy National Space Day! Here's to dreaming even bigger, innovating more and pushing newer frontiers," the Prime Minister wrote on X.

In a subsequent interaction with space startup CEOs, Modi emphasised the importance of



creating trust and consistency in policy decisions so that those willing to take risks can have confidence in the system.

"My view has always been that whatever decisions we take, we must remain consistent in them, we must not keep changing them again and again, so that anyone who wants to take a risk can have confidence

that, fine, if something goes wrong it will be because of my mistake, but no one will abandon me. And this was our effort - to create that trust," the Prime Minister said.

During the interaction, CEOs of India's first space tech unicorn informed the Prime Minister that they successfully launched India's first private

rocket on July 18, ejecting satellites into orbit. The company, which has already built three factories and has the capacity for one rocket per month, said this is just the beginning, with plans to achieve one launch per month by mid-next year and eventually one launch per week.

One CEO told the Prime Minister that they have developed one of the most modern engines in the world, with testing currently ongoing. Following the successful launch, investor confidence has increased significantly, and the company has already received eight launch contracts in the last month, mostly from international clients.

Another startup CEO said they are working on a robotic spacecraft that will go to space, physically | [More on P6](#)



Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah and presents Nasha Mukta J&K Campaign Coffee Table Book prepared by DIPR, J&K

We must export innovation, not import it: LG Manoj Sinha

» Addresses World Wisdom Forum, says seed of Viksit Bharat already sprouted

» Urges industry leaders to invest in J&K's hydropower, tourism, handicrafts

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Aug 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday reflected on India's aspirations under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying the seed of Viksit Bharat has already sprouted and historic milestones have been achieved in the past 12 years.

"With international agencies predicting India's rise as one of the world's three largest economies well before 2047, the nation must also define the character of its civilisation, spirituality, and cultural framework. The IIT alumni and eminent personalities from various fields must remember that history remembers civilisations for their economies and also for what they did with the



resources and prosperity generated by those economies," the Lieutenant Governor said, addressing the World Wisdom Forum, organised by the IIT Alumni Council in New Delhi, and felicitated achievers from diverse sectors.

In his keynote address, the LG congratulated the Council for its efforts in bringing together eminent personalities to deliberate on the theme of Viksit Bharat and India's collective future.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised | [More on P6](#)

PM Modi's tenure has ushered in peace, dev in J&K: Union min

PTI

Srinagar, Aug 23: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said there has been a paradigm shift in the mindset of people in Jammu and Kashmir after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power at the Centre.

"The mindset in Jammu and Kashmir has changed completely just like in the Northeast. This happened after the Narendra Modi government was formed in 2014," Singh told reporters on the sidelines of BJP's organisational meeting here.

"Since Prime Minister Modi's tenure began, the atmosphere here has changed. There is peace, and normalcy is returning. | [More on P6](#)

AI can draft contracts, but cannot interpret human intent: LG Sinha

Advises students: 'Don't limit yourselves to curriculum, explore diverse fields'

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Aug 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said that in a rapidly transforming world, students must understand that the environment they prepare for will change dramatically by the time they graduate. He noted that technological progress is accelerating at an unprecedented pace, making lifelong learning essential to adapt to the evolving landscape.

The LG graced the valedictory function of the Induction & Orientation Programme at IIM Rohtak and addressed the 8th batch of the Integrated



Programme in Management (IPM) and the 6th batch of the Integrated Programme in Law (IPL).

He highlighted the institute's pioneering initiatives in sports management, its

commitment to gender diversity, 100% placements, and outreach programmes such as skill development for the daughters of UT of Jammu Kashmir.

Sinha emphasized that induction today is not merely about career opportunities or institutional brand value.

"I want the spirit of adapting to change and working constructively to take deep root in your minds. Remember, the most important question in life is never 'What do I do?' The real question is: 'What do I know so well that, despite all challenges and changing circumstances, I can re-establish myself fully in the market?' | [More on P6](#)

'Under PM Modi, India transforming sporting ecosystem'



BRICS Sports Ministers adopt joint declaration

India proposes working group on sports technology

KT News Desk

Visakhapatnam, Aug 23: Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is transforming its sporting ecosystem,

by creating opportunities from the playground to the podium, said Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday.

The BRICS Sports Ministers' Meeting 2026 concluded here with the adoption by consensus of the BRICS Sports Joint Declaration, reaffirming the commitment of Member States to strengthen cooperation in sport through | [More on P6](#)

Adjourned, not prorogued: Parliament's Monsoon Session awaits formal closure

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 23: Ten days after both Houses of Parliament were adjourned sine die, the Monsoon session is yet to end formally, giving rise to speculation that the government wants to pass a key legislation without convening a new session.

Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die (for an indefinite period) on August 13. Usually, the session is prorogued (formally ended) within the next three to four days. However, the prorogation notification for the Monsoon session had not been issued as of Sunday morning.

The Budget session ended on April 18 and was prorogued on April 20.

According to constitutional provisions, the president convenes and prorogues the



session on the recommendation of the government.

There has been strong speculation that the government could bring the bill to amend the women's reservation law to ensure its implementation before the 2029 parliamentary polls.

An earlier attempt during the Budget session had failed as the government could not stack up the numbers.

Opposition parties, particularly those from the south, were worried that population-based delimitation would reduce their strength in the Lok Sabha.

To assuage their concerns, the government has worked on a formulation to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats across states and Union territories by a uniform 50 per cent.

There were strong suggestions that | [More on P6](#)

Nation-wide anti-narcotics fortnightly drives to begin from Sep

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 23: Anti-drugs trafficking agencies will launch a year-long national enforcement drive from September to apprehend absconding narcotics offenders, inspect medical shops for diversion of pharmaceutical drugs and prisons as part of an action plan to dismantle syndicates dealing in drugs trafficking.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has recently written to all the states and various central agencies tasked to fight drug crimes asking them to undertake 24 different special drives that will run for a fortnight each till August next year, officials told PTI on Sunday.

While an awareness program for students in schools and colleges is ongoing since August 16, the enforcement action drives will begin from September which includes a

fortnight where foreigners who indulge in drug crimes will be identified across the country for deportation while the next 15-day drive will target absconding narcotics offenders, according to the action plan.

Beginning October, the NCB along with the state and Union Territories Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTFs) will inspect medical stores and pharmacies in coordination with jurisdictional drug controllers to check diversion of pharma drugs for narcotics trafficking.

The action plan, according to the officials, will subsequently suggest separate fortnights for preparation of dossiers against drug crime fugitives, creating awareness among coastal communities on maritime drug trade and coordinated checks at all land, sea and airports in the second-half of December.

The second fortnight of January 2027 | [More on P6](#)

Khelo India stars sweep medals at Asmita League, District Soft Tennis championship

KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 23: The players of the Khelo India Soft Tennis Centre, MA Stadium, Jammu, completely dominated the Khelo India Asmita Jammu City League 2026-27 and Jammu District Soft Tennis Championship 2026-27 organised by Jammu and Kashmir Soft Tennis Association from August 20 to 22 at the Tennis Court, MA Stadium Jammu, clinching all medals in all categories.

The centre, as per an official statement, which has produced numerous national medalists and international players like Sidhani Singh, Soham Bhat, Madhvendra Singh, Shreemai Bhat and Harikesh Dutt Sharma who have brought glory to Jammu & Kashmir and India, once again proved its dominance under the mentorship and coaching of International player Indu Bhushan, Mentor/Coach of Khelo India Soft Tennis Centre.

In the final results of the Asmita League, in Senior Girls Sidhani Singh won Gold, Simran Sharma Silver and Sneha Sharma Bronze while in Junior Girls Shreemai Bhat bagged Gold, Akashi Sharma Silver and Abhihasna



Khajuria Bronze. In Sub-Junior Girls, Sanvi Parihar clinched Gold, Svadhi Sharma Silver and Advaita Kotwal Bronze.

In the Jammu District Championship, in Senior Boys Soham Bhat won Gold, Madhvendra Singh Silver and Rahul Sharma Bronze. In Senior Girls Sidhani Singh won Gold, Sneha Sharma Silver and Simran Sharma Bronze, while in Junior Girls Shreemai Bhat won Gold, Abhihasna Khajuria Silver and Akashi Sharma Bronze.

In Junior Boys Harikesh Dutt Sharma secured Gold, Aditya Dutt Sharma Silver while Vihan Manhas and Ayansh Khajuria shared the Bronze.

In Sub-Junior Boys Vihan Singh Bhat won Gold, Yajat Sharma Silver and Vihan Parihar and Daiwak Kotwal claimed Bronze. In Sub-Junior Girls Svadhi Sharma won Gold, Adveta Kotwal Silver and Lavanya Thakur and Manvi Gupta shared Bronze.

Arshi Nath, Judo Head Coach & Incharge Manager, Old Indoor Complex, MA Stadium, J&K Sports Council was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Shakir, UT General Secretary and Bilal, Member of J&K Soft Tennis Association were also present as organisers of the tournament.

2 J&K Sabre Fencers selected for Asian Games

J&K Sports Council congratulates Shriya Gupta, Vishal Thappar



KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 23: Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council extended its heartfelt congratulations to Shriya Gupta and Vishal Thappar on their historic selection for the

Asian Games 2026.

For the first time, two J&K Sabre Fencers, as per a statement, have earned the honour of representing India at the Asian Games, marking a proud milestone for fencing in the region. Shriya's selection in both the

individual and team events, along with Vishal's selection for the team event, is a testament to their exceptional talent, relentless hard work, discipline and determination. The J&K Sports Council is immensely proud of our athletes and their

coaches, whose dedication has made this historic achievement possible. We wish Shriya and Vishal every success as they take the international stage and carry the pride of J&K and India with them. Go forth and make history!

Veeri lays foundation stones for sports infrastructure projects in Bijbehara



KT News Desk

Srinagar, 23 Aug: The Jammu and Kashmir senior leader and MLA Bijbehara Dr. Syed Bashir Ahmad Veeri Sunday laid the foundation stones for two important sports infrastructure projects at the historic Nilandrus Stadium in Bijbehara.

The projects, as per a party statement, will strengthen sports infrastructure in the area and

provide better facilities and opportunities to local youth and budding sportspersons.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Veeri expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his continued focus on upgrading sports infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Bijbehara.

He said that investment in sports infrastructure is an investment in the future

of young people, enabling them to nurture their talent, pursue sporting ambitions and compete at higher levels. He appreciated the government's efforts to develop and modernise sports facilities.

International cricketer Parvez Rasool was also present on the occasion. He commended Dr Veeri for his proactive approach in ensuring that youngsters have access to world class sports facilities.

DDC Poonch inspects Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi arrangements

KT News Desk

POONCH, AUGUST 23: District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Sunday conducted an extensive visit to various locations in Poonch town to inspect arrangements for the observance of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi and the associated religious procession.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Muhammad Sayeed, Assistant Director (FCS&CA) Khalil Ahmed Bandy, alongside officers from Jal Shakti and other departments concerned.

During the visit, the District Development Commissioner inspected Poonch Eidgah and reviewed the arrangements for devotees attending the Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi programme. The DDC, as per an official statement, assessed the availability of essential amenities and directed the departments concerned to ensure proper arrangements for public convenience, safety and security.

The Deputy Commissioner also visited Jama Masjid, Poonch, to review preparations for the procession in the presence of Hazrat Maulana Mufti Farooq Hussain Misbahi and Hazrat Maulana Hafiz Abdul Majeed Madani. The Chair took detailed stock of crowd management, traffic regulation, sanitation, drinking water, power supply, security arrangements and other essential services along the designated route.

The DDC directed the officers concerned to maintain close coordination and put all necessary arrangements in place well in advance to ensure the religious programme and procession proceed peacefully and smoothly.

Later, the District Development Commissioner visited the historic Poonch Fort (Qila) and Main Bazaar to review overall town arrangements. The DC emphasised maintaining cleanliness, facilitating smooth traffic movement and keeping all public utilities fully functional.

The DDC reiterated the commitment of the district administration to provide all essential facilities and ensure a peaceful, safe and well-managed observance of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi in Poonch.

JMC ensures timely redressal of water logging amidst heavy rainfall

KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 23: In response to early morning heavy rainfall across Jammu city Sunday, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) promptly mobilised men and machinery, including Quick Response Teams (QRTs), to address waterlogging in several affected areas.

