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Overhauling of tribunals proposed primarily through 'NTC' of the "reform express" of the Modi government. The Bill also lays the framework to set up a National Tribunals Commission.

The draft law notes that the Supreme Court recently struck down certain provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, on the grounds that they were contrary to the principles of separation of powers and judicial independence and not in consonance with the earlier judicial pronouncements that clarified the standards governing the appointment, tenure and functioning of chairpersons and members of tribunals.

The top court had also directed to establish a National Tribunals Commission, which is independent, has professional expertise, and adopts a transparent process and oversight mechanism for the selection and appointment of chairpersons and members for various tribunals.

Once the Bill becomes a law, the 2021 Act will stand repealed.

The proposed new law also lays down the qualification, manner of selection, appointment, salaries and allowances, resignation, removal and other conditions of service for the chairpersons and members of the various tribunals specified in the Bill.

The tribunals covered include the Central Administrative Tribunal, National Green Tribunal, Armed Forces Tribunal, Securities Appellate Tribunal, Debts Recovery Tribunals, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal and Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, among others.

Panel calls for tourism SOP updates before peak seasons in J&K

In Ladakh, the panel expressed satisfaction with the induction of advanced weapon systems, unmanned aerial systems, counter-UAS technologies, modern surveillance equipment, specialist mobility platforms and all-terrain vehicles. It recommended sustained investment in integrated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, counter-drone systems, secure communication networks and indigenous high-altitude technologies.

"The committee further recommends that the Ministry of Defence should ensure their timely procurement, deployment and periodic technological upgradation in all strategically important sectors," the report said.

Overall, the panel called for stronger security systems at tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir and continued modernisation of defence and surveillance capabilities in Ladakh, alongside better emergency response measures and regular security reviews.

2 held for spreading radical propaganda

carrying radical and anti-national overtones, including radical narratives, glorification and projection of individuals associated with terrorism, propagation of extremist viewpoints, and narratives that could potentially influence or radicalise impressionable minds.

The arrests were made two days after CIK conducted raids at multiple locations across the valley in connection with a case registered at Police Station, CIK Srinagar, under sections 505 and 153-A of IPC and sections 13 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

3 drug peddlers held

quently produced before the competent authority and sent to an Observation Home at RS Pura, officials said. Two narco-smugglers were arrested along with 23 grams of heroin during checking at Galak in Billawar area of Kathua district late Sunday.

They were identified as Pawan Dev Singh of Majalta and Naresh Singh of Makwal-Ramkot. A case under NDPS Act was registered against them.

J&K cabinet expansion after Aug 15

ters into the Omar Abdullah-led government. The proposed expansion is expected to address the need for greater representation and strengthen the functioning of various departments as the administration continues to implement its governance agenda across Jammu and Kashmir.

While Omar did not disclose the names of prospective ministers or provide a specific date for the expansion, his statement makes it clear that the exercise is on the government's agenda.

"Will do it, but not before August 15," Omar said, indicating that the cabinet expansion could be taken up after the Independence Day programme.

MHA asks states, UTs to adhere to Flag Code

dignity and honour of the National Flag. The Flag Code of India, 2002, was amended vide Order dated 19th July, 2022.... Where the Flag is displayed in open or displayed on the house of a member of public, it may be flown day and night," the Flag Code attached with the order said.

It made it clear that whenever the national flag is displayed, it should occupy a position of honour and should be distinctly placed, and a damaged or dishevelled flag shall not be displayed.

The communique said the flag should not be flown from a single masthead simultaneously with any other flag or flags. "The Flag should not be flown on any vehicle except of the

dignitaries mentioned in Section IX of Part III of the Flag Code, such as President, Vice-President, Prime-Minister, Governors etc. No other flag or bunting should be placed higher than or above or side by side with the National Flag," it said.

Fin Min terms communists in India as total cowards

was exerted on Brazil, and was going against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that "India's digital payment ecosystem had been developed as a free public good".

The CPI (M) member, who was allowed to move his resolution by Deputy Chairman Harivansh after a brief commotion, had walked out when his speech was cut short by the Chair for exceeding the time limit.

"John Brittas can please stay here, if he wants to hear one line. Typical communist style: blast everybody with 'not facts', twist the facts and do something, and also demand my right 'I have to speak', and when actually the replies are to be given to them, point by point, they don't have the courage. Cowards!" Sitharaman said in her reply to the discussion on The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the Rajya Sabha.

