

FROM PAGE ONE

Ahead of Sep 9 talks, govt clears LAHDCs for all 7 Ladakh distts

New Delhi. In an official communique addressed toLadakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra, MHA said the next meeting of the sub-committee constituted for the UT of Ladakh would be held on September 9. It also asked the administration to inform the members and convey their confirmation to the ministry.

The meeting comes at a crucial stage in the central government's dialogue with Ladakh politicians and civil society groups over constitutional safeguards, democratic representation and greater local decision-making.

It is expected to focus on establishing a formal, customised democratic structure for the UT, addressing key demands regarding legislative, executive, and financial powers.

Ahead of the talks, Ladakh administration had last month started addressing the demands of civil society groups of the region and taken a politically important decision to re-view the cases against alleged protestors for the September 24, 2025 violence.

"Cases against 25 individuals found to have had limited or no involvement will be withdrawn, with necessary closure proceedings undertaken in accordance with law. Charge sheets have been filed against nine persons in cases where evidence was available, and that the matter would remain subject to proceedings before the competent courts," the Ladakh chief secretary had said in a statement issued on August 20, 2026.

Four civilians were killed and around 90 people, including security personnel, were injured in 2025 as locals were agitating over the demands of statehood and the Sixth Schedule.

LG, CM greet people on Janmashtami

wisdom to action guide us to fulfill our duties without attachment to the outcome. May Almighty Krishna guide us towards righteousness, and may his divine blessings bring joy and prosperity to all," he said.

In his message, the chief minister said the festival of Janmashtami symbolises the triumph of righteousness, truth and compassion over evil.

He expressed hope that the occasion would strengthen the bonds of communal harmony, brotherhood and mutual respect among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The chief minister prayed that the festival brings peace, prosperity and happiness to all, and strengthens the spirit of unity and harmony in society.

Pak intruder held near IB

A tight vigil was being maintained all along the IB, the officials added.

SKIMS doctor terminated over unauthorised absence

pension before abandoning his duties entirely. A formal departmental inquiry, alongside status reports from SKIMS authorities, confirmed that Dr Himayun remained continuously absent for over nine years without authorisation or any effort to rejoin.

Rejecting his explanation of personal health issues, family disputes, and financial hardship as legally insufficient, the government invoked Articles 113 and 128 of the J&K Civil Service Regulations to enforce his removal for gross misconduct and abandonment of state employment.

Death toll in Nepal flash floods rises to 1,252

Tahanu. The joint rescue teams led by the Nepal Army have continued their search and rescue efforts on the ninth day on Thursday, with the number of missing people estimated at 4,875.

The flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal, leaving a trail of destruction and thousands of people missing.

Country's economic growth source of confidence for world: Modi

believe in the rule of law, dialogue, and diplomacy. Be it Ukraine or West Asia, we support all efforts for the early end of conflicts and for peace," he said.

The prime minister said India and Belgium are committed to eradicate every form of terrorism.

Modi also listed priorities of the two countries to expand cooperation in areas of high technologies and clean energy.

"A clean energy future and reliable supply chain are our shared priorities. An MoU signed today on renewable energy will give new momentum to our sustainability cooperation," he said.

"In critical minerals, we have decided to increase cooperation in processing and recycling. In semiconductors, Belgium's expertise and India's scale are complementary to each other," he added.

JeI-linked school buildings, shops attached

Sopore police station, officials said. Sustained investigation, scrutiny of official and revenue records and verification through concerned authorities established a link between the premises and the JeI, the officials added.

Based on a detailed dossier submitted by police, the Kashmir divisional commissioner notified the premises of Islamia Model School, Dooru (closed since 2022), comprising two double-storey buildings, six shops and two kanals of land, under the UAPA.

On the request of police, the Baramulla district magistrate issued necessary orders under the UAPA.In pursuance of the orders, police, accompanied by an executive magistrate, carried out the attachment of the notified properties, officials said.

UPSC to conduct MO interviews in Ladakh

expected to significantly benefit candidates appearing for interviews for the gazetted post of Medical Officer in the Health and Medical Education Department, UT of Ladakh.

Responding to the LG's request, the UPSC informed that it would constitute two parallel Interview Boards, each comprising one President and two Advisors. In addition, five UPSC officials/staff will be deputed to facilitate and manage the interview proceedings.