Areas including Rajinder Nagar, Muthi, Patta Bohri, Lakhdara Bazar and Bantalab witnessed water accumulation due to intense rainfall.

In Rajinder Nagar and Patta Bohri, where Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) works are in progress, temporary storage of construction material contributed to waterlogging. Upon receiving public complaints, JMC teams cleared the accumulation within one hour, restoring normal conditions. These nallah construction works under floods SSASCI will be completed in the coming few months, providing a permanent solution to drainage issues.

Near Pawan Ice Cream, JMC teams coordinated with NHIDCL officials to remove construction material blocking a side drain. Through joint efforts, workers cleared the obstruction and conducted dewatering operations to resolve the issue swiftly. JMC remains committed to ensuring public convenience and safety while closely monitoring vulnerable locations during the ongoing monsoon. Citizens, as per an official statement, can report civic issues for immediate action on Helpline 1800 180 7207.

ADC Bhaderwah reviews arrangements for Manimahesh, Kailash Yatra



KT News Desk

BHADERWAH, AUGUST 23: Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal Sunday conducted a detailed inspection of the Bhaderwah-Chamba road leading towards the revered Manimahesh Shrine in Bharmour, Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, to review arrangements for the safe movement of pilgrims.

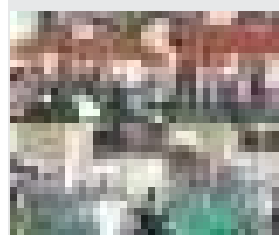
Among those present were Tehsildar Kamal Preet Singh, Assistant Engineer (PWD R&B)

Muneeb, alongside other civil and police officials.

During the inspection, the team, as per an official statement, assessed road conditions and reviewed transit facilities along the route for pilgrims undertaking the Manimahesh Yatra.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Kumar Bhutyal also inspected Bheja village and Padri Meadows, key halt points where pilgrims stay overnight before proceeding towards Padri Meadows and entering Himachal Pradesh.

Inter-District Divisional-Level Table Tennis Championship concludes at Shopian



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 23: The Inter-District Divisional-Level Table Tennis Championship for Under-17 Boys concluded Sunday at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Shopian.

A total of 49 players from all ten districts of Kashmir Division participated in the championship with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit.

The final match, as per an official statement, was played between Bandipora and Kupwara, with Bandipora emerging victorious to clinch the championship title. Kupwara secured the second position, while Srinagar bagged the third place.

J&K lost powers over years: MP Ruhullah Says leadership failed to reclaim them



Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Aug 23: National Conference MP for the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, on Sunday said Jammu and Kashmir had continued to lose its powers over the years, while its political leadership had failed to regain them.

Speaking to reporters during an interaction in Baramulla, Ruhullah said that his criticism is not directed at any individual or political party but reflected the broader political situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"J&K has always lost things and not gained, from statehood to Article 370. Politically, J&K has not gained anything right from the outset," he said.

Questioning the National Conference's approach after it came to power, Ruhullah alleged that the party had

changed its position on the rights lost after 1919.

He said people had placed their trust in the NC during the 2024 Assembly elections based on commitments made regarding the restoration of those rights.

"I ask only for the rights which we told people during election campaigning. It is the party's words too and not mine alone. Kashmiris put trust in NC on the rights lost after 1919," he said.

Ruhullah further questioned why elected representatives and party members could not raise concerns if they believed the party leadership had deviated from its commitments. "Why can't I raise issues against the party? We are not slaves of the party. We can raise genuine questions if the party is not on the track," he said. The MP questioned the growing focus on restoration of statehood, saying it is not the

only issue that had formed part of the NC's political agenda.

He recalled that NC vice president and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had earlier criticised those who focused only on statehood, adding that the political agenda extended beyond restoration of statehood.

MP Ruhullah said political parties are accountable to the people and should remain open to questions from those who had supported them. "Parties are accountable to people, not above questions," he said, asserting that raising concerns over unfulfilled commitments should not be treated as opposition to the party.

He added that his position is aimed at ensuring that the issues and rights promised to people during the election campaign remained part of the political discourse in Jammu and Kashmir.—(KNO)

Two POCSO accused escape from Central Jail Srinagar, lookout notices issued

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 23: Police have issued lookout notices for two persons accused in separate POCSO cases after they allegedly escaped from Central Jail Srinagar, officials said on Sunday.

A top police officer confirmed the incident saying that the two accused, who were lodged in Central Jail Srinagar in connection with separate POCSO cases, had fled from the jail. Following their escape, lookout notices have been issued to trace and apprehend them.

According to the notices shared by Kashmir Zone Police on X, Mukhtar Ahmad Gujjar, son of Mohammad Rafiq Gujjar, a resident of Sanglan Chittergul, Anantnag, is wanted in FIR No. 20/2026 registered at Police Station Soura under Sections 137(2) and 65(1) of the BNS and Sections 3/4 of the POCSO Act.

The second accused, Farman Khan, son of Abdul Gani Khan, a resident of Sadanpora Ragistan, is wanted in FIR No. 19/2026 registered at Police Station Lar under Sections 137(2) and 87 of the BNS and Sections 3/4 of the POCSO Act, the notice stated.

Police have appealed to the public to share any information that could help in tracing and arresting the two accused. "Information leading to their arrest will be suitably rewarded," the police said.

Anyone having information about their whereabouts has been asked to contact the nearest police station or dial 112.

Further investigation and efforts to trace the escaped accused are underway.—(KNO)

Justice Sanjeev Kumar visits Teetwal, inspects Camp Court, Legal Aid Clinic



KT News Desk

Karnah, Aug 23: Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman of the J&K Legal Services Authority on Sunday visited Teetwal and inspected the Camp Court and Legal Aid Clinic established there.

During the visit, the Acting Chief Justice was briefed by Judicial Magistrate,

Karnah, Mansoor Ahmad Mir, on the functioning of the Camp Court, pendency of cases and the catchment area being served by the facility.

Registrar General, High Court, M. K. Sharma; Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum; Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara, Manjeet Singh; SDM Karnah, Tehsildar Karnah, and officials from various other departments were present on the occasion.

Teen drowns in Nallah Sindh

KNO

Ganderbal, Aug 23: A teenage boy drowned in the Nallah Sindh at Fatehpura area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Sunday, officials said.

An official said that the teenager was taking a bath when he drowned in the river. He said locals first spotted the boy drowning and informed the police, following which a rescue and search operation was launched.

The boy was identified as Mohsin Mukhtar (12), son of Mukhtar Ahmad Lone, a resident of Bamloora, Ganderbal.

Meanwhile, an investigation has been initiated, while the complete circumstances leading to the incident are not known yet.—(KNO)

Two peddlers detained under PIT-NDPS Act in J&K

PTI

Jammu, Aug 23: Two notorious drug peddlers were detained under the PIT-NDPS Act, while five persons were arrested after narcotic substances were recovered from their possession in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Sunday.

Uttam Kumar, a resident of Mand village, was detained under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act on the orders of competent authority in Udhampur district on Sunday, a police spokesman said.

Kumar, a notorious drug peddler, has been subsequently lodged in district jail, Bhandarwah, he said.

The police also executed a detention warrant under PIT-NDPS Act against habitual drug peddler, Javid Hussain alias Palla, a resident of Nowshera area of Rajouri district on Saturday, the spokesman said.

He said despite involved in multiple narcotics-related cases, Hussain continued to engage in the illicit trafficking of drugs.

After completing all legal formalities, the detenu was lodged in the district jail, Rajouri, the spokesman said.

He said the police arrested a drug peddler, identified as Suraj Badyal of Kishtwar, after 6.43 grams of heroin was recovered from his possession at Tikri in Udhampur district, while another peddler Mushtafiz-ul-Rehman was nabbed with 6.30 grams of heroin from Darhal area of Rajouri district on Saturday.

Two more drug peddlers, Amir Gulzar Ganie and Mohd Zahid, were arrested after eight grams of heroin was recovered from a passenger vehicle in Vijaypur area of Samba district, the spokesman said, adding the vehicle and the contraband were also seized.

Continued on
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Srinagar ranking roller skating championship concludes at Radpora



KT News Desk

Karnah, Aug 23: The 4th Srinagar Ranking Roller Skating Championship 2026 successfully concluded at the Radpora Skating Rink Srinagar drawing hundreds of enthusiastic spectators and supportive parents.

The statement in this regard said that the event was organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Roller Sports Association (recognized by the Roller Skating Federation of India) wherein the championship showcased high-energy performances from young skaters across

various age categories.

It said that the event was conducted under the direct supervision of Kamal Anand, General Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Roller Sports Association, ensuring seamless execution across all track races.

The statement further said that several boys including Mohammad Saad Naqash dominated the category by clinching two Gold Medals in both the 300m and 500m races, while Ahmad Sheikh secured 2 Silver Medals.

According to the statement, M. Zayem Kak swept two Gold Medals, followed by M. Usman Bhat with 2

Silver Medals. It also said that among the girls, Qubra Jeelani bagged 2 Gold Medals, Maaerah Binti Taj earned 2 Silver Medals, and Muqaddas Ajaz took home the Bronze.

Furthermore, the statement also said that Usmaan Feroz claimed 2 Gold Medals. Mir Mohammad Musa won a Silver, Mohammad Qazim earned both a Silver and a Bronze, and Mir Mohammad Aahil secured a Bronze.

In the meantime, Ilma Naqash swept 2 Gold Medals, Fatima Mir took 2 Silver Medals, and Mira Muneer captured 2 Bronze Medals.

The statement said also said that Syed Mohammad Irfan led the group with 2 Gold Medals. Mir Mohammad Ilyas won a Silver and a Bronze, while Mohammad Hammas earned a Silver and a Bronze. Chief Guest Shafat Ahmad, Manager, Radpora Stadium alongside Guest of Honor Senior Politician presented the awards, commending the participants for their sportsmanship and praising the association for fostering youth sports in the region.

Drug convict sentenced to 3 years in 18-year-old NCB case



PTI

Jammu, Aug 23: A local court has sentenced a drug peddler to three years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000, bringing to conclusion an 18-year-old narcotics case, the Jammu unit of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) said on Sunday.

The NCB secured the conviction of Kunnu Bharti alias Abhinandan, who had jumped bail granted in 2010 and remained beyond the reach of the trial for several years, a spokesperson of the agency said. On December 3, 2008, a team of NCB recovered 960 grams of charas, concealed in a polythene bag, from the possession of Bharti in Kashmir Basti area of Jammu.

During the course of the trial, the accused

jumped bail granted in 2010, resulting in the proceedings against him remaining pending, the spokesperson said.

In a significant breakthrough, he said the NCB subsequently traced him to Jammu's Amphalla jail, and secured his production before the competent court in August last year, thereby bringing him back within the judicial process.

It wasn't immediately clear under which case the accused was sent to Amphalla jail.

Following sustained legal proceedings, a special NDPS court here sentenced Bharti to three years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on August 11, the official said.

In default of payment of the fine, he will undergo a further two months' rigorous imprisonment, the spokesperson said, adding that the court also directed that, before his release, the convict furnish a bond of Rs 20,000 under Section 34 of the NDPS Act, undertaking not to repeat such offences in future.

The conviction marks the successful conclusion of a case dating back nearly 18 years and demonstrates NCB Jammu's resolve to pursue drug offenders even where they attempt to evade the judicial process by jumping bail, the spokesperson said.

NCB reiterates its appeal to citizens to join the fight against drug trafficking.

"Information regarding the sale, transportation or trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances may be shared through MANAS - National Narcotics Helpline or toll-free number (1933). The identity of informers is kept strictly confidential," the spokesman said.

Ladakh seeks centre's nod for 36 check dams at Rs 56 Cr

PTI

Leh, Aug 23: In a step towards strengthening water security and expanding irrigation potential, the Ladakh administration has submitted a proposal to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for construction of 36 check dam projects in the Union Territory, a Lok Bhavan spokesman said on Sunday.

The proposal, submitted on the directions of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, includes seven Himalayan rock check dams in Leh region and 29 RCC check dams/weirs in the Kargil region at an estimated cost of more than Rs 56 crore, the spokesman said. The official said the proposal for inclusion of the check dams under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been submitted to the ministry for consideration and early approval.

The proposed projects would help impound a large quantity of untapped water in the Indus river in Leh and Suru river in Kargil, thereby strengthening the existing irrigation infrastructure, expanding irrigation potential and bringing additional



cultivable land under assured irrigation, the spokesman said.

