

Drug-free youth crucial for Viksit Bharat, says PM Modi
new people," Modi said.
"The coming 100 Sundays will mark 100 strong steps towards a drug-free India," he added.

The prime minister also said that addiction not only harms the body, but also takes away a mother's smile, shatters a father's dreams, weakens a sister's hope, and takes away the respect of a younger brother.
"Family members live with this pain every day, watching their children gradually lose themselves before their eyes," he said.

Modi also said the government stands firmly with the youth in this campaign against drugs.
"Strict action is being taken against drug traffickers across the country. The arrests have gone up several times as compared to before, and drugs worth thousands of crores of rupees have been seized. This shows how strongly our government is acting against drugs," the prime minister said.
He also urged families not to hide their children's addiction out of concern for social reputation, and instead communicate openly with them and seek expert and medical help to help them overcome substance abuse.
The 'Nasha Mukht Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' aims to inspire youth to stay away from substance abuse and encourages them to become ambassadors of positive social change in their communities.

The launch marked the beginning of a 100-week nationwide 'Jan Bhagidari' campaign, under which activities will be organised every Sunday across the country to promote awareness and encourage public participation in building a drug-free society.
The activities will include sports events, walkathons, meditation sessions, cultural programmes, awareness campaigns, nukkad natak, discussion forums, art competitions and community engagement programmes.
The Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan was launched in 2020 in line with the prime minister's vision of creating a Nasha Mukht Bharat, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Mansukh Mandaviya, said at the launch.

India's greatest strength lies in its youth: LG
nects youth every Sunday across the country," Sinha said and expressed confidence that this initiative would become a milestone in uprooting drugs from society.
Congratulating the J&K youth, he praised their active participation in the 100-day Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan conducted from April 11 to July 20. This campaign, he said, had become a model of success for the entire nation.
"The combined efforts of administration, police, social organisations, educational institutions, religious leaders, and citizens have proved that even the biggest challenges can be overcome when society unites for a common cause," he said.

The LG also highlighted the significant achievements of the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir campaign. "Around 2,300 FIRs have been registered, 2,600 people arrested, and 1,500 kilograms of narcotics seized. More than 331 properties worth around Rs 200 crore belonging to narco-terrorists and drug smugglers have been attached. Additionally, over 370 driving licenses and 750 vehicle registrations have been cancelled, with recommendations made to cancel nearly 3,000 Aadhaar cards. These actions demonstrate the government's unwavering policy against the drug network that threatens the future of youth," he added.

"While enforcement remains crucial, public awareness and rehabilitation are equally important. We will soon initiate the Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026. The pilot project will begin in two most-affected districts of Kashmir and Jammu divisions. Designed as a three-year rehabilitation cycle, the scheme will focus on medical treatment, counselling, education, skill development, employment, reintegration, and long-term monitoring. I see youth affected by drugs as victims and we need to ensure their dignity, livelihood, and a meaningful future," he said.
He urged families, teachers, and youth organizations to play a proactive role in guiding youth.

"Parents and teachers are the greatest guides and must support youth through dialogue, trust, and encouragement. Volunteers of MY Bharat, Nehru Yuva Kendras, and youth clubs should take the campaign's message to every village, school, college and community," he said.
He exhorted the youth to stay away from drugs, inspire peers, and become healthy, disciplined, and responsible citizens. He expressed confidence that the youth of Jammu Kashmir will dispel the darkness of drugs and spread the light of knowledge, progress, and positive energy.
"A healthy youth, a strong family, and an aware public will become the identity of Viksit Bharat," he said.
On the occasion, the LG also administered the Nasha Mukht Yuva Pledge to the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.
Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir; Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner/Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Nitin Hangloo, Director, Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) J&K; senior officials, members of Youth Clubs, Nehru Yuva Kendras, prominent citizens, and youth in a large number attended the function.

NH reopens as NHA! clears boulders
ing operation to clear the massive boulders blocking the highway, officials said.
The blast shattered the gigantic boulders into manageable debris, enabling clearance crews equipped with heavy earth-moving machinery to swiftly scoop away the remaining rocks and clear the road, officials said.
Soon thereafter, the road was reopened to vehicular traffic, the officials added.