The UPSC has asked the UT administration to make the necessary logistical arrangements for the conduct of the interview that include a suitable venue with Interview Board rooms and office space, waiting/auditorium space for candidates, facilities for document verification, a frisking area, reception and stable internet connectivity for face authentication.

This move will make the recruitment process more accessible and convenient for candidates from Ladakh. Travel-

ling to Delhi for an interview often entails significant expenditure on airfare, accommodation, local transportation and other related expenses, besides the logistical difficulties involved in travelling outside the UT. Conducting the interviews in Leh will help reduce this financial and logistical burden on the candidates.

Saxena thanked UPSC for acceding to his request, saying this decision would ensure that candidates are able to compete on an equal footing without having to bear this additional financial burden. This is an important step towards bringing recruitment opportunities and government processes closer to our people, he said.

Sinha meets Puri, discusses development issues of J&K

issues concerning the Union Territory, including development initiatives, infrastructure expansion and public welfare measures.

The meeting assumes significance as Jammu and Kashmir continues to witness major infrastructure and development projects being implemented with support from the Centre.

Coordination between the UT administration and various Union Ministries remains crucial for the timely execution of these initiatives.

Officials said such high-level interactions help strengthen cooperation between the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration and facilitate discussions on policies and programmes aimed at accelerating socio-economic development across the Union Territory.

The LG has been actively engaging with senior Union Ministers and officials in New Delhi on matters related to governance, investment, infrastructure development and public service delivery in Jammu and Kashmir.

It may be mentioned that a large-scale development has taken place in J&K since 2014 when BJP stormed to power at the Centre. This development in terms of road and tourism infrastructure is visible everywhere in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

India's 7.8 pc growth despite global disruptions remarkable: Sitharaman

paperwork, which has remained a prime focus of the Government of India since it assumed office over a decade ago," the post on X said.

She added that among the key areas on which the government has focused are creation of capital assets and providing sustained support to industry through infrastructure development, particularly aviation; fostering a friendly and conducive investment climate; promoting the development of AI and data centres; supporting global capability centres; ensuring credit availability to MSMEs; and reducing non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks.

These measures had helped create a more enabling business environment for banks and industry to thrive, grow and emerge stronger, the finance minister said.

Sitharaman further said that India has consistently remained committed to the path of fiscal prudence and fiscal discipline over the past several years, despite the ongoing challenges confronting the global economy since the onset of COVID-19.

She highlighted the investment climate in India that has improved significantly, with both the central government and state governments demonstrating greater keenness and competitiveness in attracting and facilitating investments in their respective regions.

Such efforts are part of the larger national endeavour towards achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the minister said.

Earlier, in his welcome address, India's Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra said that the GDP numbers for the first quarter manifest the resilience of the Indian economy.

He said both India and the US can benefit from India's fast-growing economic trajectory by creating stronger linkages between trade and investment between the two countries, according to the Finance Ministry's post on X.

Pistol, grenade recovered from Mahore woods

along with 25 rounds, one grenade, six cassettes and an AK magazine, officials said.

Further investigation had been initiated in connection with the recovery, the officials added.

Omar chairs meeting to discuss amendments in Master Plans of Jammu, Sgr

Among others, the meeting was attended by CM's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, chief secretary Atal Dulloo, additional chief secretary (to CM) Dheeraj Gupta, ACS finance Shailendra Kumar, ACS PWD Anil Kumar Singh, planning, monitoring & development department commissioner Alice Vaz, housing &urban development commissioner Mandeep Kaur, divisional commissioners of Kashmir & Jammu, law secretary, deputy commissioners of Jammu & Srinagar, and commissioners of Jammu Municipal Corporation & Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

The Jammu-based officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Yasin Malik denies involvement in KP nurse's murder case

tions made against me. I request for capital punishment," Malik stated in his court submission.

The JKLF chief maintained that he had been falsely implicated due to political considerations.

The affidavit from Malik comes after the State Investigating Agency (SIA) on June 29 filed a chargesheet in connection with the murder of Sarla Bhat, a young Kashmiri Pandit woman, who lost her life on April 19, 1990. He has been named as an accused in the case.

Malik strongly refuted the SIAallegations, calling them a "subsequent invention" framed after more than three decades and argued that during April 1990, he was critically injured following a fall from a building during a BSF raid at Narwara, remained in a coma, and was twice reported dead by news outlets including the state-run Door-darshan.