According to the detailed project report submitted to the Jal Shakti Ministry, these 36 check dams would irrigate a massive over 18,600 acres of land. In Kargil region, 29 check dams have been proposed in wake of the agricultural requirements and prevailing acute water crisis noticed by LG Saxena during the recent visit to Kargil and representation made by many villagers.

The initiative is guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary principle of conserving water for the

future security, the spokesman said.

He said it assumes great significance as Ladakh, despite being endowed with extensive glaciers, abundance of snow and glacial meltwater, faces acute water shortages during the agricultural season.

Of the total snow and glacial melt every year, only less than one percent of the total water is utilised at present.

Recognising this challenge, the LG ideated and executed cost-effective and locally suitable water conservation interventions, including the construction of five Himalayan rock check dams in Ladakh. During his

meeting with Union Minister for Jal Shakti C R Patil in May this year, Saxena apprised the minister of the rock check dam.

Patil, while appreciating the initiative, had also assured necessary support from the ministry for Ladakh's innovative water management initiatives, the spokesman said.

He said the pilot interventions have demonstrated encouraging results.

Besides creating an average storage of 25 to 30 million litres of water at shallow stretches of the river, they have also shown high durability and resistance against the increasing flow of water. In the month of May, the water flow in the Indus was around 25 cusecs, whereas the flow increased to nearly 200 cusecs in August.

However, the rock check dams have successfully withstood the rising water pressure, the spokesman said.

"Ladakh cannot afford to let its precious glacier and snowmelt water flow away unused while our farmers face water shortages during the agricultural season. "The rock check dams and recent initiative to divert approximately 90 million litres of glacier water Stok nallah into Igloo-Phey Canal

and Chushot village canal demonstrates that simple, cost-effective and environmentally suitable interventions can make a transformative difference to water availability and agriculture," the LG said.

He said, "We must harness every possible water resource and create a water-secure, agriculturally prosperous and climate-resilient Ladakh."

According to the proposal submitted to the ministry, the three pilot rock check dams have augmented water availability in existing irrigation canals and enhanced cultivable command areas by up to 30 per cent, demonstrating the suitability of such structures to Ladakh's unique geographical and hydrological conditions, the spokesman said. Since taking over as LG, Saxena has conceived and executed several projects for long-term water and agricultural security in Ladakh, including Project Him Sarovar, Himalayan rock check dams, and the operationalisation of Igloo-Phey irrigation canal and Mahey canal, among others, the spokesman said.

So far, six Him Sarovars have been commissioned, while five rock check dams have been completed, he said.

EDITORIAL

Time To Stop Misusing Antibiotics

As monsoon illnesses surge across the country, doctors have issued a timely warning: fever does not automatically mean a bacterial infection, and popping antibiotics without medical advice is not only ineffective but dangerous. This message cannot be repeated enough. The misuse of antibiotics is one of the most serious public health threats of our time. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is not a distant future problem; it is already making infections

harder to treat. When antibiotics are used unnecessarily or incorrectly, they create selective pressure that allows resistant organisms to survive and spread. The result is a silent pandemic—one that could undo decades of medical progress. The confusion is understandable. Fever, body ache, headache, and weakness can occur in both viral and bacterial infections. But antibiotics are designed to treat bacteria, not viruses. Taking them for viral illnesses like dengue or the common

cold is not just useless; it contributes to resistance and exposes patients to avoidable side effects. Equally concerning is the tendency to self-medicate based on internet searches or leftover prescriptions. Doctors have cautioned against using leftover antibiotics or taking drugs prescribed for someone else. Antibiotics should not be started, stopped, or modified without medical advice. The dose, duration, and frequency matter as much as the drug itself. At the same

time, doctors have rightly emphasised that the answer is not to avoid antibiotics when they are genuinely needed. Antibiotics remain lifesaving medicines. The goal is to ensure that the right patient receives the appropriate drug, dose, and duration based on the clinical situation. The rising trend of antimicrobial resistance is a wake-up call. Patients must understand that receiving an antibiotic is not necessarily a sign of better treatment. In many cases, careful observation,

hydration, and supportive care are the safest and most appropriate approaches. The battle against AMR cannot be won by doctors alone. It requires a shift in public understanding. We must stop demanding antibiotics for every fever. We must trust our doctors' judgment. And we must recognise that the drugs that save lives today may not work tomorrow if we continue to misuse them. The choice is ours—and the consequences will be felt by all.

Rebuilding Farming Systems: Regenerative Agriculture For A Resilient India

Press Information Bureau

India's farms have sustained agricultural growth, but long-term productivity depends on healthy soils and resilient ecosystems. Regenerative agriculture offers a pathway to restore soil vitality, improve biodiversity, and strengthen resilience against climate stresses. Across the country, farmers are adopting practices such as natural farming, agroforestry, micro-irrigation, integrated farming systems, and scientific soil management. Government support has accelerated this transition. As of March 2026, natural farming clusters covered 8.80 lakh hectares and enrolled 18.19 lakh farmers. About 109 lakh hectares have been brought under Per Drop More Crop as of May 2026. In addition, 25.89 crore Soil Health Cards have been generated since inception, as of March 2026. These efforts are helping build a more productive, resource-efficient, and environmentally responsible future for Indian agriculture.

The Imperative for Regenerative Agriculture

India's agriculture and allied sectors have demonstrated strong and sustained progress. During FY16-FY25, it recorded decadal growth of 4.45 percent, the highest in previous decades. This achievement reflects the resilience of the sector and the continued efforts of farmers across the country. Yet, sustaining this momentum requires strengthening the ecological foundations that support long-term agricultural productivity.

Each season, farmers return to the same fields with renewed hope and growing responsibility. Years of intensive cultivation, heavy chemical use, and erratic rainfall leave many soils tired and less responsive. Yields that once came easily now demand higher inputs, while heatwaves, dry spells, or excess rain can undo months of labour. For millions of small and marginal farmers, declining soil health often translates into higher costs and uncertain harvests. As a result, the sustainability of farming has become an increasingly important concern.

This is where Regenerative Agriculture finds its relevance. By rebuilding soil vitality, strengthening ecosystem functions, and improving resilience to climatic variability, it addresses both soil and productivity challenges. More importantly, it offers a pathway to revive India's agricultural foundations while supporting long-term environmental balance and farm prosperity.

Understanding the Regenerative Agriculture Approach

Regenerative agriculture is a holistic farming approach centred on restoring soil health and enhancing biodiversity. At the same time, it seeks to ensure long-term productivity and resilience in farming systems. Healthy soils support higher food and nutritional output, store more carbon, and promote biodiversity. Unlike sustainable farming, which primarily aims to maintain existing conditions, regenerative agriculture seeks to improve them. It goes a step further by actively rebuilding soil health, enhancing biodiversity, and strengthening ecosystem resilience.

It is based on the following principles:
Minimizing soil disturbance
Protecting the living roots of perennial crops

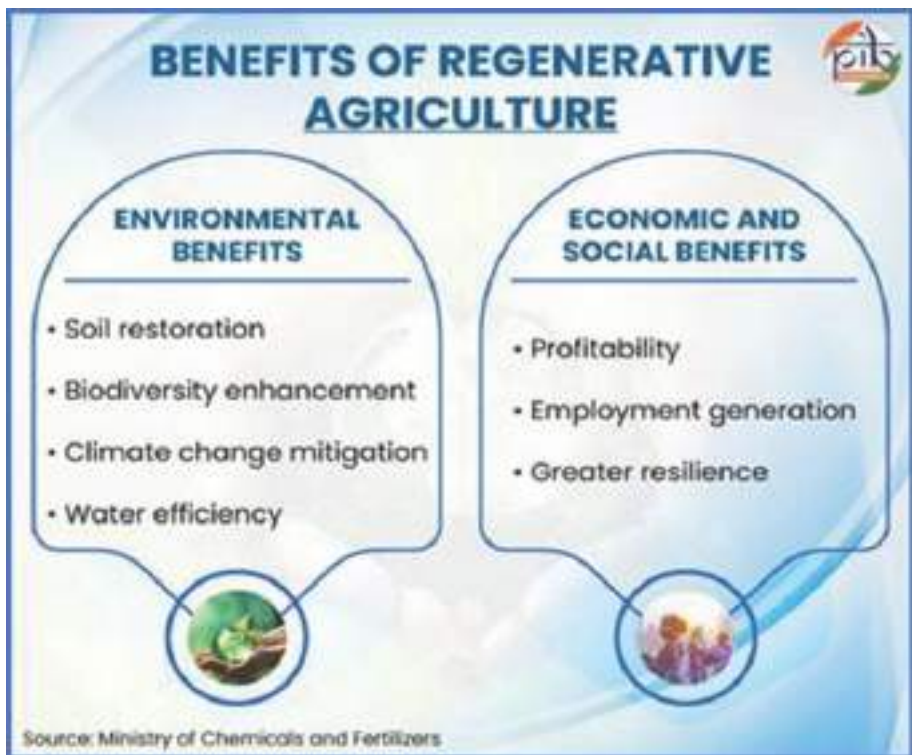
Maintaining soil cover
Integrating Livestock
Limiting the use of chemical inputs
Enhancing biodiversity

In essence, Regenerative agriculture offers a practical and forward-looking pathway for the future of farming by restoring the natural foundations of agriculture.

Strengthening Agricultural Resilience through Regenerative Approaches

Regenerative agriculture draws upon a diverse set of farming practices adopted in India. While the spectrum of regenerative approaches is much broader, some of the prominent practices can be broadly classified into the following categories:

Water and Resource Efficiency
Micro-irrigation systems such as drippers, sprinklers, and foggers deliver water directly to plant roots. This reduces water wastage and improves water-use efficiency. By optimizing farm-level water management, these systems enhance crop productivity and



strengthen resilience to droughts and water stress. As a result, farming systems become more climate-resilient and economically viable.

Farm Mechanization involves the use of agricultural machinery and equipment to streamline and automate various farm operations. It helps optimize the use of key inputs such as water, fuel, and fertilizers, reducing wastage and lowering the carbon footprint. By enabling timely and precise farm operations, mechanization improves resource management, enhances productivity, and helps reduce the environmental impact of farming.

Soil and Nutrient Management

Nitrogen Fertilizer Management helps reduce nitrous oxide emissions while improving crop productivity. It focuses on selecting the right fertilizer and optimizing application timing and dosage. Other practices include deep placement of supergranular urea and the use of leaf color charts for precise assessment of nitrogen status. The approach also promotes biological inputs such as cyanobacteria and legume intercropping. Overall, these measures improve nitrogen-use efficiency and minimize environmental losses.

Natural farming is a chemical-free agricultural approach rooted in India's traditional knowledge systems. The system relies on on-farm biological inputs such as Beejamrut, Jeevamrut, Ghanjeevamrut, Neemastra, and Dashparni, prepared using inputs from native livestock. It also promotes the use of traditional seed varieties and the integration of trees along farm boundaries. Pest management is undertaken through locally prepared, on-farm botanical formulations. Practitioners are encouraged to adopt continuous cover cropping, multi-cropping, mulching, and minimal soil disturbance to maintain soil fertility and ecological balance. The integration of livestock with diversified cropping systems further helps improve soil health, restores ecosystems, and reduces input costs for farmers.

Soil Health Management Practices such as green manuring, cover cropping, and mulching play a vital role in regenerative agriculture. Green manuring involves growing and incorporating specific crops into the soil to add organic matter and nutrients. It helps in improving soil fertility, structure, and carbon sequestration. Cover cropping refers to growing crops primarily to cover the soil rather than for harvest. It protects against erosion, maintains soil organic carbon, and supports nutrient cycling. Mulching involves covering the soil surface with organic residues such as leaves, straw, etc. It helps conserve moisture and regulate soil temperature. Mulching also suppresses weeds, promotes beneficial microbial activity, and improves crop productivity.

Integrated and Climate-Resilient Farming Systems

Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) is a holistic agricultural approach that combines multiple farm enterprises into a single

system. It integrates crops, livestock, fisheries, and allied activities such as horticulture, agroforestry, and apiculture. The approach promotes practices such as intercropping, crop rotation, multi-cropping, and mixed farming that maximize resource use. This also reduces the risk of crop failure, diversifies livelihood opportunities, and enhances resilience to climate extremes such as floods and droughts.

