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PM Modi mocks Cong's 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' as 'Jhooth Ki Goonj'

other. And look at the irony - even these files did not get the benefit of a dedicated corridor," he said, in a dig at the Opposition.

He also revived his 'narazfufa ji' (angry uncle) jibe at Opposition leaders, questioning the utility of the government's infrastructure push.

Referring to a double-stack container train operating between the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Navi Mumbai and Vadodara, PM Modi said a single trip carried cargo equivalent to more than 250 trucks. "One narazfufa ji will be crying out, 'What will the truck drivers do?' Uncle ji now has work," he said.

From infrastructure to Artificial Intelligence, PM Modi said his government's focus was on preparing India's younger generation for the economy of the future. "We want our young generation to be prepared for the age of AI," he said, adding that AI skills would not be limited to the IT sector.

Young people with expertise in different fields, he said, could use AI to develop healthcare solutions, improve productivity in manufacturing and launch robotics startups.

"It is essential that we have young people who understand and can use AI for the industries of India and the world. The government is going to launch a major campaign in this direction," he said.

PM Modi also linked the government's push for rooftop solar to employment opportunities for young people. He said 5.5 million families across the country had installed solar plants, including 1.1 million families in Gujarat.

"So many families here have become electricity producers; this has created employment opportunities for countless young people, spanning everything from production to installation and service, and has brought in numerous new vendors," he said.

Pitching India's manufacturing push, the Prime Minister said the country was scripting a new chapter spanning "chips to ships", with domestic supply chains being developed to strengthen self-reliance.

He said India had developed domestic capacity of more than 200 GW for manufacturing photovoltaic modules, which he linked to the expansion of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.

The Prime Minister also took a swipe at the previous UPA government while highlighting India's rail manufacturing capacity. "Since 2014, India has manufactured around 50,000 modern rail coaches. The previous government couldn't even build 50,000 toilets in 10 years," he said.

PM Modi further said the government was working to build an electricity ecosystem for emerging sectors such as chips, data centres and AI, while securing uranium and critical and rare earth minerals.

"All this effort is being made day and night to secure the future of the nation's youth - to secure your future," he said.

Modi will next visit Mumbai after wrapping up his engagements in Vadodara. He is set to inaugurate and participate in the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 in India's financial capital. The seventh edition of the GFF is being held from September 8 to 11.

Since 2020, the annual conference has emerged as an international thought-leadership platform bringing together policymakers, regulators, central banks, financial institutions, fintech companies, technology firms, investors, academia and other global stakeholders to discuss the future of finance.

Ladakh LG gets addl charge of J&K; to administer oath to HC CJ

delivery system closer to the people of Himalayan region.

The Union Territory of Ladakh (Sitting of Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in Ladakh) Regulation, 2026, which was promulgated by the President on August 27, 2026, provides for a dedicated bench of the High Court to sit directly within the Union Territory of Ladakh.

"The regulation, which provides for a Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to sit in the Union Territory of Ladakh, has come into force from Saturday (September 5) onwards," an official notification had stated.

3-day Kailash Kund yatra commences

thousands of devotees gathered at the historic temple to participate in the centuries-old tradition of carrying the sacred mace to the high-altitude Himalayan lake, situated at an elevation of 14,700 ft above sea level.

According to the schedule, the yatra will halt at Hayan (Nalhi) before reaching Kailash Kund on September 9, where devotees will take a dip in the holy waters of Kailash kund. The return journey will begin on September 10.

The annual pilgrimage is considered the symbol of unique Nag culture, also attracting hundreds of tourists from across the country.

Last year, only a limited number of pilgrims were allowed to participate in the yatra following a cloudburst in adjoining Kishtwar district on August 14 that had left several people, mostly Machail Mata pilgrims, dead and many missing.

Pilgrims were advised to follow weather advisories and carry essential items including warm and waterproof

clothing, rain gear, suitable footwear, torch, medicines, food items and other necessary supplies.

The advisory stresses that pilgrims experiencing symptoms of high-altitude illness should immediately descend to a lower elevation and seek medical assistance.

Pilgrims have also been directed to use only designated tracks, avoid shortcuts and refrain from activities causing pollution or damage to the local ecology, flora and fauna. Single-use plastics are strictly banned in the yatra area.