OGW held at Baramulla
zine with 10 live rounds (9mm) and a mobile phone were recovered from his possession, officials said.
A case under relevant sections of law was registered against him at the concerned police station.
Saxena extends 'pro-people' land-use deregulation
empted residential/commercial/industrial or mixed land use development on land up to two kanals from any prior approval. He has now authorised the divisional commissioner to accord approval for change in land use plan on land above two kanals and up to four kanals. For land measuring above 4 kanals and up to 2 acres, the chief secretary will have the authority to accord approval for such land use applications.
The approval for change in land use on land above 2 acres will continue to be granted by the LG.
Earlier, the LG was the sole authority for deciding all such matters. This decentralisation of the regulatory

framework will ensure speedy disposal of the applications for land development works.
Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of deregulating governance and promoting "Ease of Living" and "Ease of Doing Business", this decision also addresses the regulatory challenges arising due to the absence of notified Master Plans and Zonal Development Plans in Ladakh. Till now, developmental proposals and building permission applications in Ladakh were often affected or delayed because of centralised power and uncertainty regarding land use.
However, recognising the inconvenience faced by citizens, Saxena approved a transparent interim framework and decentralised powers to facilitate legitimate development while ensuring orderly regulation until the statutory planning framework was notified.
"Our objective is to make governance simpler, more transparent and people-centric. Citizens should not suffer merely because statutory planning instruments are yet to be notified. Authorizing the Chief Secretary and Divisional Commissioner with the powers to approve development proposals will ensure that people living in rural areas can build homes, establish businesses and undertake legitimate developmental activities without unnecessary procedural hurdles. This interim framework strikes the right balance between facilitating development and safeguarding environmental and planning concerns until the Master Plans and Zonal Development Plans are notified," the LG said.
Neet-UG counselling to begin on Aug 4
The second round of AIQ counselling will take place from August 24 to September 2, followed by the third round from September 10 to September 18.
The stray vacancy round is scheduled from September 28 to October 3. The last date for joining after the stray vacancy round is October 10.
For state quota seats, the first round of counselling will be conducted from August 13 to August 22, with candidates required to join by August 28. The second round will be held from August 31 to September 8 and the third round from September 16 to September 26. The stray vacancy round for state quota seats will be conducted from October 3 to October 5.
The schedule also provides timelines for verification of joined candidates by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) and state counselling authorities after each round to facilitate seat processing and subsequent allotments.
According to the schedule shared by the MCC, the academic session for undergraduate medical courses will begin on September 8, even as counselling for the subsequent rounds continues for vacant seats.
The MCC has directed all participating institutions, state counselling authorities and designated agencies to strictly adhere to the schedule. It has also asked institutions to treat all Saturdays, Sundays and gazetted holidays as working days to ensure timely completion of the counselling process.
The MCC, which comes under the Union health ministry, has introduced a series of improvements in the Neet-UG 2026 counselling process, including doing away with mandatory physical reporting for candidates opting for seat upgrade and allowing online resignation from allotted seats, in an effort to make the admission process "more transparent and student-friendly".
Among the major changes, candidates who have been allotted a seat and have opted for upgrade in subsequent rounds will no longer have to physically report to the allotted college merely to complete admission formalities.
Their admission shall remain valid in the counselling system while participating in subsequent rounds, subject to the applicable counselling rules.
The MCC has also introduced an online resignation facility.
Candidates may now submit resignation from their allotted seat through the MCC counselling portal, wherever permissible under the counselling rules and within the prescribed timelines, without the need for physical submission at the allotted institution, the letter stated.
Candidates seeking NRI reservation in deemed universities "will be able to upload their documents online on the counselling portal".
Names of labourers' killers must be revealed: Farooq
public.
He also asked the authorities where the terrorists were coming from.
"They should tell people who is carrying out these killings. All we are told is that terrorists killed them. The question is where the terrorists are coming from when all the borders are sealed," Abdullah told reporters at Bijbehara in Anantnag district.
He said it was imperative to unmask the killers to test the lieutenant governor's claim that terrorism had ended in the valley.
"Let us and the whole world see who these killers are. Has terrorism ended? You can see how much the situation has changed," he said, referring to the change in status quo since the 2019 abrogation of Article 370.
Abdullah also demanded that the Centre should restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.
The NC leader also accused the BJP of destroying the Union Territory, which was a state before 2019.
On the situation in the Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he expressed surprise at the silence of the global community on the matter.
2nd phase of PoJK elections hit by chaos, polling delays
The disruptions prompted opposition groups and protest organisations to question the effectiveness of the election arrangements. Critics argued that an election in which polling personnel and materials could not reach numerous polling stations reflected serious administrative shortcomings.
Meanwhile, demonstrations continued throughout the day.
At D-Chowk, protesters staged a sit-in and announced plans for a long march towards Muzaffarabad. Reports from Rawalakot suggested intermittent firing by security forces during the protests.
Another protest site at Dreak Eidgah, where demonstrators have maintained a sit-in for nearly 50 days, remained active. Women and children continued the protest, with organisers stating that the sit-in would continue until their demands are addressed.
Several protest groups also claimed that many voters stayed away from polling stations as a mark of protest. However, official turnout figures and the reasons behind voter participation or abstention have not yet been independently verified.
The second phase of the elections was conducted against the backdrop of months of political unrest and anti-government demonstrations in Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kash-