Agroforestry integrates perennial tree systems with fruit and plantation crops to create a more sustainable and profitable farming system. It helps farmers earn additional income while improving soil moisture, regulating local temperatures, and storing more carbon.

In rainfed regions, agroforestry plays a crucial role in rejuvenating degraded land. These systems help mitigate the impacts of unpredictable rainfall, enhance agricultural resilience, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions over time.

Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) encompasses a plethora of strategies and technologies to fortify agricultural systems against a changing climate. Its key components include: balanced use of nutrients and fertilizers, effective pest management, efficient and judicious use of water, conservation of soil moisture at the field level, and appropriate land preparation practices that safeguard soil health and enhance crop performance.

In addition, CRA includes innovations such as water-sharing groups, seed and fodder systems, community nurseries, and collective marketing mechanisms. Together, these practices and innovations strengthen agricultural systems, enabling them to better withstand climate-related stresses and shocks.

The Multifaceted Benefits of Regenerative Farming

Regenerative agriculture offers a wide range of environmental, economic, and social benefits, supporting both healthy ecosystems and resilient farming.

Environmental Outcomes

Soil restoration: Regenerative practices rebuild soil organic matter, improve soil structure, and enhance long-term soil fertility, supporting stable agricultural productivity.

Biodiversity enhancement: Regenerative approaches create favourable conditions for a wide variety of species, including pollinators, beneficial insects, and soil microorganisms. This helps in strengthening overall ecosystem balance.

Climate change mitigation: These systems absorb and store more carbon than they emit, helping reverse agricultural emissions.

Water efficiency: Healthier soils improve water retention and reduce runoff. This limits soil erosion and the flow of sediments and pollutants into rivers and lakes, helping protect water bodies.

Economic and Social Outcomes

Profitability: Healthier soils reduce dependence on synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation. This lowers input costs, stabilizes

yields, and enhances farmers' net incomes.

Employment generation: Regenerative agriculture creates new livelihood opportunities across farming, advisory services, technology, and ecological management.

Greater resilience: Farms adopting regenerative practices are better equipped to withstand climate variability and market fluctuations.

Advancing Sustainable Development Through Regenerative Agriculture

Regenerative agriculture is closely aligned with SDG 13 (Climate Action). Target 13.1 focuses on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related risks and natural disasters. Since regenerative practices help reverse greenhouse gas emissions, they contribute to reducing climate-related risks at the farm level. Consequently, they help in enhancing farm-level climate resilience and strengthening adaptive capacity in the face of increasing climate variability.

Promoting Regenerative Agriculture through Targeted Interventions

The government is implementing a wide range of schemes to promote regenerative agricultural practices. Some of the key initiatives support natural and organic farming, agroforestry, micro-irrigation, integrated farming systems, and scientific soil health management.

National Mission on Natural Farming

The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), launched in 2024, creates a favourable support ecosystem to help farmers progressively transition to natural farming. The scheme provides an output-based incentive of 4,000 per acre per year for two years, covering up to one acre per farmer. In order to support farmers with easy access to bio-inputs such as Jeevamrit and Beejamrit, the mission provides for 10,000 need-based Bio-input Resource Centres. It also envisages the formation of natural farming clusters. Each cluster is supported by two Community Resource Persons (CRPs) to guide farmers in natural farming practices.

As of 05 March 2026, 18,786 clusters have been formed across the country. These clusters cover 8.80 lakh hectares, and 18.19 lakh farmers have been enrolled to promote Natural Farming. Additionally, 33,676 CRPs have been trained at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)/ Agricultural Universities (AUs)/ local natural farming institutions.

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), launched in 2015, has emerged as a key pillar of India's organic farming initiative. It provides farmers with an organized framework for adopting eco-friendly practices, obtaining organic certification, and accessing markets that reward sustainable production. Under the scheme, farmers adopting organic farming are supported with 31,500 per hectare over three years.

As of 31 October 2025, a total area of 16.90 lakh ha has been covered under PKVY since its inception.

Per Drop More Crop

Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) is being implemented across the country since 2015-16. It helps improve on-farm water use efficiency through micro-irrigation systems, specifically drip and sprinkler irrigation. Drip irrigation delivers water directly to plant roots through pipes and emitters, reducing water wastage. Sprinkler irrigation sprays water onto the field through pipes and nozzles, ensuring uniform coverage.

Under PDMC, the Government provides 55% financial assistance to small and marginal farmers and 45% to other farmers for installing these systems. In addition, some states provide top-up subsidies to farmers from their own budgets.

Implemented since 2015-16, the scheme has covered about 109 lakh hectares as of May 2026. A total of 26,325 crore in central assistance has been released, significantly improving water-use efficiency.

Rainfed Area Development Programme

The Rainfed Area Development Programme (RAD), being implemented since 2014-15, promotes Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) through an area-based cluster approach. The programme encourages practices such as multi-cropping, crop rotation, inter-cropping, and mixed cropping. These are integrated with allied activities,

including horticulture, livestock, fisheries, and apiculture, to enhance farm income, strengthen livelihoods, and build resilience to climate extremes.

Under RAD, clusters of about 20 hectares are developed within one or more adjoining villages. This approach promotes convergence, encourages community participation, and supports wider replication of successful models. Farmers are supported with financial assistance of 30,000 per family for adopting IFS. An additional 10,000 per cluster is provided for training and capacity-building activities.

Since its inception, 2251.98 crore has been provided as Central Assistance to States for adopting IFS. The scheme covered 9.53 lakh hectares and benefited 15.73 lakh farmers (as of December 2025).

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) further support the programme through demonstrations and training on location-specific IFS models. During 2024-25, KVKs conducted 4,416 demonstrations and trained 96,013 farmers on different IFS models.

In FY 2025-26, an allocation of 343.86 crore was made to States/UTs for the implementation of RAD, under which 96,013 farmers received training.

Sub-Mission on Agroforestry

The erstwhile Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) was restructured as the Agroforestry Component under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) from 2023-24. It supports the establishment of agroforestry nurseries to provide Quality Planting Material (QPM) to farmers. The scheme component includes: establishment of new nurseries, raising of saplings in existing nurseries, setting up tissue culture units, skill development and awareness, research and development, monitoring and evaluation, specialised technical activities, formulation of projects for the voluntary carbon market in the agriculture sector, and local initiatives.

It provides 100% assistance to Government agencies and 50% back ended credit-linked assistance to private beneficiaries.

During 2025-26, as on 31 October 2025, sanctions amounting to 78.31 crore were issued to 27 States/UTs. A total of 135 new nurseries were established. Sapling production was undertaken in 614 existing nurseries. About 176.59 lakh saplings were raised in these nurseries, benefiting around 25,693 farmers.

Soil Health Card Scheme

Launched in 2015, the Soil Health Card Scheme (SHC) provides farmers with plot-wise soil test reports, generated through scientific testing, for each landholding. The card assesses soil health on 12 key parameters, covering macronutrients, micronutrients, and critical soil properties.

Issued every 2 years, the Soil Health Card helps farmers understand the nutrient status and physicochemical conditions of their soils. It provides crop-specific recommendations on the appropriate use of chemical fertilisers, bio-fertilisers, organic inputs, and soil treatments.

As of 13 March 2026, a total of 25.89 crore Soil Health Cards have been generated since inception. Around 7.17 lakh demonstrations have been conducted to promote balanced fertiliser use. These demonstrations were conducted through advisories supported by the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). In addition, 70,002 Krishi Sakhis have been trained to support the dissemination of soil health advisories at the grass-roots level.

Growing towards a More Resilient Future

Regenerative agriculture is gradually reshaping the future of Indian farming. It restores soil health while improving resilience and resource efficiency. Practices such as natural farming, agroforestry, micro-irrigation, and integrated farming are contributing to resource-efficient agricultural systems.

Government initiatives are helping farmers adopt these approaches at scale. As more farmers embrace regenerative practices, agriculture can become both environmentally sustainable and economically rewarding. The journey begins with healthier soils and leads towards more resilient farms and secure livelihoods.

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National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)

A Disease-Free Tomorrow For Indian Livestock

Press Information Bureau

The National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) launched in 2019, represents one of India's largest livestock health initiatives aimed at controlling and eradicating Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis through nationwide vaccination and surveillance. The programme has administered 147.16 crore FMD vaccine doses, benefiting 8.04 crore farmers. Strengthened immunity has contributed to a significant reduction in disease incidence, with reported FMD outbreaks declining from 132 in 2019 to 40 by 2025 and Brucellosis outbreaks falling from 22 in 2019 to 15 in 2025. The NSP antibody prevalence has declined from 20.8% in 2019 to 8.1% in 2025, indicating reduced circulation of FMD through evidence-based surveillance and sustained disease control efforts. There has been no outbreak of FMD caused by Serotype Asia-1 for the last three years in the country. The programme is supported by strengthened veterinary infrastructure, digital livestock databases, research institutions, and One Health initiatives. More than 39,00 crore livestock have been registered on the Bharat Pashudhan Portal, and 4,019 Mobile Veterinary Units have provided doorstep services to 136 lakh farmers and treated 276 lakh animals. By integrating disease control, digital monitoring, and pandemic preparedness, the NADCP is contributing to a more disease-secure livestock sector in India.

Building a Disease-Free Livestock Sector

Livestock has long been a significant source of livelihood support in Indian agriculture and allied sectors in rural areas. As per the 20th Livestock Census 2019, the total livestock population is 535.78 million, including 302.79 million bovines. The large livestock population underscores the importance of animal health and well-being. However, infectious diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis have historically caused substantial economic losses due to reduced milk yield, reproductive failure, and trade restrictions.

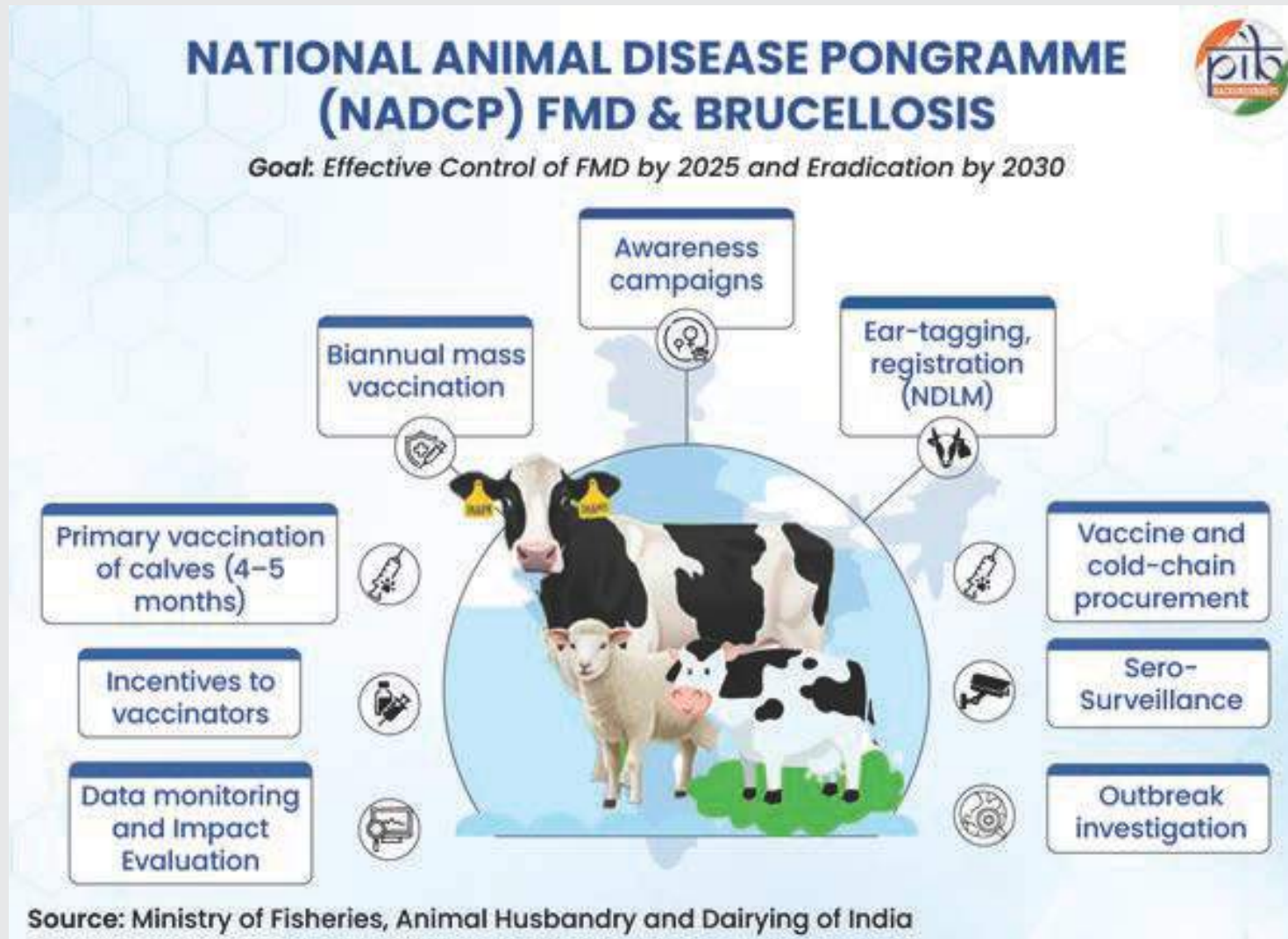
FMD is a highly contagious viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals, including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, and pigs. The disease reduces milk production, slows growth, affects reproductive performance, and lowers the working capacity of draft animals. It also limits access to international markets. Effective control of FMD depends on regular mass vaccination of all susceptible livestock.

