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Death toll rises to 2; LG chairs security review meeting

"We must intensify precise, high-impact anti-terror operations to neutralise the terrorists," he said. He instructed the authorities to ensure dignified last rites of the victims and provide all the support to bereaved families.

The meeting also discussed the security arrangements in place for the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra and strengthening of the security grid.

Omar strongly condemned the dastardly killing of two labourers and announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for the next of kin of the deceased.

He expressed profound grief over the loss of innocent lives and said the assistance would be in addition to the Rs 6 lakh immediate relief being provided by the district administration.

He also conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and reaffirmed that the government stands firmly with them during this difficult time.

The chief minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls. He also prayed for strength and courage to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai expressed deep grief over the tragic deaths of two labourers from his state in the Kulgam terror attack.

Denouncing the violence in the strongest terms, he condemned the targeting of innocent civilians, calling it a heinous crime against humanity with no place in any civilised society.

Extending his heartfelt condolences to the grief-stricken families, he announced an ex-gratia financial aid of Rs 20 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased.

He assured that the Chhattisgarh government stands firmly behind the bereaved families and will extend all possible assistance to help them navigate this profound loss.

"Targeting innocent civilians is an unforgivable crime against humanity. The Chhattisgarh government stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the grieving families in this painful hour and will provide complete support," he said.

He said the state government would appoint a nodal officer to maintain continuous liaison with J&K authorities, manage logistical requirements, and directly oversee the delivery of aid and relief to the affected families.

Sinha hands over appointment letters to next of kin of martyred cops

The LG also handed over an appointment letter on compassionate grounds to Inshah Nazir, wife of martyred Inspector Masroor Ali Wani.

On the occasion, he honoured the supreme sacrifice of Inspector Wani and assured the family of every possible support and assistance from the administration.

Wani had taken time off to play cricket with some of his colleagues and friends on Srinagar's Eidgah ground when he was shot at point-blank range by a lone terrorist. He had died after a 39-day fight for his life in a hospital, leaving behind his wife who was expecting their first child, his father and a brother.

After firing at the officer, the terrorist had fled the spot. A massive operation was launched by security forces soon thereafter to hunt down the terrorist who belonged to the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terror outfit.

His killing was widely condemned across the valley and other parts of the UT. Police and politicians too had condemned the killing and paid glowing tributes to the officer.

The terrorist had walked up to Wani on the Eidgah ground, where hundreds were playing cricket, and shot him multiple times. The attacker had then escaped, firing in the air to prevent capture by Wani's colleagues.

Boy killed in landslide

loss of life. "Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of young Rehan Ahmad Dar, a nursery student who lost his life in a landslide today. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family during this unimaginable time of grief," she said in a post on X.

The minister also directed the concerned authorities to extend all possible assistance to the family and to examine measures for ensuring the safety of students in vulnerable areas.

Saxena approves Ladakh Sports Policy

motivation to sportspersons to excel at school, district, state, national and international levels.

The Sports Policy establishes a visionary framework designed to transform the Union Territory into a premier, self-sustaining sporting destination, while simultaneously encouraging youth to take up sports as a viable career option, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through initiatives such as "Khelo India".

Based on the guiding principles of "Scout, Facilitate and Recognise", the policy has been finalised following threadbare discussions with all stakeholders for over two months, under the guidance and leadership of Saxena.

In recent months, several sportspersons and their parents had met the Lieutenant Governor, apprising their inability to meet the expenses for further preparations and training due to financial constraints. Considering this requirement, the LG, emphasising that "institutional financial support to sportspersons was critical for their career progression", directed the UT Administration to formulate a comprehensive sports policy where medal winners start earning automatically.

The biggest highlight of the policy is the introduction of a comprehensive framework for financial support to outstanding sportspersons from Ladakh. Medal winners in recognised International, National and State-level competitions, including the National School Games and Khelo India Games, will receive monthly scholarships for 12 months, from the date of winning the medal. This scholarship would motivate and enable the sportspersons to compete for higher-level sporting events, without worrying about expenses on a nutritious diet or sports equipment.

Under this new framework, International Gold medalists will receive Rs one lakh per month, National Gold medalists Rs 75,000 per month, and state-level Gold medalists Rs 10,000 per month, with proportionate scholarships for Silver and Bronze medal winners too, in respective sporting events for a period of 12 months.

The policy ensures that as the beneficiary athletes progress to higher levels, their scholarship is correspondingly upgraded. For instance, a sportsperson receiving ?10,000 per month for winning Gold at the state

level will become eligible for a higher scholarship upon securing a medal at the National or International level. Medal Scholarships will be awarded for 12 months, from the very date of winning the medal itself. But if a sportsperson qualifies for a higher level, the scholarship will be automatically upgraded for a fresh one-year period, as per the higher scholarship slab from the month he/she qualifies during the ongoing scholarship period. In such a case, the scholarship already paid to the sportsperson at the lower slab will not be recovered.