"It is incomprehensible how a person who was unconscious, fighting for his own survival and widely believed to be dead could have participated in, directed or orchestrated the commission of the offence," Malik claimed, adding that Sarla Bhat was an innocent civilian and denying that she acted as a security informer.

He said Bhat was neither working for the security forces in any covert capacity nor was she in any manner responsible for the raid conducted at Narwara where he was held up.

"In my view, she was as an innocent civilian as my own 13-year-old daughter Raziya Sultana," Malik said.

He expressed shock that he has been named as accused in the case more than three decades since the killing.

Prior to the filing of the chargesheet, Malik said that three

SIA officers visited him in Tihar jail and questioned him about only two allegations a handwritten note issued by the JKLF recovered from the scene of occurrence claiming responsibility and mentioning three names Javaid Mir, Sheikh Abdul Hamid and Mohammad Yasin Malik, and the second that the JKLF ordered Bhat's killing as they suspected her of passing information to security persons regarding Malik's presence in the house of one Hafiz Bazaz.

"If this handwritten note, which is now accepted by the SIA as gospel truth, was recovered at the scene of the alleged killing then why did the authorities not implicate the three persons named in the letter for three decades," he said in the affidavit.

He also referred to the then Governor Jagmohan and said he was regarded by a large section of the Kashmiri Pandit community as their protector but he never suggested that Malik was responsible for the killing of Bhat or any Kashmiri Pandit.

Malik said that when he was arrested in August 1990, nearly two dozen cases under the TADA were registered against him but he was never named as accused in the Bhat killing.

"Had such an incriminating letter genuinely existed, there was absolutely no reason for the investigating agencies to exclude this case. The omission itself completely belies the prosecution's present version and demonstrates that the allegation is nothing but a subsequent invention," the affidavit said.

Similarly, no case was lodged against the two others purportedly named in the letter even though they were too arrested in the 1990s, it added.

Malik said the investigating agency's chargesheet naming him as an accused in the case was nothing more but an after-thought.

"The prosecution's present narrative resembles a fictional story rather than a genuine criminal investigation, carefully woven together after several decades solely with the object of falsely implicating me in the present case," the affidavit claimed.

He claimed that he has never advocated or resorted to violence or retaliation against any individual and that his character is not such where he would order the killing of an innocent person out of revenge.

He termed the prosecution case as "implausible, wholly false and unsupported by evidence" and said the fresh case is because of present political circumstances and decisions.

Malik also dropped many names during his earlier tenures in the jails which included of his meetings with the then senior Intelligence Bureau officials, BJP and Congress leaders, top businessmen and those handling the "Track II diplomacy" with Pakistan.

In his affidavit, Malik informed the court that he had done an 'Istikhara', a special prayer and supplication used to ask God's guidance and the best choice when facing a decision, before deciding to separate from his wife.

Noting that his wife is 20 years younger than him, Malik expressed that he does not wish for her to spend the remainder of her life carrying the burden of his circumstances or living as a widow. Quoting former South African President Nelson Mandela's writings on the personal sacrifices of political life, he urged her to start a new chapter with dignity.

Malik also penned a message to his 13-year-old daughter, Raziya Sultana, whom he hasn't heard for the last eight years. "In my death cell, there is only myself and your photograph. Through your picture, I feel your presence with me twenty-five hours a day," the affidavit said.

Ending his submission with verses from poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz and passages from the Quran, Malik described the document as his "final statement of conscience".

3 IAS officers transferred to Arunachal Pradesh

The ministry directed that all three officers shall be relieved within 15 days from the date of issuance of the order.

Himachal needs technology-driven solutions to tackle natural disasters: Kavinder

"The true purpose of technical education is fulfilled when knowledge and innovation are translated into solutions for the real problems of society," he said.

Referring to the rapid transformation taking place in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, semiconductors, robotics and quantum computing, he said the pace of technological change presents both opportunities and responsibilities for young engineers.

He urged them to remain lifelong learners and use their technological capabilities to create solutions that are affordable, accessible and capable of benefiting the wider population, particularly people living in rural and remote areas.

Congratulating the graduating students, their parents and faculty members, the governor said a convocation marks not merely the completion of an academic journey but

the beginning of a new phase involving greater responsibilities and opportunities. "Your degree is not your destination; it is the foundation of your journey," he said.