Brucellosis is a reproductive disease of cattle and buffaloes caused by bacteria *Brucella abortus*. It primarily affects the reproductive organs of animals, disrupting their normal reproductive function. It disrupts fertility and lactation, which, in turn, affects milk and meat production. As there is no curative treatment for bovines, vaccination is the most effective and sustainable control measure.

To strengthen animal health management, the Government launched the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) in September 2019 to control and eradicate FMD and Brucellosis through nationwide vaccination. The programme targets 100 % vaccination of all livestock against FMD twice a year and one time vaccination against Brucellosis in 4-8 months old female bovine calves in their lifetime.

Reducing Livestock Disease Burden through Integrated Action under NADCP

The programme aims to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) through biannual mass vaccination of all eligible livestock and Brucellosis through a one-time vaccination of female bovine calves aged 4-8 months during their



lifetime. It also supports disease surveillance and the procurement of cold-chain logistics.

Mass FMD vaccination of all susceptible bovines and small ruminants every six months.

Public awareness campaigns and orientation of officials for effective programme implementation.

Ear-tagging, registration, and uploading of animal data on the Bharat Pashudhan Portal (NDLM).

Sero-surveillance and monitoring through pre- and post-vaccination sample testing.

Procurement of vaccines and cold-chain equipment to ensure quality delivery.

Outbreak investigation, virus isolation and typing, and regulation of animal movement through quarantine and check-posts.

Continuous data generation, monitoring, and impact evaluation. Remuneration to vaccinators, with a minimum of 3 per vaccination dose.

Sero-surveillance & Sero-monitoring

Sero-surveillance involves population-level assessment of antibody prevalence to estimate disease exposure and immunity, sero-monitoring focuses on longitudinal tracking of antibody levels to understand immunity.

Financial Commitment to Livestock Health and Disease Control

Building on the success of NADCP, the Government has integrated disease control, veterinary services and animal healthcare under the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP), enabling a more comprehensive and sustainable animal health framework. Under the revised LHDCP, NADCP, the Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) component, and the Pashu Aushadhi initiative have been subsumed into a single umbrella scheme to facilitate integrated implementation and effective management of livestock health interventions. The total budget outlay for the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) for the financial year 2026-27 is 2,010 crore.

National Efforts and Outcomes in Controlling FMD and Brucellosis

The scale of interventions undertaken and the measurable outcomes achieved under the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) through

sustained vaccination, surveillance, and monitoring efforts across the country are as follows:

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
Cumulative FMD vaccination under the NADCP reached 147.16 crore FMD vaccine doses, benefiting 8.04 crore farmers.

Reducing FMD Risk in Migratory Animal Population

Since 2024, FMD vaccination has been extended to pastoral sheep and goats. The programme covers migratory populations in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to prevent the spread of disease along migratory routes.

Improved Immunity and Decline in Disease Outbreaks

FMD type O: The most common and widespread serotype in India and many parts of the world. It causes frequent outbreaks.

FMD type A: A highly variable serotype, meaning it changes easily and needs well-matched vaccines.

FMD type Asia1-A serotype mainly found in South Asia, including India, but less widespread than type O. Sero-monitoring conducted to assess post-vaccination antibody response indicates that the average protective immunity against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) virus serotypes O, A, and Asia1 stands at 78.1%, 71.7%, and 77.6%, respectively. These levels indicate strong herd immunity. The improved immunity has led to a sharp decline in disease incidence. The reported FMD outbreaks fell from 132 in 2019 to just 40 cases by 2025. This reflects the effectiveness of nationwide vaccination coverage.

Brucellosis

Under the NADCP, female bovine calves aged 4-8 months receive a one-time Brucellosis vaccination in their lifetime.

Improved Immunity and Decline in Disease Outbreaks

In 2025, post-vaccination monitoring shows seroconversion rates (percentage of vaccinated animals that develop antibodies) of 75.63 % in cattle calves and 67.17 % in buffalo calves. The findings indicate effective immunity, which has contributed to a sharp decline in Brucellosis cases. The incidence of reported outbreaks reduced from 22 in 2019 to 15 in 2025, demonstrating the positive impact of the programme's interventions.

Improvement in Bovine

Productivity and Milk Production

Indigenous and Non-Descript Cattle Productivity: The productivity of indigenous (local) and non-descript (mixed-breed) cattle has increased from 927 kilograms per animal per year in 2014-15 to 1,343.2 kilograms in 2024-25, representing a rise of 44.89%.

Buffalo Productivity: Similarly, the productivity in buffalo has improved from 1,880 kilograms to 2,365.2 kilograms per animal per year during the same period, representing a 25.80% increase.

Bovine Productivity: Consequently, the average bovine productivity in India has risen from 1,640 kilograms per animal per year in 2014-15 to 2,250 kilograms in 2024-25. This represents a 36.63 % increase and the highest productivity gain recorded by any country globally.

Milk Production Growth: India's milk production has increased from 146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 247.87 million tonnes in 2024-25. This represents a 69.4 % increase over the past decade. The scheme aims to enhance bovine productivity further and achieve an average milk production of 3,000 kilograms per animal per year by 2030.

Institutional and Infrastructure Support Systems for Disease Control

Research and Surveillance Support

Financial support is provided to key ICAR institutions to strengthen FMD and Brucellosis control. The support covers vaccine research, quality testing, surveillance, sero-surveillance, disease modelling, and state-wise sampling. These measures ensure the effective and science-based implementation of the programme.

Centralized Vaccine Procurement with Private Sector Engagement

States and UTs receive assistance for procuring vaccination accessories and strengthening cold-chain infrastructure. Through the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, financial assistance is provided to individual entrepreneurs, private companies, and other eligible entities. This supports the establishment of veterinary vaccine and drug manufacturing facilities.

Veterinary Infrastructure and Service Delivery

Veterinary facilities and Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) are being

strengthened to ensure last-mile animal healthcare. A total of 4,019 MVUs are operational across 29 States and UTs. They provide doorstep veterinary services through the toll-free number 1962. So far, the initiative has benefited 136 lakh farmers and treated 276 lakh animals.

Digital Integration through Bharat Pashudhan Portal

The Bharat Pashudhan Portal integrates livestock registration, FMD, and Brucellosis vaccination data, with each animal assigned a unique 12-digit Tag ID. By July 2026, over 39.00 crore livestock had been registered on the portal. This has enabled real-time monitoring, improved traceability, and a more transparent, data-driven implementation of livestock development programmes. AI-enabled analytics, vaccination traceability, real-time dashboards and evidence-based planning can further strengthen disease surveillance and resource allocation in future.

Awareness and Farmer Engagement

Farmer outreach is strengthened through Multi-Purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians in Rural India (MAITRIs), who provide doorstep veterinary services. So far, 39,810 technicians have been trained with financial support.

National One Health Mission

The One Health approach recognizes the intrinsic interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health. By strengthening the early detection, surveillance, and control of animal diseases, the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) contributes to reducing the risk of zoonotic disease transmission, promotes the prudent use of antimicrobials, and enhances India's preparedness and resilience against emerging and future public health threats, including pandemics.

The Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) in its 21st meeting held on 7th July, 2022, approved setting up a National One Health Mission with a cross-ministerial effort, which will serve to coordinate, support, and integrate all the existing One Health activities in the country and fill gaps where it is appropriate.

NDDB's brucellosis control model reinforces this by stressing the importance of vaccination, safe waste

disposal, strong biosecurity, public awareness, and coordination between departments, especially since human brucellosis often goes undetected.

One Health ultimately offers a practical, holistic approach to protecting people, animals, and ecosystems amid rising disease threats and rapid environmental change.

Strengthening Animal Health Security for Pandemic Preparedness: Pandemic Fund Project

In 2024, the Government launched the Pandemic Fund Project on "Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response." It is a US\$25 million initiative supported by the G20 Pandemic Fund. The project is implemented in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Bank.

The project complements the NADCP by strengthening animal health systems to improve pandemic preparedness. It enhances disease surveillance, including genomic and environmental surveillance. It also upgrades laboratory infrastructure and promotes cross-border collaboration. These measures improve early detection and timely response to zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases.

As part of the initiative, the Government released two important documents aimed at strengthening animal health management in India:

Standard Veterinary Treatment Guidelines (SVTG): A comprehensive framework that promotes scientific veterinary practices, rational use of medicines, and antimicrobial stewardship. It also supports the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Crisis Management Plan (CMP) for Animal Diseases: A national framework to strengthen preparedness and guide rapid response during disease outbreaks. It supports timely containment and effective recovery measures.

These documents will serve as important tools for veterinarians, policymakers, and field officials. They will support timely and effective responses to animal health crises and strengthen disease management protocols.

Safeguarding India's Livestock Wealth

The NADCP has emerged as one of India's most comprehensive and data-driven livestock health interventions. Through sustained nationwide vaccination, strong surveillance systems, digital integration, and targeted financial and infrastructure support, the programme has delivered measurable reductions in FMD and Brucellosis. The sharp decline in outbreaks, improved herd immunity, and clear gains in bovine productivity demonstrate that disease control is directly translating into economic, nutritional, and livelihood benefits for farmers. Early detection of animal diseases reduces the risk of spillover infections, strengthens antimicrobial stewardship and improves national preparedness against future zoonotic pandemics. Future priorities include progressive alignment with international standards for FMD freedom, expansion of laboratory accreditation, genomic surveillance, AI-enabled disease intelligence, climate-resilient surveillance systems and strengthened One Health coordination.

From one of the world's largest livestock vaccination campaigns to a digitally enabled disease surveillance ecosystem, NADCP has laid the foundation for a healthier, more productive and globally competitive livestock sector. As India advances towards Viksit Bharat 2047, sustained investments in animal health will remain central to ensuring food security, farmer prosperity and pandemic resilience.

H1N1 influenza cases rise in Delhi, but no new strain or cause for panic: ICMR



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 23: No new strain of H1N1 has been identified and there is no cause for panic, sources at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said on Sunday amid an increase in swine flu cases in Delhi and other parts of the country.

The Influenza strains currently circulating are "well matched with the vaccine strains recommended for the Northern Hemisphere", they said.

Seasonal influenza, including H1N1, is mostly self-limiting. Common symptoms include fever, cough, headache and body ache, and most people recover with appropriate care and rest.

However, young children, elderly persons and individuals with underlying medical conditions may be at greater risk of complications, the sources said.

The Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 viruses currently circulating in the country belong to the A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus strain, sources at ICMR said.

These viruses belong to clade 6B.1A.5a2a, subclade D.3.1.1, and have been in circulation since 2025.

If symptoms persist, worsen or become severe, timely consultation with a doctor is advised. The situation continues to be closely monitored through regular surveillance, and necessary public health measures are being undertaken, the sources said.

The national capital has recorded over 2,300 Influenza-A cases this year, including over 1,777 H1N1 cases till Friday. The health department said 114 H1N1 cases were reported on Thursday alone.

The Delhi government has issued a health advisory urging people to follow respiratory hygiene, avoid crowded places and seek timely medical advice.