The policy also provides one-time cash incentives from Rs 5 lakh to Rs one crore for medal winners at recognised International, National, State and School-level competitions. This cash incentive will be paid over and above the monthly scholarship.

The policy also introduces a one-time Rs 10 lakh cash award for mountaineering achievers from Ladakh who successfully summit peaks above 8,000 metres, anywhere in the world. Besides, the new policy also provides special cash awards for outstanding performances at Paralympic Games, Para Asian Games, Para Commonwealth Games, Para Championships, National Para Sports Championships, and events for visually impaired, hearing-impaired and Special Olympics athletes.

"The New Ladakh Sports Policy 2026 is a long-term commitment to our youth for a vibrant sporting culture and an institutional support system to excel in the field of sports. The policy not only seeks to identify talented athletes at the grassroots, but will also ensure that they receive sustained financial support, institutional backing and constant motivation to excel at every stage of their sporting career. Every medal won by a sportsperson from Ladakh is a matter of pride for the entire nation. It is, therefore, the duty of the administration to support our talented youth, without the sportspersons and their families needing to worry about expenses. Through assured scholarships, cash incentives, modern infrastructure, scientific coaching and career opportunities, we are creating an ecosystem where talent is recognised, nurtured and rewarded without financial burden on families," Saxena said.

Gross GST mop-up grows 15.4 pc to Rs 2.11L cr

ued economic resilience despite challenges in the external environment.

"Steady growth in GST collections each month on domestic consumption indicates that overall domestic consumption is becoming largely insulated from seasonal variations and external headwinds," Mani said, adding that GST collections in July increased in major manufacturing states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Telangana.

KPMG, Indirect Tax Head & Partner, Abhishek Jain said much of the July GST revenue growth was driven by imports and it would be worth digging into whether that's finished goods or raw materials, and how much of it simply reflects a weaker rupee rather than higher volumes.

Gross Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) revenue during the month stood at Rs 39,835 crore, while State GST (SGST) and Integrated GST (IGST) mop-up were Rs 47,881 crore and over Rs 1.23 lakh crore, respectively.

Total refunds during July grew 13.1 per cent to Rs 29,968 crore.

After adjusting refunds, net GST revenue stood at over Rs 1.81 lakh crore.

Grant Thornton Bharat Partner and Tax Controversy Management Leader, Manoj Mishra said domestic GST grew a robust 10.1 per cent, reflecting resilient household consumption, formalisation and industrial activity.

Strong gains across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh confirm broad-based momentum across India's largest manufacturing, services and consumption hubs, he added.

EY India, Tax Partner, Saurabh Agarwal, said the sustained double-digit growth in GST collections is a strong affirmation of the underlying resilience of the Indian economy, and reflects a consumption story that continues to hold firm despite global headwinds.

"That said, one cannot ignore the elevated levels of import GST collections, which remain a nagging concern. This points to a persistent gap in domestic manufacturing capability despite the range of successful PLI and Atmanirbhar Bharat interventions rolled out over the past few years," Agarwal added.

As per the GST data released on Saturday, gross tax collection grew 10.1 per cent to about Rs 8.43 lakh crore in April-July. Net collections rose 9.2 per cent to Rs 7.21 lakh crore during the period.

Air Marshal Tejpal takes charge as Dy Chief of Air Staff

nuated on Friday after 39 years of distinguished service to the nation.

Air Marshal Singh laid a wreath at the National War Memorial and paid homage to soldiers who laid down their lives in service of the nation.

Industrial Biotech Park to drive biotechnology revolution: Jitendra

tion destination, with the operationalisation of the Industrial Biotech Park at Ghatti, Kathua, set to provide a major boost to StartUps, entrepreneurship and research in the region.

"The StartUp revolution has now begun in Jammu and Kashmir, with the startups nurtured under the Aroma Mission becoming successful entrepreneurial models and household names across the country," he said while addressing a function at Kathua.

Dr Singh said the government's focus was on creating an enabling ecosystem where innovation leads to employment generation, economic growth and sustainable development.

He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to position India as a global leader in science, technology and biotechnology through flagship initiatives such as Startup India, Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, which encourage innovation and sustainable economic growth.

He said the Industrial Biotech Park will serve as a hub for incubation of innovative ideas and provide world-class facilities to agri-entrepreneurs, startups, progressive farmers, scientists, researchers, and students from Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh as well as neighbouring states including Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

Doval asks youth to dedicate themselves to national interest

tory," Doval added. He said the country was fortunate to have leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union minister Shah.