"Communists in this country are total cowards; the member (John Brittas) has proven that. They can't face facts, but they will go on filibustering, making noise," she added.

Referring to the assertion by the opposition member of his right to speak, Sitharaman asked, "They don't have a right to listen? When the reply is given, I feel like saying it is my right to stand up and reply".

Asserting that she listens to all the members and tries to reply to all the members in the discussion, the finance minister said, "Honourable John Brittas should stay here to hear the reply because he has been creating confusion all over, not just here but in the country because that is the tactic the communists adopt. Total untruth".

Earlier, while moving his resolution, Brittas said the finance minister has "facilitated promulgation of the ordinance and subsequently brought this bill thinking that foreign capital would come to this country".

She was relying more on the promises of the foreign countries, he noted.

"There has been insistence on the part of US trade representatives that you need to charge UPI. The same pressure was exerted on Brazil. Now the policy of the government is being completely upended, and she has cleverly brought in the UPI component in this piece of legislation," Brittas claimed.

He recollected a statement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "G20 finance ministers and central bank governors in February 2023, that India's digital payment ecosystem had been developed as a free public good".

Thus, he said, "The current bill goes against the principle of India. The government policy from 2017 to 2025 was to keep digital payment charges away from merchants and consumers".

Thus, the current bill is "a violation of the solemn assurance of the honourable prime minister", Brittas said, adding the government must concentrate on the basic issues of the nation.

Referring to the rupee depreciation, he stated that in 2013 Modi said: "Rupee is in ICU, there is deep corruption in Delhi, and that's why rupee is depreciating".

"What is the rupee value now?" he asked, adding that there was a flight of foreign capital.

Jitendra for enhancing pvt sector role in biotech ecosystem

vestment. He stressed the need to build stronger linkages between India's indigenous biotechnology capabilities, industry and investors so that promising innovations can move from research and development to commercialisation at a faster pace.

The minister's emphasis came during a meeting with senior officials of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in New Delhi, where a range of measures to expand investment, industry participation and market opportunities for India's biotechnology ecosystem were discussed.

The meeting focused on the implementation of the BIRAC Research, Development and Innovation Fund (BIRAC-RDIF), strengthening industry engagement in biotechnology, integrating Life Sciences Global Capability Centres (GCCs) with the domestic biotech ecosystem, leveraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for biotechnology-led initiatives, enhancing BIRAC's outreach and international visibility, and creating stronger investor linkages for biotechnology startups and enterprises.

Dr Dhananjay Tiwary, Managing Director, BIRAC and Senior Adviser/Scientist 'H', DBT; Dr Manish Diwan, Group General Manager and Head, BIRAC-RDIF; CS Kavita Anandani, General Manager and Head, Corporate & Legal Affairs along with senior officials were present.

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

NET and ICAR AIEEA (PG) & AICE (PhD) 2026 examinations," the NTA said in a public notice.

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

publication, it said.

It advised candidates to regularly check its official website and rely only on official communications from the agency.

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

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

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

Oppn will have to listen to Amit Shah's reply peacefully: Rijiju

and youth agitations that have been going on in different parts of the country as well as police action. The home minister will reply to the debate on behalf of the government," he told reporters after a meeting of the BAC held in Parliament House complex.

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

The Monsoon Session, which started on July 20, has seen repeated adjournments and virtually no business except the debate on the anti-paper leaks bill -- The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 -- which was passed by both Houses of Parliament.

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

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

Panel on demographic changes reaches Jammu

was given on demographic overview and changing trends before the arrival of the chief secretary and the DGP to meet the committee, which will continue its engagements till August 12.

Officials said the committee is scheduled to visit several areas of Jammu, including settlements inhabited by illegal Rohingya and Bangladeshi immigrants, as well as areas along the International Border considered sensitive from security and administrative perspectives.

According to government data, over 13,700 foreigners, including Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshi nationals, are settled in Jammu and Samba districts of Jammu and Kashmir, where their population has increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016.

In March 2021, police found over 270 Rohingyas, including women and children, living illegally in Jammu city during a verification drive and lodged them in a holding centre inside the Kathua Sub-Jail.