Union health minister J. P. Nadda on Friday reviewed the prevailing H1N1 influenza situation and preparedness across the country, with particular focus on the national capital and called for continued vigilance, robust surveillance and proactive preparedness.

Delhi health minister Pankaj Kumar Singh also attended the meeting.

Nadda reviewed the national surveillance and epidemiological situation, trends in influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI), testing and laboratory surveillance, and the preparedness of healthcare facilities to manage seasonal influenza cases.

He stressed the need for close monitoring of influenza trends and the timely identification and management of any unusual increase or clustering of cases.

The preparedness of healthcare facilities in Delhi was also reviewed, including the availability of hospital beds, critical care facilities, oxygen-support- ed beds, ventilators, essential

Sugar imports could reach India before Oct 15 as govt stock curbs ease price pressure

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 23: Some of the sugar shipments to India are likely to reach domestic shores before October 15, but the exact quantity remains difficult to estimate at this stage, a cooperative sugar mills body NFCSF chief said, even as the Centre's crackdown on hoarding has begun to cool prices.

Brazil is the only realistic source of imports for now, with Thailand, the other traditional supplier, ruled out as it is grappling with its own shortfall, National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) President Prakash Naiknavare told PTI on Sunday.

Transit time from Brazil to Indian ports typically takes 40-45 days, and cargo needs additional time to move from port to mill once it lands, he noted.

"So, it is difficult to put a number on how much can arrive before October 15th, but the possibility of some shipments arriving by then is good," Naiknavare said, but cautioned that quantifying the volume was difficult, given the process involved, from DGFT approvals and allocation to letter of credit issuance and shipment scheduling, which also hinges on port congestion in Brazil.

The government is unlikely to strictly enforce the October 31 deadline for arrivals, and shipments in transit beyond that date could still be allowed, he added.

"I believe they would be willing to consider shipments arriving after that date too. I don't think it will be treated as a hard and fast rule."

On August 20, the government allowed duty-free import of up to 1 million tonne of raw sugar to check prices that rose sharply by



24 per cent to Rs 56-60 per kg in just one month in both retail and wholesale markets across India due to tight supplies.

Port states seen gaining first access

Port-based states -- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh -- are likely to receive the imported raw sugar faster than land-locked northern states, though the latter have historically also received such cargo via the same ports, moved onward by road or rail, Naiknavare said.

No supply worries

The federation has held its net sugar production estimate for the 2025-26 season (October-September) at 279 lakh tonne since the season began, unchanged despite repeated revisions by other industry groups, he said. The figure excludes an estimated 24 lakh tonne diverted to ethanol production.

Opening stock for the 2026-27 season (from October 1) is pegged at 35 lakh tonnes, comfortably covering the roughly 22 lakh tonnes of monthly domestic demand, with 15-20 lakh tonnes expected to carry over into November, by when early crushing should bring fresh supply into the market.

"I don't think there is going to be any panic situation," Naiknavare said.

Asked why the federation's steady estimates were not reflected in the government's earlier decision to permit exports, the official said the government based that call on data from state cane commissioners rather than industry associations, and that supply conditions at the time appeared to justify the move.

India shipped out just 8 lakh tonnes of sugar against a permitted quota of 20 lakh tonnes, hit by unfavourable price parity in the international market,

Naiknavare said, adding that even without curbs, exports were unlikely to have crossed 10 lakh tonnes.

On May 13, the government banned sugar exports till September 30 to boost domestic availability and contain price rise.

Prices fall after government warning

The comments came after Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra, at a press conference last Friday, accused the industry of jacking up prices and hoarding stocks.

Naiknavare said the secretary had met representatives of the federation and the Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) ahead of the briefing, and directed them to ensure adequate market supply and curb speculative pricing.

Ex-mill rates, which touched Rs 65-67/kg (excluding GST), fell by Rs 5/kg in tenders

opened on Saturday, a trend the official expects to extend into the coming week as flying squads step up monitoring across states.

The Centre's stock-tightening measures, he said, have come in four phases: physical verification of mill-level stocks between August 1 and 14; a 200-tonne stock limit on traders; a separate cap on bulk buyers, who account for close to 65 per cent of domestic consumption and had built up cheaper forward positions; and, most recently, state-level inspections of trader and miller warehouses.

"Flying squads have also been deployed to monitor individual states, and we've appealed to our members accordingly. I expect conditions to improve significantly through the coming week," he said.

Cooperative mills, he noted, have largely operated within quota and steered clear of speculative activity.

Global prices buck the trend In a departure from the usual pattern, international raw sugar prices dipped rather than rallied after India's import announcement.

Raw sugar prices briefly touched 18 cents/lb before slipping to about 17.50 cents, lower than the pre-announcement level of 17.85 cents, a move Naiknavare attributed to comfortable global supply, which he said should cushion any price impact from India's 10 lakh tonne import plan.

Landed cost and retail price trends will depend on how international markets open on Monday, factoring in freight, port clearance and inland transport costs, he said, noting that the imports will attract no customs duty.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Dream bigger,

capture dead satellites and remove them from orbit, while another company is working on docking and refueling technologies with the vision of establishing a fuel station in space.

One of the startups, India's first space pharma company, is making satellites that can manufacture pharmaceuticals in space and bring them back to Earth. Another company is planning to launch an innovation that will work with 1 million farmers.

The Prime Minister noted that Indian companies now have government support for exporting, making India competitive in cost while talent remains unquestionable. "In cost we are very competitive, in talent there is no question at all, and the risk-taking capacity of our people is anyway greater. And because of that we can very quickly make our place," he said.

The CEOs also highlighted that after the space industry was opened up, Indian citizens working in the US and Europe are now wanting to return and work with Indian startups. The Prime Minister responded that India must create such an aura that people all over the world feel that if they want to build their life, they should come to India.

"I firmly believe that the entire talent pool, like a magnet, because of you we can attract, and that can become a very great strength for us," he said.

We must export

the importance of unity in progress and underscored that India's journey towards becoming a developed nation must be inclusive, rooted in tradition yet forward-looking, and balanced between technological strength and human sensitivity.

"I believe that when a group of people from different sectors has a deep desire to achieve something, the pain and intensity of that yearning can ultimately become the means of achieving it. Just as a seed buried in the soil is restless to germinate, if the energy of a nation becomes intensely eager to achieve its goals, nothing is impossible," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Sinha identified five major challenges that eminent personalities, industries, business leaders, engineers must address together to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat.

"Transforming India's vast young population into a skilled workforce equipped with expertise in emerging technologies is important for us and also ensuring sustainable development by balancing progress with environmental responsibility. We also need to strengthen institutions by building transparent, accountable, and efficient institutions responsive to citizens' needs," he said. "We should focus on ensuring balanced regional development by bridging gaps between advanced cities and underserved regions to create equitable growth. We must create the future rather than purchase it by becoming not just a consumer but a global creator of technologies, innovations, and ideas. We must resolve that we will not merely use artificial intelligence; we will also contribute to the future of artificial intelligence. We must resolve that we will not import innovation; we

will export innovation."

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the transformation in Jammu and Kashmir, noting the region's immense potential in youth power, natural resources, tourism, horticulture, handicrafts, and hydropower. He urged industry leaders to actively invest in the Union Territory, ensuring it becomes a vital contributor to India's development story.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has created confidence and opened new avenues for the youth in Jammu Kashmir. It is the collective responsibility of industry now to make Jammu Kashmir a subject of constructive action. We must recognise its hydropower potential. Connect its horticulture, tourism and handicrafts with global markets. The intervention of industry leaders in every sector of Jammu Kashmir will be an investment in India's future," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reminded the IIT alumni and eminent personalities that India's cultural ethos has always emphasised collective well-being. He reiterated that the dream of Viksit Bharat is about historic GDP growth as well as creation of an inclusive and prosperous nation where development is the right of every citizen.

He called upon all stakeholders, industry leaders, policymakers, educators, and citizens, to reflect on the impact of their contributions on society. The Lieutenant Governor urged the younger generation to prepare themselves for the responsibilities of 2047, when India will celebrate 100 years of independence, and to ensure that the nation's progress uplifts every region and community.

"The new generation, which will be at the peak of its careers and energy in 2047, must ask itself today- When India becomes a developed nation, what will you be creating? What impact will my creation have on society, and how will it affect people's lives? Although eminent personalities are engaged in different activities, I strongly believe that together they are creating one common thing- the future of India. We must contribute to the welfare of our country, society and humanity as a whole," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shashank Mani Tripathi, Member of Parliament; Ravi Sharma, President, IIT Alumni Council; Dr. Ashish Chauhan, MD & CEO, National Stock Exchange (NSE); eminent alumni of IIT and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present.

AI can draft

The truth is that the ground beneath our feet is changing, right now, far faster than ever before," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that artificial intelligence will soon become as ubiquitous as Excel in management, just like an invisible, powerful infrastructure rather than a subject of study. Yet, he stressed that leadership, trust, and decision-making remain fundamentally human responsibilities.

"No technology can answer what should be created, what should be trusted, or how people should be led. AI tools can accelerate the speed of the business-management processes, but they cannot change the fundamental nature of

decision-making," he said.

For law students, the Lieutenant Governor underlined that while AI can draft contracts, it cannot interpret human intent or deliver justice with empathy. The legal system's enduring role lies in accountability and fairness. He said these are the qualities machines cannot replicate.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the IPM students for their farsighted choice to study management and leadership at a young age, urging them to treat their years at IIM Rohtak not merely as a degree pursuit but as a journey of self-discovery. He said the students of the Integrated Programme in Law are also entering a profession that has played a highly distinctive role for centuries.

He encouraged all students to ask questions, engage in respectful disagreements, and explore diverse fields beyond the curriculum.

"New ideas develop through meaningful dialogue and healthy differences of opinion. Do not limit yourselves to the curriculum, because studying diverse fields will broaden your vision. In the coming years, you will not only acquire knowledge, but also discover yourselves. You will enjoy successes and face challenges; at times you will be proud of your decisions, and at times you will learn from them. These very experiences will make you not only better business leaders, but also better human beings," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized that while no one can predict the world of tomorrow, wisdom, moral courage, and values will remain the greatest support of students. He urged them to sharpen curiosity, strengthen character and commit to contributing positively to society and the nation.

PM Modi's tenure has

Development works are going at a good pace," he asserted.

The Union minister said after losing generations to persistent violence over the past three decades, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir has now become aspirational. "You can see it in their performance in competitive examinations like UPSC and engineering entrance exams over the past few years," he said.

Singh said while many saffron party workers were lost to the violence in Jammu and Kashmir, he is lucky to have survived to witness the change in the mindset of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Nation-wide

will see detection and destruction of illicit cultivation followed by an awareness drive in chemical industries against diversion of precursor chemicals in the first-half of February and joint inspection of jails in the second half of that month.

The action plan also envisages special fortnights to engage the youth in sports, drug-free campus verification exercise in educational institutes and training of anti-narcotics government agents to scan the darknet, crypto currency, synthetic drugs and clandestine drugs manufacturing laboratories, officials said.

These fortnightly campaigns are intended to supplement the regular tasks and time-bound

targets already earmarked for various agencies in the country under the national Vision Document for Narcotics Control 2026-29 that was unveiled recently, the officials said.

The NCB has said these coordinated nationwide fortnightly campaigns will not only strengthen inter-agency collaboration but also enhance public awareness and contribute significantly towards achieving the vision of Nasha Mukh Bharat (Drugs Free India).

Adjourned, not

the government could seek passage of the constitution amendment bill after Independence Day.

The Congress on Sunday raised questions over the session not being prorogued even 10 days after it was adjourned sine die and asked whether Union Home Minister Amit Shah was still in search of his "super-tainted" two-thirds majority to get the delimitation-linked Constitutional amendment bill passed in a special session.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the time gap between the sine die adjournment of the Lok Sabha and its prorogation is generally two to four days, although there are many instances when both have taken place on the same day.

"Ten days have gone by since this Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die but still there is no information on its prorogation," he said.

Ramesh said it was true that the gap for the Monsoon session in 2015 was 28 days and in 2021, it was 20 days, but there were no "diaboli- cal" moves afoot then.

Speculation over the government's next move on the delimitation-linked Women's Reservation Bill has refused to die down after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay raised the issue at the August 21 Southern Zonal Council meeting in Mahabalipuram that was chaired by Shah.