mir.
SC to hear pleas relating to police action
and to ascertain whether the attacks on policemen were carried out by students or some "miscreants".
On July 28, the top court had restrained states from taking any coercive action against protesters and directed them to release those under 18 on the condition that none should have any criminal antecedents.
The top court had observed that a fair and independent probe in the matter was required and whosoever committed excesses, took law into their hands should be taken to task.
It had directed, "All states are hereby instructed to release children under the age of 18, who have been reported to be arrested or detained in connection with the ongoing protests and who do not possess any criminal antecedents."
The top court had said, if necessary, these children shall be released upon the execution of a simple bond by themselves or their family members, especially if such a requirement is insisted upon for surety.
It had taken note of allegations such as the use of pellet guns, lathis embedded with nails, rubber bullets and electric batons on protesters resulting in severe life-threatening injuries to several students and young women.
The top court had directed that Delhi government and other states may proceed with the investigation of the FIRs registered but no coercive measures shall be taken against the protesting students.
"Such protection, nonetheless, shall not be extended to the persons with criminal antecedents," it had clarified.
Houses, school building suffer damages due to land subsidence
thorities to immediately shift vulnerable families to safer locations, provide temporary shelter and relief, restore basic services and ensure adequate compensation and rehabilitation.
Earlier, land subsidence had taken place in Doda district of the region.
Birla stresses collective responsibility to ensure dignified life for all
Arundhati Choudhary for clinching gold in the women's 70kg category at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow on Saturday, lauding her hard work and dedication.
He also said that state-of-the-art sports facilities would be established in Kota to help youngsters compete at national and international events, including world championships and the Olympic Games.
Ujh Multipurpose Project revived after 100 yrs: Jitendra
WAPCOS Ltd and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, which has been entrusted with the implementation of the project.
Dr Singh emphasised the need for expeditious implementation so that the benefits of this strategically important project reach the people at the earliest. He advised WAPCOS to explore innovative solutions and implementation strategies while maintaining the highest standards of quality, safety and efficiency.
He was informed that the project was being taken up in a phased manner. Work will commence while acquisition of the remaining land was pursued simultaneously, without waiting for completion of the entire land acquisition process. The implementing agency is also working out the project site and related requirements.
Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the long-pending national projects were being taken forward with renewed urgency, he said.
He noted that the Ujh Multipurpose Project, conceived nearly a century ago, had remained in limbo for decades, while the Shahpurkandi project had remained pending for about four decades. The delay in implementation of these projects, he said, had resulted in the waters of the Ravi River and its tributaries continuing to flow into Pakistan.
5 security men among 14 killed in blast in Northwest Pakistan
managed to enter the Kabal Police Compound.
The Kabal Police Compound houses the police station, Police Lines, a facilitation centre and several other government offices.
On the directives of Director General Rescue 1122 Shah Fahad, rescue operations were being carried out under the supervision of District Emergency Officer, Swat, Shoaib Mansoor.
By 9 pm, rescue teams had provided emergency medical assistance to more than 15 injured persons and shifted them to different hospitals for treatment.
According to Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Malakand, the deceased included five police personnel, including an officer, three civilians and one child.
Security forces cordoned off the area and launched an investigation while collecting forensic evidence to determine the nature and circumstances of the attack.
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Suhail Afridi strongly condemned the blast in Kabal area of Swat district and asked the Inspector General of Police to file a report on the incident.
The chief minister expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy with the families of the police personnel and civilians killed in the blast.
Province's Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also condemned the incident.
Pak made every effort to dismantle goodwill under IWT: Kwatra
New Delhi control over three of the six Indus basin rivers that carry roughly 20 per cent of the basin's water, while Islamabad got rights to rivers that carry roughly 80 per cent.
"That asymmetry stifled development for decades in Indian regions that could have benefited from better water rights. India honoured the treaty anyway," Kwatra said.
He said Pakistan responded by launching wars against India in 1965, 1971 and in 1999; and through decades of persistent hostility and cross-border terrorism, including an attack on India's Parliament in 2001, Mumbai terror carnage in 2008, Uri and Pathankot attacks in 2016, the Pulwama attack in 2019 and the Pahalgam attack in 2025.
Kwatra said if Pakistan sincerely wants India's cooperation on bilateral issues, it must first dismantle the terror infrastructure it has built over the years.
"Obstruction and bureaucratic delays have been Pakistan's principal responses to any India-initiated projects under the treaty," he said.
"Pakistan also consistently blocked India's initiatives to renegotiate the treaty in light of six decades of technological change, which would have let India develop its hydropower potential," he said.
"Bit by bit, Pakistan eroded India's faith that it could exercise its rights under the treaty, or hope for a better one suited to today's realities," Kwatra said.