In the past, several BJP leaders and various right-wing groups have raised concerns over the presence of illegal foreign immigrants in the region, particularly Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals.

They have urged the government to identify and deport those found residing illegally in the region, citing concerns over national security, demographic changes and the possible misuse of local resources.

Bill introduced to change Kerala's name to Keralam

bill. On Monday, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai introduced the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 amid Opposition din over various issues.

"The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 provides for such alteration of name of the State of Kerala and contains necessary amendments to the provisions of the Constitution and also consequential provisions," according to the bill's Statement of Objects and Reasons.

Amendments will be made in the First Schedule to the Constitution by modifying the name of state of 'Kerala' as 'Keralam' in accordance with article 3 of the Constitution.

Omar honours 580 sportspersons with Rs 2.71 cr cash awards

that athletes could deliver better results when provided with the right facilities, coaching, equipment and training opportunities.

He also acknowledged the contribution of parents and families in supporting young athletes, saying that efforts would be made to ensure that sportspersons do not face undue financial pressure for coaching, training, equipment and travel.

"We should also increase this gradually, so that our athletes do not have to worry about investing in coaching, training,

equipment, travel, etc. We should not put too much pressure on your families and parents," he said.

Emphasising the need to address gaps in sports infrastructure, Omar said Jammu & Kashmir must significantly improve facilities at the grassroots level.

He also pointed to the shortage of synthetic tracks, quality playing surfaces, indoor facilities and other training infrastructure, particularly in mountainous and winter zones where adverse weather limits outdoor training for several months.

The chief minister said Jammu and Kashmir's altitude was an inherent advantage that could be leveraged to establish high-quality training centres for athletes.

"We have to capitalise on this. We have to use this by establishing high-quality training centres. And, we have to pay attention to different sports," he said.

Calling for greater attention to both established and emerging sporting disciplines, he referred to the recent achievements of J&K sportspersons in cricket and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), stressing the need to maintain a balance in promoting different sports.

He also called for greater support for disciplines beyond cricket and welcomed growing corporate participation in sports, particularly in coaching and athlete development.

Linking sports with the wider effort to keep young people away from drugs, he said sustained investment in sports infrastructure and engagement with youth was essential to making the anti-drug campaign effective.

"Staying away from drugs is not just a slogan for one day a year. Twelve months of that year, seven days a week, and that will only happen when we can give infrastructure to sports and get the attention of the kids," he said.

On the occasion, the chief minister felicitated J&K MMA fighter Owais Yaqoob for his remarkable victory at BRAVE CF 107 in Bulgaria, where he defeated an unbeaten two-time IMMAF World Champion in a display of skill, determination and grit.

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

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

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

Ex-terrorist sentenced to life imprisonment

imprisonment for the murder of Abdul Gani Dar alias "Abdullah Gazali", ex-chief of Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen terrorist outfit.

Gazali was found brutally murdered inside Jamiat-e-Ahli Hadith mosque in Gawkadal area on February 13, 2020. Dar, a resident of Dalgate area of Srinagar, was arrested for the murder days later.

Gazali, who hailed from Beerwah in Budgam district, was a co-accused in the murder of Jamiat-e-Ahli Hadith chief Maulana Showkat Shah, who was killed in a blast outside the same mosque ahead of Friday prayers on April 8, 2011.

"When anger enters a place meant for prayer, faith is wounded, peace is shattered, and the very purpose of such a sacred place stands defeated. Violence in a place of worship cannot be tolerated. It strikes at the values of harmony, mutual respect, and communal peace," the court said.

"Such acts deserve strong judicial condemnation so that a clear message is sent that the law will firmly deal with those who violate the sanctity of places of worship and disturb public peace," the judge said in his 12-page order.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the accused, with the amount recoverable in accordance with law. The convict will be lodged at Udhampur district jail, with the period already spent in custody set off against the sentence.

It also directed that Rs 7 lakh be paid as compensation to the dependents of the deceased through the Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority, taking note of the hardship faced by the victim's family. The amount is to be paid within three months.

3rd phase held amid rigging allegations, clashes

24 seats, while the PPP, its coalition partner in the Centre, won 10 of the total 34 seats contested. Polls are being held for a total of 45 seats.

The PML-N is all set to form the government in the region, with the party announcing that its supremo Nawaz Sharif will nominate the candidate for the prime minister's post.