"I urge the Union government to provide a clear legislative assurance that no state will suffer a reduction in its percentage of representation in Parliament on account of its success in population stabilisation," Vijay said.

His remarks indicated a shift from the categorical opposition to delimitation through the resolution he moved in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on August 12.

However, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who also attended the Mahabalipuram meeting, demanded that the central government retain the existing number of Lok Sabha seats - 543 - for the next 25 years.

'Under PM Modi

dialogue, mutual respect and inclusiveness.

Held under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, the Meeting brought together Ministers and senior sports representatives from BRICS Member States to discuss cooperation priorities and sports development.

In his opening statement, Dr Mandaviya called for building a BRICS Sporting Partnership that translates the shared vision of Member States into tangible sporting collaborations.

"We should build a BRICS Sporting Partnership that moves beyond declarations and creates real platforms for sports

collaborations, whether it is athlete and coach exchanges, joint competitions or sports science knowledge sharing," he said.

The Union Minister highlighted India's efforts to strengthen sports goods manufacturing, noting that the soon-to-be-launched scheme for promotion of Sports Goods Manufacturing Clusters will facilitate investment and promote domestic manufacturing for global markets.

"We invite global manufacturers, technology companies and investors to Make in India, Play in India and Grow with India," he said.

Dr Mandaviya also underlined India's commitment to making sport more inclusive through para-sport promotion initiatives and new pathways for greater participation of women in sport.

During India's Chairship, three priority initiatives have been advanced to deepen cooperation in sports.

First, the BRICS Working Group on Sports Technology will strengthen BRICS cooperation in sports science, athlete performance, governance, AI, digital transformation and innovation, with India contributing experts across key sporting domains.

Second, India's proposal for a BRICS Sports Manufacturing Conclave received broad support, with Udaipur, Rajasthan, proposed as the host city for its inaugural edition in November 2026. The Conclave will focus on exchange of best practices, technology and innovation, quality standards, intra-BRICS trade and resilient supply chains, while bringing together manufacturers, exporters, investors, technology providers, SMEs, start-ups and research institutions.

Third, the BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games 2026, proposed to be hosted in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on 12-13 October 2026, will provide a platform for BRICS countries to showcase and preserve their diverse traditional and indigenous sporting heritage. Conceived as a non-competitive and culturally focused initiative, the Games will promote cultural exchange, people-to-people ties and mutual understanding.

Ahead of the formal proceedings, participating Ministers and dignitaries joined the BRICS Friendship Cycling Event, organised as part of the 87th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle in Visakhapatnam. Led by Dr Mandaviya and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse, the event saw participation from Ministers from Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, the UAE, Iran and South Africa, reflecting the shared BRICS commitment to promoting fitness, healthy lifestyles and people-to-people connections through sport.

Delegations reaffirmed the role of sport in advancing youth development, inclusion, cultural exchange and international cooperation, while welcoming the progress achieved during India's BRICS Chairship.

Dr Mandaviya appreciated all participating countries for their continued commitment to strengthening cooperation in sports within the BRICS framework and expressed confidence that the partnership would translate into meaningful and sustained sporting collaboration among Member States.

The outcomes of the Meeting contribute to India's BRICS Chairship theme of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

Centre pushes states to speed up PNG adoption

Seeks district-level officers to drive LPG-to-gas transition

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 23: The Petroleum Ministry has asked states and Union Territories to provide district-level administrative support to accelerate the shift of households from LPG to piped natural gas (PNG), seeking appointment of nodal officers to coordinate with gas distributors and oil marketing companies.

In an August 21 letter to state chief secretaries, Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal said PNG, as a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, has an important role in advancing India's energy transition while reducing the logistics burden associated with LPG distribution and improving consumer convenience.

"PNG brings a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, playing a critical role in advancing the country's energy transition objectives. Its accelerated adoption contributes to reducing the logistics burden associated with LPG distribution, enhancing consumer convenience, and improving utilisation of CGD infrastructure created through substantial public and private investment," Mittal said in the letter.

The ministry is seeking district-level intervention as it moves to implement a regulatory framework aimed at preventing households from retaining both LPG and PNG connections in areas where piped gas is available.

The push for faster adoption of gas piped to households for



cooking purposes, called PNG, follows the disruption to India's LPG supply chains during the West Asia crisis earlier this year. LPG was among the fuels most exposed to the conflict because India imports a large share of its cooking-gas requirement, with much of those supplies coming from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait and moving through the Strait of Hormuz.

The disruption forced the government to prioritise domestic LPG supplies, with commercial and industrial consumers facing restrictions before supplies were progressively restored. India has since moved to diversify its LPG sourcing, including higher purchases from the US and Algeria, as it seeks to reduce its exposure to disruptions in Middle Eastern supplies. Piped natural gas, by contrast, proved considerably

more resilient during the crisis, particularly for domestic household consumers.

Domestic PNG supplies received priority allocation of domestically produced natural gas, insulating the segment from much of the disruption that affected imported LPG and LNG cargoes.

While industrial and commercial gas users with greater dependence on imported LNG faced some exposure, domestic PNG and CNG supplies were expected to remain largely unaffected.

The experience has strengthened the case for expanding city-gas infrastructure and shifting households towards piped cooking fuel as part of a broader strategy to reduce India's dependence on imported LPG and make the country's energy system more resilient to geopolitical and shipping disruptions. To promote faster

PNG adoption, the government has notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution (Through Laying, Building, Operation and Expansion of Pipelines and Other Facilities) Orders of 2026 and LPG Control Orders under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The orders prohibit households from retaining simultaneous LPG and PNG connections and provide for discontinuation of LPG supply to households that fail to apply for a PNG connection despite due notice, wherever PNG supply is available, Mittal said in the letter.

The ministry has directed authorised city gas distribution (CGD) entities and public-sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) to establish a PNG Coordination Committee (PCC) in every geographical area. The committees will identify eligible housing societies and households, issue statutory notices to housing societies, resident welfare associations and individual consumers, and conduct outreach camps to accelerate PNG connections.

The ministry said the PCC mechanism is already operational but its experience so far shows that district-level administrative support is crucial for implementing the transition within prescribed timelines. The district administration will be expected to help secure right of way or right of use from RWAs and housing societies, facilitate the transition between LPG distributors and CGD entities, support consumer outreach and

verification, and resolve consumer grievances.

It will also monitor PNG adoption in notified areas and, where required, enable designated officers to exercise powers under the control orders when access to non-public areas is refused.

The ministry said officials of the Department of Food and Civil Supplies are best placed to provide this support because of their existing regulatory interface with LPG distributors and their field-level administrative reach.

Mittal has, therefore, asked chief secretaries to direct their respective food and civil supplies departments to nominate one nodal officer at the district level, not below the rank of district supply officer, to be formally associated with the local PCC.

States and UTs have also been asked to provide the names, designations and contact details of the nominated officers at the earliest so that PCC members can coordinate with them and expedite PNG expansion. The ministry asked states to accord priority to the matter, citing the government's commitment to expanding PNG adoption in a time-bound manner.

The push comes as India seeks to expand its city gas distribution network and shift more household cooking demand towards piped natural gas, potentially reducing the need to transport LPG cylinders over long distances and making greater use of infrastructure created through public and private investment.

NSA Doval to visit China today

To attend Special Representatives talks with FM Wang



PTI

Beijing, Aug 23: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is scheduled to arrive in Beijing on Monday to take part in the India-China Special Representatives (SR) talks on the boundary issue with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

Doval and Wang are scheduled to hold the 25th round of SR talks on Tuesday, according to official sources.

Both Doval and Wang are the designated SRs for the boundary talks mechanism, which was established in 2003 to comprehensively address the vexed boundary dispute of the India-China border spanning 3,488 km.

While success eluded it in resolving the boundary dispute, officials on both sides regard the structured mechanism as a useful tool in addressing the recurring tensions between the two countries on various fronts.

The upcoming talks assume significance as they are being held ahead of the much-anticipated visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to India to attend the BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12-13. While there is no official confirmation about Xi's visit, officials on both sides are optimistic about the Chinese leader's participation, which could provide an opportunity for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the summit to discuss initiatives to take forward bilateral ties.

The two leaders met in August last year on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin.

Ahead of Doval-Wang talks in Beijing, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday reiterated that peace and tranquillity along the border areas are prerequisite for good relations with China.

His comments came amid reports of aggressive posturing by Chinese troops in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri region in recent weeks.

"I think we went through a particularly bad patch between the summer of 2020 and the autumn of 2024, and that

was primarily an outcome of the situation in the border areas," Jaishankar said at the Economic Times World Leaders Forum in New Delhi on Saturday.

"At the end of the day, peace and tranquillity in the border areas is a prerequisite for good relations, and the state of the border, to a very large measure, naturally would determine the state of the relations," he said.

On the reports of stepped-up Chinese military activity near the Arunachal Pradesh border, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jakun said on August 12 that the China-India border situation is "generally stable at the moment".

China and India held the 36th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs, Guo said.

"The two sides agreed to maintain communication via diplomatic and military channels and jointly uphold peace and tranquillity in the border areas", he said.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on August 11 said that India considers matters relating to border areas with China as "most serious" and asserted that maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is of "utmost importance", as the state of the frontier will govern the overall trajectory of bilateral ties.

Earlier, New Delhi also trashed Beijing's criticism of its decision to formally identify 27 places and geographical features in Arunachal Pradesh by their standard names, emphasising that the state is an "inalienable and integral" part of India and nothing can change this "indisputable reality".

China, which claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, has been releasing its set of names for the region since 2017. India termed the Chinese move as "vain and preposterous", asserting that such actions will not alter the "undeniable" reality that the state "was, is, and will" always remain an integral part of India.

India capable of becoming global shipbuilding hub: Rajnath



PTI

Kolkata, Aug 23: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday asserted that India is capable of becoming a global shipbuilding hub, as he virtually laid the foundation stone for five expansion projects of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, and Yantra India

Ltd, from Kolkata.

Singh was accompanied by West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari during the foundation-laying ceremony here.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh said foundation was laid for five projects worth nearly Rs 3,500 crore in West Bengal.

"India is capable of becoming a

global shipbuilding hub. There is a vacuum occurring in the global shipbuilding industry, and India can capture this opportunity," he said.

The projects comprise three facilities of GRSE and two of Yantra India.

Singh also said that the West Bengal government will take steps to usher in a "new renaissance of development".

"The news of closures and lock-outs of factories in West Bengal has now been replaced by the launch of new projects," the defence minister said.

A GRSE official said that as part of its capacity expansion, the company has signed lease agreements with the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK) for two small shipyards on either bank of the Hooghly, along with a 32-acre riverside property at Raichak, to enhance capabilities in warship construction and refit.

"These projects will strengthen the capabilities of GRSE, while supporting the revival of West Bengal's industrial ecosystem through employment generation and increased opportunities for ancillary industries, particularly MSMEs," he said.

Shah to attend National Security Strategies Conference starting today



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 23: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will attend deliberations on contemporary matters and challenges to national security during the two-day National Security Strategies Conference starting from Monday, officials said. They said more than 850 officers from various security forces and police from across the country will participate in the conference to be held in a hybrid format.

The ninth National Security Strategy Conference will be held in a hybrid format, combining physical and virtual modes, they said.

The officers will deliberate on various contemporary matters and challenges to national security during the conference, the officials said.

Geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, new tech changing manner in which countries interact: SC judge

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 23: Supreme Court judge Vikram Nath on Sunday said geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty and new technologies are altering the way countries interact with one another.

Speaking at the 11th BRICS+ Legal Forum here, the seniormost judge of the apex court pointed toward the evolving challenges before the world and said artificial intelligence is no longer a distant technological possibility, it is already becoming part of the economic and social life, and its uses will only expand.

"Geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty and new technologies are altering the way countries interact with one another. At the same time, there is a growing conversation about whether the institutions that have guided international relations for decades adequately reflect the world as it exists today," Justice Nath



said. He said if the international order is changing, a more basic question must also be asked -- what will enable

countries to continue working together despite their differences.

"I believe the answer lies in part in the rule of law. It gives cooperation a degree of certainty and provides a common framework within which differences can be addressed. It tells us that commitments matter, that institutions must be accountable, and that disagreements must have fair and credible means of resolution. In that sense, the legal dimension of BRICS is not separate from its economic or political cooperation," he said.