The envoy said those advocating talks between India and Pakistan have not taken note of the history of these initiatives taken in the past or they must believe that doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is not insanity.
"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has clearly voiced India's stand today: 'Terror and talks cannot go together... Terror and trade cannot go together... Water and blood cannot flow together'," Kwatra said.
He said the water scarcity Pakistan faces is a result of mismanagement by the government in Islamabad.
"The Government of Pakistan would do better to fix its dismal water productivity, than to stage conferences blaming India and issuing threats," Kwatra said, adding that the habit of pinning every domestic failure on India has grown old.
"The world should say so, unequivocally," he said.

Trump pauses planned strikes on Iran
once again after Trump threatened to hit Iran "very hard" and was reportedly considering renewed heavy attacks, including against energy infrastructure.
Trump said the US was "locked and loaded and ready to go against the Islamic Republic of Iran," but added that Tehran and other Middle Eastern countries had asked him to hold off on fresh strikes.
"Based on this request, I have agreed, for the future benefit of the WORLD and, likewise, the survival of a successful and prosperous Iran, to cancel the attack, subject to being able to rapidly make a DEAL," he posted on his Truth Social platform.
The US president said the deal would have to include the "Immediate, Complete and Total OPENING OF THE HORMUZ STRAIT, and an end to Iran's nuclear threat."
"The Country of Israel joins me in this commitment. Get to work, everybody, and get it DONE."
After more than five months of war, which began on February 28 when the United States and Israel launched strikes on Tehran, there was seemingly no end to the conflict in sight.
A previous ceasefire deal with similar terms, including the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, fell through, and Iran has since tightened its control over the vital waterway as the two countries resumed attacks against each other in recent weeks.
The resumption of hostilities has caused global oil prices, which had dipped during the initial ceasefire, to again rise.
And the back-and-forth comes just three months before midterm elections in the United States that could pose a challenge for Trump's Republican Party.
US embassies in capitals across the Middle East had warned their citizens on Saturday to beware of "unforeseen escalation" in the regional conflict and urged them to be ready to leave.
But Trump said he ultimately decided to hold off on his threat of new attacks after requests from Gulf countries.
Iran has effectively maintained control over navigation through Hormuz since the outbreak of the war on February 28, requiring vessels to obtain permission and pay transit fees before using the waterway.
Maritime trade tracking firm Kpler said on Friday that traffic through the Hormuz strait had dropped "sharply".

Fresh batch of 3,886 pilgrims leaves for holy cave shrine
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.

Over 26,000 Govt primary schools shut after BJP came to power: Akhilesh Yadav
LUCKNOW, AUG 2: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday said the current administration in Uttar Pradesh has shut down more than 26,000 government primary schools since assuming power in 2017, alleging that this was done to deny education to children from the PDA (Backwards, Dalit, Minority) communities. Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Yadav said the Samajwadi Party would raise the issue during the Monsoon Session of the Assembly, which would begin on Monday.
The former Chief Minister claimed that according to official data, Uttar Pradesh had 1,13,938 Government primary schools until March 2017, when the BJP came to power. More than 26,000 of them have been closed ever since, he said. The highest number of closures took place in Lakhimpur Kheri, where 758 schools were shut, followed by Sitapur (650) and Prayagraj (638). In Gorakhpur, the home district of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, around 500 primary schools were closed, he said.
Pointing out that a majority of students in Government primary schools belong to Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes, Yadav alleged that the BJP did not want children from the PDA communities to receive education.
The Samajwadi Party chief said that enrolment in Government primary schools has declined from 1.17 crore students in 2017 to around 89 lakh in 2026. Of this 89 lakh, about 25 lakh students belong to OBC, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories.
The number of teachers in these schools has also fallen from around 4 lakh in 2017 to 3.40 lakh at present, while nearly 81,000 teaching posts remained vacant, he said.
Yadav alleged that the administration was reducing teaching posts because it did not want to provide permanent government jobs, as regular recruitment would require budgetary allocations and implementation of reservation policies. He said the closure of Government primary schools has adversely affected girls' education, with the number of girls studying in these schools declining from 61.57 lakh in March 2017 to around 45 lakh now. Thousands of Government schools continue to lack basic infrastructure, he said, stating that around 7,000 schools have no electricity, about 2,300 have no toilets for girls, 576 lack drinking water facilities and nearly 23,000 have no provision for computer education.