The PPP has alleged massive rigging by the PML-N in the third phase.

In a series of posts on X, the PPP said that roads leading to the Banni Marasia area were blocked, alleging that PML-N supporters were illegally stamping ballot papers at several polling stations across constituencies.

"The officials, voters, polling agents and party workers are unable to reach the polling stations to see what is being done inside," the PPP said, adding that polling failed to commence on time at some stations due to the non-arrival of polling staff.

69 dead, buildings collapse as 7.4 magnitude earthquake strikes Colombia

BOGOTA, AUG 10: A powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia on Monday, killing at least 69 people, trapping residents under debris of collapsed buildings and forcing people to evacuate their homes as far as the capital of Bogota.

The epicentre was in San Jose Del Palmar, a community of about 4,800 people in the Choco region, about 250 miles west of Bogota, the US Geological Survey and Colombia's counter-part reported. The USGS said it struck at a depth of 66 miles. The quake was also felt in neighbouring Ecuador and Panama, though minimal damage was reported there. Local officials confirmed that at least 40 people were killed in the department of Risaralda, where the hard-hit city of Pereira is located, and 27 people in the Valle del Cauca department, where Colombia's third-

biggest city, Cali, is located. Two people also died in the city of Manizales.

At least three of those killed in Valle del Cauca were children, the governor said.

The quake left cities across the west of the country - Pereira, Quibdo, Cali and Manizales - ravaged. Residents and search teams picked through the rubble of collapsed buildings amid concerns by authorities of aftershocks. Colombia's interior minister said more than 20 municipalities across the country had been hit.

Colombia's Pacific region around the quake's epicentre lies along the Ring of Fire, the line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur. Jorge Moncayo, a 64-year-old taxi driver in Cali, said he saw plumes of dust shoot up across the city as buildings collapsed. Residents and

rescue workers were searching the rubble for survivors.

Colombia's Geological Service said on Monday that it had been "the highest magnitude earthquake registered in Colombia in the last decade" and that it had been followed by two 2.8 and 4.8 magnitude aftershocks. Authorities also reported that flights were suspended in the airports of Manizales, Quibdo, Armenia, Cartago, Buenaventura and Pereira.

The earthquakes left many in the Andean nation unnerved after two back-to-back quakes devastated neighbouring Venezuela in late June, destroyed hundreds of buildings and killed more than 5,000 people. At the same time, the quake brought down buildings in Colombia and desperate families in Venezuela continued to search the ruins for the bodies of their loved ones.

Dulari Uppal Divyang Scholarship for Excellence launched

JAMMU, AUGUST 10:

At a simple but impressive function, a philanthropic family of Jammu today launched a scholarship for divyang students of economically poor background. Named as Dulari Uppal Divyang Scholarship for Excellence, every year five hearing handicapped students will be selected as per agreed criterion and paid Rs 7400 each.

The Promoter Smt Dulari Uppal will be providing Rs 37000 for this scholarship annually. As per the arrangement, she will provide funds equivalent to 500 Singapore dollars for poverty-cum-merit scholarship for five students every year, initially for three years, extendable for another term. The family will also provide equal



amount annually to the Samaj Kalyan Kendra for infrastructure development.

Smt. Dulari Uppal herself distributed the certificates and cheques to the five students. They are Arun Singh Manhas of 4th class, Kirti Anghal of 5th class, Rahul Bhndral of 7th class, Ri-

tish Kumar of 8th class and Sahil Kumar of 10th class. Two of them have lost their father and parents of other three hardly make both ends meet.

Her daughter, Gauri Uppal, the moving spirit for such charitable initiatives, shifted to Singapore in 1973. Wife of a former For-

eign Service Officer of Singapore Govt. she has set up 'The Learning Farm', 21 years ago, and devoted her life to this free of charges residential agricultural school to help vulnerable youth to return to their villages for organic farming. Masters in Linguistics, she not only helped her son Nihal who was born deaf, with speech therapy after the cochlear implant, but also helped deaf population in Singapore, Indonesia, UK, Malaysia, Australia and USA. Nihal has made stupendous achievement after Cochlear implant and therapy, and completed Computer engineering from University of Melbourne. Currently, he is working as a Senior Engineer with DISNEY in London.