The gathering at the function organised by the Bar Association of India included representatives from BRICS nations and lawyers from India in large numbers.

"Artificial intelligence is no longer a distant technological possibility, it is already becoming part of the economic and social life, and its uses will only expand. The BRICS discussions on AI have recognised the need for governance that promotes innovation, while also

addressing issues of safety, inclusiveness, human rights and equitable access," Justice Nath said.

He highlighted that for the legal profession, however, the interesting question is not simply how AI should be regulated, it is how law should respond to a technology that develops much faster than traditional regulatory processes.

"Technology is often designed to optimise speed, law serves a different purpose. It must leave room for scrutiny, reasons and accountability. Even when the technology around it is moving very quickly, we have to address that artificial intelligence is not independent of human judgment," he said.

Justice Nath said it is designed by human beings and trained on data generated by human societies, those societies contain their own assumptions and inequalities, and technological systems can reproduce those patterns, if they are not carefully examined.

SC to hear today plea for CBI probe into Jharkhand public service exams 'irregularities'

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 23: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea seeking an independent, time-bound probe by the CBI into alleged malpractices in the Jharkhand Combined Civil Services Preliminary Examination.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana is likely to take up the petition filed by activist Harisharan Devgan, through advocate Satyam Singh Rajput, for hearing.

"The present writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India is being preferred in public interest seeking urgent intervention of this court in relation to serious and substantial concerns regarding the integrity, fairness, transparency and credibility of the Jharkhand Combined Civil Services Preliminary Competitive Examination-2025, conducted by respondent no. 2-Jharkhand Public Service Commission pursuant to Advertisement No. 01/2026 on April 19, 2026," it said.

The plea has also sought transfer of the investigation from the state CID to the CBI to ensure an impartial probe into public officials and examination agencies.

"The petitioner submits that the controversy cannot appropriately be examined merely as a dispute concerning individual candidates or isolated instances of alleged malpractice.

Iran says new sanctions threatened by 'desperate' US will fail

REUTERS

Dubai, Aug 23: Iran's foreign minister dismissed the threat of new US sanctions as a sign of desperation on Sunday and said the expected new measures would fail to defeat Tehran.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who is due to hold a press conference at 2 p.m. EDT (1800 GMT) on Monday, has threatened to impose "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran.

Iran's economy is already under huge pressure from international sanctions, its infrastructure has been hit repeatedly and thousands of people have been killed in airstrikes on the Islamic Republic since the US and Israel launched attacks on February 28.

But Tehran remains defiant after nearly six months of war and has brought shipping to a virtual standstill in the Strait of Hormuz, refusing to allow unauthorized oil tankers to transit a waterway that is vital for global oil shipments. The effective blockade of the strait has pushed up global oil prices.

Describing what he said were "repetitive scenarios," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a video posted on Telegram: "The fact that they (US leaders) have moved on from military operations ... to bring up the same old plans shows that



they are desperate."

He said Washington must speak to Iran respectfully to find "a solution based on justice and honor."

"We have never been afraid. All of their actions — whether blockades or other military moves they have made — have failed, and this new issue of theirs will fail as well," he said.

US President Donald Trump has warned of economic consequences against any country that provides "any type of lifeline to Iran" and Bessent has urged cooperation with Washington by China, which buys more than 80 percent of Iran's shipped oil, according to 2025 data from analytics firm Kpler.

China has urged diplomacy. Pakistan's army chief to visit

Tehran

Iran said Pakistan's army chief, Asim Munir, would visit Tehran on Monday as part of efforts to restore peace and security in the region, but gave few details.

Pakistan has been mediating in the conflict and a Pakistani government source said Munir would touch on recent developments including the US threat of new sanctions.

Trump said on Friday that Washington was observing "what happens" in the conflict.

"They would love to make a deal, but they're not ready to make the right deal, in my opinion," Trump said on Iran.

US attacks have severely diminished Iran's economy and devastated its navy and air force, but Tehran maintains enough

missile and drone capability to impede oil tanker traffic and attack regional rivals.

Iranian Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Saturday that Tehran had received "numerous messages" from neighboring countries about establishing new regional security arrangements and economic cooperation.

Qalibaf did not say which countries he was referring to. He accused the US of endangering the security of its allies in the region for the sake of Israel, adding that an independent, "homegrown" regional order would deliver peace and security.

Trump has yet to achieve objectives he set at the start of the war such as dismantling Iran's nuclear program — the state of which remains uncertain given that UN inspectors have been shut out since 2025 — and creating conditions for Iranians to overthrow their clerical rulers. While Iran remains defiant, President Masoud Pezeshkian has also called for a diplomatic solution.

"It would be better to end the war today, when we are powerful and have dignity, and the whole world acknowledges our victory and emphasizes that America, contrary to all regulations, attacked our schools, hospitals, and infrastructure and is hated in the world," the ISNA news agency quoted him as saying on Friday.

Pope calls for more efforts to stop Ebola in DR Congo



AFP

Vatican City, Aug 23: Pope Leo XIV called on the international community Sunday to help contain the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which health officials warn is spreading exponentially.

"In my prayers I often remember the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially because of

the spread of the Ebola epidemic, which unfortunately is causing many victims," said the pope following his Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square.

"I encourage a response from the international community that also involves local communities in efforts to save many human lives," added the pope, who visited Africa in April.

The deadliest Ebola outbreak

in the DRC's history has already killed thousands of people, hitting regions in the north and east where the presence of the state is weak, health infrastructure is largely lacking and numerous armed groups have sown decades of violence.

Leo also expressed his closeness to those in the Central African Republic "who mourn the victims of the collapse that occurred in a mine in Zamboye."

The landslide on Tuesday at a gold mine near the Cameroonian border killed dozens of people, with many still missing and likely buried beneath the rubble. "May the Lord welcome all those who lost their lives, and support efforts to guarantee the safety and legality of mining sites," said the pope.

Closer to home, Pope Leo also cited the 10th anniversary on Monday of a major earthquake in central Italy that killed around 300 people and devastated the city of Amatrice. "I pray for the deceased and for their families, and for all the communities involved," he said.

Peace through strength, Taiwan president says on China battle anniversary



REUTERS

Kinmen, Aug 23: Peace can only be secured through strength and not even an inch of territory can be sacrificed, Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said on Sunday, visiting a sensitive frontline island to mark a key battle with Chinese forces almost seven decades ago.

Taiwan has controlled the Kinmen and Matsu islands, which lie just off the Chinese coast, since the Republic of China government fled to Taipei in 1949 after losing a civil war with Mao Zedong's communists. No peace treaty or armistice has ever been signed.

In heavy rain, Lai laid a wreath and bowed at a

memorial park for the 68th anniversary of the 1958 clash with Chinese forces, known as the start of the second Taiwan Strait crisis — the last time Taiwanese and Chinese forces battled on a large scale.

Addressing veterans later, Lai expressed gratitude to those who "stood united and fought a bloody battle to repel Communist totalitarian aggression."

"Our resolve to unite in defending national sovereignty and safeguarding peace across the Taiwan Strait must never waver," Lai said. "Peace has never simply fallen from the sky."

The 1958 battle proves "that peace is secured through strength," he said, adding it was necessary to maintain "the spirit of never yielding an inch" of Taiwan, Kinmen and another group of islands, while continuously boosting military spending.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

CLOSE TO CHINA

China views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory and has repeatedly denounced Lai as a "separatist." He rejects Beijing's sovereignty, saying only Taiwan's people can decide their future, but has also offered talks with China.

Kinmen at its closest is less than 2 km (1.2 miles) from Chinese-controlled territory. In the 1958 battle, Chinese forces began more than a month of bombardment of Kinmen, along with Matsu, including naval and air battles, seeking to force them into submission.

Bangladesh eyes more Australia Tests to hit next level



AFP

Mackay (Australia), Aug 23: Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said on Sunday his team had taken a lot of confidence from its two-Test series in Australia and is keen to return as it aims for more consistency.

The visiting team stunned the world's top-ranked side with a nine-wicket win

in Darwin last week, its first on Australian soil and one considered its greatest of all time.

But Bangladesh came crashing back to earth with an innings and 51-run thrashing in the second Test at Mackay on Sunday.

It was Bangladesh's first Test tour of Australia in 23 years and Najmul said his side wanted to come back to better understand the conditions, with the pitch in Mackay fast and bouncy.

"I think it was a very proud moment as a team, and we showed our character and discipline in the first Test," he said.

"But we need to be consistent, and I believe if we are able to get more chances, similar kinds of conditions year after year, it will help us. And that's what we want."

"It's a long time, 23 years, since we came here and we played two Test matches, it's not easy."

Kazakhstan votes in parliamentary election

AP

Tallinn, Aug 23: Polls opened Sunday in Kazakhstan's parliamentary elections, a vote expected to further to strengthen President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's power in Central Asia's largest nation. The ruling pro-presidential Adilet party is widely predicted to win an overwhelming majority, with several smaller parties loyal to Tokayev also anticipated to enter parliament.

Tokayev, 73 — a former Soviet official and Kazakh diplomat who previously worked at the United Nations — has been in office since 2019.

It is the country's first elections to a new, single-chamber parliament called the Kurultai.

Sunday's vote is the culmination of a constitutional overhaul Tokayev initiated in March, when 87 percent of voters supported a referendum to merge the two chambers of parliament into one and grant the president authority to appoint key officials, subject to parliamentary approval, including reestablishing the vice presidency.

2nd test Starc's 10 wickets leads Aus to series-leveling victory against B'desh



AP

Mackay (Australia), Aug 23: Mitchell Starc's 10-wicket match haul lifted Australia to a morale boosting victory by an innings and 51 run in the second cricket test as it leveled the two-match series against Bangladesh inside two days. Starc returned match figures of 10-51, after taking four wickets Sunday to go with his incredible 6-12 on a wild Day 1 which saw Bangladesh bundled out for 64 before the hosts also had its struggles on a spicy pitch at Mackay, in northern Queensland state.

It was the evergreen left-arm swing bowler's fourth ten-wicket haul in tests and also saw him move past South Africa pace great Dale Steyn into 10th on the all-time list with 445 wickets, with Starc having no

thoughts of finishing up yet. (The body's) still hanging together, I thoroughly enjoy being a part of this group," said Starc, named player-of-the-series for his 12 wickets across the two matches. "Test cricket, I've said it before, it will always be the pinnacle for me. I'd like to milk my body for all I can for test cricket, and that's how it'll remain."

Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon (3-25) each took three wickets to support Starc as Bangladesh could only manage 95 in its second innings to hand Australia a comprehensive win after its shock loss in last week's first test at Darwin.

Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto top scored for the visitors with 31, while Mushfiqur Rahim had an unbeaten 29, but the pair had very little help from the remaining

tourist batters with only two scoring above double digits.

I think this is a different condition (to the first test in Darwin) and there's a little bit more extra bounce and swing in the air," Shan-to said. "So it's challenging for us, but as a team if we want to go forward we need to adjust and I hope this experience will help going forward."

Aussie's extend lead

Earlier Sunday, Australia resumed at 165-8 with Cameron Green and Nathan Lyon adding another 28 useful runs Sunday for the ninth wicket. After also taking six wickets on Day 1, Shoriful Islam soon picked up his seventh with a searing inswinging yorker which struck Green on the front foot and was given out leg before wicket on review.

Shoriful's 7-48 was the best bowling figures for a Bangladesh player away from home.

Green's 67 off 105 balls was the top score of the match so far and follows his breakthrough home century in the first test at Darwin to lock down his place in Australia's middle order.

"We've got 20 tests coming up this year, so yeah, you want to get off to a good start, and I felt like I have done that, Green said. "So now it's just building on that and finding something that works and just continue with it."

INOX
SRINAGAR

CINEMA

MOVIE
SCHEDULE

24 AUGUST 2026 (MONDAY)

AWARAPAN 2 (HINDI) (U/A 16+)
12:20 PM
01:15 PM
03:10 PM
06:00 PM
HINDI ATMOS
10:55 AM
04:40 PM
07:30 PM

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY
(3D ENGLISH ATMOS
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A 13+)
01:45 PM

INSIDIOUS: OUT OF THE FURTHER (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
11:00 AM
08:20 PM
HINDI
04:05 PM

**PAW PATROL:
THE DINO MOVIE**
(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U7+)
06:20 PM