Hailing Lokmanya Tilak, Doval said he was not only a freedom fighter, but also a social reformer and a philosopher.

He said when plague hit Pune and claimed the life of his 21-year-old son, Tilak did not leave the city but stayed back instead.

"The youth probably thinks that India was always like this. Youth probably thinks freedom is doing whatever it feels. Freedom was not that. Those who sacrificed their lives for freedom, those who struggled for it...Lokmanya Tilak. There was pain among people...they wanted to speak. Tilak gave them the strength to do so and instilled a new 'chetana' (consciousness) in them," he added.

Doval said these days people talk about their rights, but they do not know what pain it would cause to those who sacrificed everything for it if rights are misused.

Tilak did not just give a call that 'Swaraj is my birthright and I will take it', but he wanted every citizen to nurture the same mindset, he added.

Doval said he accepts the award named after Lokmanya Tilak with humility.

He also praised Shah for his "clear vision and commitment towards the country", and said he had the opportunity to work with the Union Minister.

18 police officers ransferred, posted

Jammu, and posted as SHO of Police Station, Gandhi Nagar.

Inspector Shariq Majeed is posted as SHO of Janipura Police Station in place of Inspector Vikram Sharma who is shifted to DPO, Jammu, as reader.

Inspector Arun Koul has been posted as SHO Police Station Bakshi Nagar, Inspector Rakesh Kumar has been transferred from SP South and posted as SHO Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu, Inspector Rattan Singh has been appointed SHO Police Station Peer Mitha, Inspector Balram Sharma has been posted as SHO Police Station Kanachak, Inspector Naresh Sharma has been shifted to DPL Jammu as Incharge CRT/ESU Lab, and Inspector Sushil Choug has been posted as SHO Police Station Akhnour.

Among other transfers, Sub-Inspector Sunil Kumar has been posted to Police Station Bishnah as Investigating Officer, Probationary Sub-Inspector Lalit Sharma has been appointed Incharge Police Post Sarwal, PSI Sohan Singh has been posted as Incharge Police Post Phallian Mandal, while PSI Naresh Kumar has been transferred to Police Station Bahu Fort as Investigating Officer.

PSI Kunal Sharma has been transferred from Police Station Gandhi Nagar to Police Station Khour, while PSI Ankush Sharma has been shifted from Police Station Khour to Police Station Gandhi Nagar. Assistant Sub-Inspector Mohammad Aslam has been posted to Police Post Gujjar Nagar, whereas ASI Ved Raj has been transferred from Police Post Gujjar Nagar to Police Station Gharota.

Trump threatens more strikes, presses for reopening of Hormuz

This week, Iran and the US resumed overnight exchanges of fire after a days-long lull in fighting, although there were no reported strikes overnight Friday to Saturday.

The Middle East war broke out on February 28 when the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran, which has retaliated with missile and drone strikes across the region.

Speaking to reporters during a meeting with members of his Cabinet at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland, Trump said "we just want to win" in Iran and signalled that he expected U.S. military action to continue for some time.

Later that day, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt expressed the U.S. administration's frustration anew, charging that Tehran last month signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. on a truce but then quickly "broke it, shot at commercial ships, and killed American soldiers."

"President Trump is not going to stand by and allow this terrorist behaviour to occur," Leavitt said in a statement on Friday evening. "Iran will continue to pay until they come to the table in what President Trump deems a meaningful way."

Kuwait's military said Saturday that its forces were responding to drone attacks, which were part of Iran's assaults on the country.

J&K Bank contributes 63.41 pc of total priority sector lending

bursed, Rs 44,228.30 cr was deployed under the priority sector, with J&K Bank contributing 63.41 per cent of the total priority sector lending, the meeting was informed.

While appreciating the banking sector for achieving a historic milestone in priority sector lending, Dulloo expressed concern over the Union Territory's Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio, which stands at 61 per cent, significantly below the national average of around 81 per cent.

He directed banks to prepare a comprehensive roadmap with targeted interventions to improve the CD Ratio, stressing that local deposits must be channelled into productive investments within Jammu and Kashmir to accelerate economic growth.

The chief secretary also instructed banks to strengthen their presence in rural and remote areas by preparing a time-bound plan to establish new brick-and-mortar branches over the next year, ensuring greater access to formal banking services.

Taking serious note of the poor performance of several public sector banks in priority sector lending, he urged them to adopt a more proactive approach towards agriculture finance and treat it as a viable business opportunity.

He also expressed concern over the sluggish growth in education and housing finance, directing banks to identify bottlenecks and introduce more competitive financial products.

Reviewing financial inclusion initiatives, the chief secretary observed that Jammu and Kashmir continues to lag behind the national average in enrolment under flagship social security schemes including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). He asked banks to intensify enrolment campaigns to ensure wider coverage of eligible beneficiaries.