He said the graduates were stepping into the professional world carrying with them the trust of their parents, the expectations of their teachers and the aspirations of the nation.

He called upon them to contribute to the realisation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat-2047, while continuously upgrading their skills in response to emerging technologies.

Highlighting the central role of youth in nation-building, he said PM Modi has consistently emphasised that India's youth are its greatest strength and that the country's progress in the 21st century will be driven by knowledge, skills, innovation and technology.

He said the vision of Viksit Bharat-2047 extends beyond economic growth and envisages an India that is technologically empowered, self-reliant, innovative, inclusive and capable of providing global leadership.

"The prime minister has called upon the youth to actively participate in the nation's development journey in the spirit of 'Sabka Prayas'. I am confident that the students and young engineers of IIIT Una will give new energy and new direction to this national resolve," he said.

He also stressed that technological excellence must be accompanied by character, integrity and responsible citizenship.

He urged the graduates to remain committed to environmental protection, national unity and integrity, and their responsibilities towards society.

Lok Sabha MP Anurag Singh Thakur, in his address, said the youth are not only the future of India but also its destiny. He said education opens the doors to knowledge, new ideas, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship, and urged young people to face challenges with courage and confidence.

Emphasising the important role of youth in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat-2047, Shri Thakur invoked the inspiring spirit of Param Vir Chakra awardee martyr Captain Vikram Batra's iconic words, "Yeh Dil Maange More," and called upon the graduates to strive to do something better for the nation. He also urged students to understand their constitutional rights and duties, stay away from drugs, take up sports and adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Rajya Sabha MP Sikander Kumar said India's youth are ready to lead the country in the 21st century. He called upon the graduates to become job creators rather than merely job seekers and contribute to national development through knowledge, science, art and technology.

A total of 206 students were conferred degrees at the 8th Convocation of IIIT Una, including 189 B.Tech. and 17 M.Tech. (CSE-Data Science) graduates. The occasion also marked the graduation of the first batch of M.Tech. CSE (Data Science) students.

During the convocation, the graduates took an oath and pledged to uphold integrity and the dignity of the nation, their profession and the institution. They also committed themselves to environmental protection, national unity and using their knowledge for the service of society.

Director, IIIT Una, Prof. Manish Gaur, presented the institute's academic session progress report, highlighting its achievements in academics, placements, research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The B.Tech. graduating batch recorded an impressive 95.86 per cent placement rate. Of the 169 students who appeared for placements, 162 were selected.

The highest annual package stood at Rs 53.6 lakh, while the average annual package was Rs 13.46 lakh. More than 70 recruiters participated in the placement process.

The branch-wise placement rate was 96.49 per cent in CSE, 98.31 per cent in ECE and 92.45 per cent in IT.

In B.Tech. CSE, Vansh Gaba secured the Gold Medal with a CGPA of 9.21, Amritansh Jha the Silver Medal with 9.16, and Paras Tyagi the Bronze Medal with 9.10.

In B.Tech. ECE, Chandraditya Parmar secured the Gold Medal with 9.43, Kaustubh Agrawal the Silver Medal with 9.31, and Sharma Vivek Anilkumar the Bronze Medal with 9.17.

In B.Tech. IT, Anshika Arora and Harsh Yadav jointly secured the Gold Medal with 9.19, Tushar received the Silver Medal with 8.79, and Aryan Arya the Bronze Medal with 8.74.

In M.Tech. CSE (Data Science), Ankur Sharma secured the Gold Medal with 8.73, Shivangi Thakur the Silver Medal with 8.24, and Kishan Srivastava the Bronze Medal with 8.23.

Former HPSIDC Vice Chairman Ram Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Jatinder Lal, Superintendent of Police Sachin Hiremath, members of the Board of Governors and Senate, faculty members, parents and members of the institute community were present on the occasion.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by IIIT Una Registrar Ravi Saini.

ADC Bhaderwah reviews civic arrangements ahead of Kalash Yatra, Janmashtami festival



ensure that all civic and public convenience arrangements are put in place well in advance.

He stressed upon maintaining cleanliness, regulating traffic movement and ensuring proper coordination among all departments for the

smooth conduct of the religious events.

During the inspection, the Police, Traffic and Municipal Committee Bhaderwah recovered Rs. 13,600 fine from traders and transporters for different violations.