He directed banks to actively onboard eligible farmers, women Self Help Groups, Udyam-registered MSMEs and artisans onto the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) for seamless and uninterrupted access to credit.

Earlier, UTLCB Convener and Managing Director & CEO of J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, highlighted the banking sector's growing role in the socio-economic trans-

formation of the Union Territory.

He reaffirmed the sector's commitment to expanding financial inclusion, promoting entrepreneurship and ensuring banking services reach every corner of J&K under the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2025-30.

The meeting was attended by Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Finance, Shailendra Kumar; RBI Regional Director Chandrashekhar Azad; NABARD General Manager Vikas Mittal; J&K Bank Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, along with senior officials from the Government, RBI, NABARD, J&K Bank and other banks operating in the Union Territory.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of various government-sponsored schemes and discussed measures to strengthen credit flow, expand banking infrastructure, deepen financial inclusion and promote balanced economic development across Jammu and Kashmir.

Bill to tweak anti-paper leak law gets Prez's assent

In a gazette notification issued on Friday, the law ministry said President Droupadi Murmu has given assent to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 after it was cleared by both Houses of Parliament earlier this week.

Now, investigations into paper leak cases are to be completed within two months.

According to the legislation, individuals involved in paper leaks or unfair means in exams will get jail terms for a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 10 years, and a fine of up to Rs 50 lakh.

For organised crimes, the amended law proposes a minimum sentence of seven years and a fine of up to Rs 10 crore.

Pilgrimage resumes after remaining suspended due to rains

tional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgal route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The yatra will conclude on August 28.

Authorities have put in place multi-layered security arrangements along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and at all transit camps to ensure the safe and smooth movement of the yatra convoys. A multi-tier security setup has been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra had marked the beginning of the country's one of the most revered spiritual pilgrimages and reflects the coordinated efforts of the administration and all stakeholder departments to facilitate a secure, seamless and memorable pilgrimage experience for every devotee.

Traffic restrictions will remain in force on various stretches of the highway till August 28, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

July turns deadliest in Pak as 606 killed in terror attacks, counter operations

ian deaths rose by 21 per cent, from 61 to 74.

The institute recorded at least eight suicide attacks during July, including five vehicle-borne suicide attacks.

The think tank said this was the highest number of suicide attacks recorded in a single month during the past decade.

Kidnapping incidents also doubled during the month, rising by 100 per cent from 33 in June to 66 in July.

It stated that the security situation deteriorated most significantly in Balochistan, where the overall death toll increased by 241 per cent, from 109 in June to 372 in July.

Security personnel deaths in Balochistan increased from six in June to 62 in July, representing a rise of 933 per cent.

Terrorist deaths rose from 75 to 238, while civilian deaths increased by 93 per cent, from 28 to 54.

Eighteen members of peace committees were also killed in the province.

Overall, the data showed that the first seven months of 2026 witnessed 2,786 deaths linked to terrorist violence and counter-terrorism operations across the country.

Those killed included 1,857 terrorists, 463 civilians, 434 security forces personnel and 32 members of peace committees.

The average deaths per month among security forces increased from 56 in 2025 to 62 in 2026, the average deaths of civilians increased from 48 to 66, and the average deaths among the terrorists increased from 178 to 265.

Farooq seeks probe into killing of labourers

incidents happen whenever his party demands restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"I regret it. We do not even know who killed them and how they were killed. There should be an investigation, a fair probe into who the killers are," he said while speaking to reporters in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Farooq also questioned the timing of such incidents in the valley.

"I don't know why such incidents happen when we seek statehood," he said.

Deepak Ratray and Bopinder, both in their 20s, were killed in a terrorist attack at a brick kiln in the Kelam area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district late on Friday evening.

Officials said Ratray succumbed to his injuries before he could be taken to a hospital, while Bopinder was first taken to GMC Anantnag and later referred to the SKIMS Hospital in Soura, where he died during treatment.

On July 22, police head constable Ashiq Hussain was shot dead by a lone terrorist in the Lal Chowk area of Anantnag while he was on Amarnath Yatra duty.

Cloudburst triggers flash floods, landslides at Minamarg

and other flood-prone areas. People were also advised to exercise extreme caution while travelling until weather conditions improved and normal traffic was restored.

The area was said to be witnessing torrential rains and more incidents of flash floods and landslides were not ruled out.

As heavy rains were expected across the UT of J&K too, vehicle operators and those living in landslide-prone areas were advised to exercise caution and avoid going closer to the flooded streams and other water bodies.

Last month, several people were killed in Jammu region in the incidents of flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains that had left major rivers - Chenab & Tawi - heavily flooded.