Directions were issued for plugging vulnerable and shadow points, close coordination with Army and Central Armed Police Force components, verification of pony operators, porters and vendors, monitoring of nomadic movement and regulated movement of yatries through designated routes and prescribed timings, officials said.

Police SI booked under NDPS Act

Following the incident, he was taken for a medical examination to the Sub-District Hospital, (SDH) Hiranagar.

During the medical examination, a drug-testing kit was reportedly used to determine whether the officer had consumed any prohibited substance. The test indicated the consumption of a narcotic/contraband substance, following which legal proceedings were initiated against him, officials said.

Subsequently, an FIR was registered against him at the concerned police station under Sections 8 and 27 of the NDPS Act.

Further investigation was in progress, the officials added.

Def Min highlights India's economic growth, lower inflation

power under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the average inflation rate has remained at 4.7 per cent," he said.

"Under the preceding Congress government, inflation had even touched levels of 10 per cent to 11 per cent," the defence minister added.

His visit comes as India and Sri Lanka seek to further strengthen their traditionally close bilateral relationship, with defence and maritime cooperation forming a key focus of the three-day visit from September 8 to 10.

Singh arrived in Colombo on Tuesday and is scheduled to hold discussions with the Sri Lankan leadership during the visit.

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), India's real GDP grew 7.8 per cent in Q1 FY27, covering the April-June period. Real GDP was estimated at Rs 81.36 lakh crore in Q1 FY27, compared with Rs 75.46 lakh crore in the same quarter of FY26. The latest growth figure was also higher than the 7 per cent Q1 FY27 growth estimate earlier projected by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The RBI had also revised its real GDP growth forecast for the full financial year FY27 to 6.7 per cent from 6.6 per cent. Nominal GDP, measured at current prices, was estimated at Rs 88.27 lakh crore in Q1 FY27, compared with Rs 80.00 lakh crore in Q1 FY26, registering a growth of 10.3 per cent.

Kangra Airport to be connected with Jammu

launch around the New Year, potentially on January 1. However, official confirmation was still pending.

The move is expected to provide significant convenience to tourists visiting Kangra valley, including Dharamshala and McLeod Ganj. He added that travellers heading towards Leh could find relief from the current hassle of catching flights from Jammu or Delhi.

Saklani said the airport currently faces some limitations regarding parking bay facilities. The goal is to complete the necessary upgrades within the next four to five months, after which the prospects for expanding air connectivity will strengthen significantly.

He clarified that since the airline has only submitted a proposal so far, flight fares and final schedules have not yet been determined.

About one lakh passengers have travelled through the airport between January and July this year and if this trend continues, the annual passenger volume is likely to reach around two lakh.

Regarding the potential to connect Kangra Airport with other cities, Saklani said proposals have been received from airlines to establish connectivity with Jaipur and Dehradun as well. However, launching these services would require expanding the airport and enhancing existing facilities.

A SpiceJet flight service to Jaipur had previously operated for about four to five months before it was discontinued. Now, we expect IndiGo will connect Kangra with Jaipur and Dehradun, he said.

Agencies discuss ways to curb drug menace

Region) Sambit Mishra.

Senior officers from various enforcement and stakeholder agencies including ED, BSF, State Drug Controller, IB, Customs, DRI, Income Tax, NIA along with district SSPs from Jammu, Srinagar and Ganderbal participated in the meeting, officials said.

Officials said the participating agencies shared their experiences and enforcement initiatives and deliberated upon emerging trends in drug trafficking, inter-state linkages, illicit cultivation, information sharing, joint investigation, financial investigation and effective prosecution.

"Discussion was also held on making efforts for imple-

mentation of 'Vision Document on Drug Control (2026-2029)' by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the 10th apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) in New Delhi earlier this year," officials said.

It was resolved that the emphasis shall be on a network-centric approach to combat the drug menace.

The need for strengthened inter-agency coordination, joint interrogation, effective financial investigation and greater utilisation of available information-sharing mechanisms was also underlined, the officials added.

CISF cop shoots himself at Jammu airport

On hearing the gunshot, his colleagues immediately rushed to the scene and found him in a pool of blood, officials said, adding that he was rushed to the GMCH and his condition was reported to be critical.

Police had taken cognizance of the incident.

5 J&K films selected for IFFJK's competitive section

stories rooted in Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage, social realities and human experiences.

The selected films include Searching for the Grandpa, directed by Mohammad Wali; Arifa, directed by Rohin Ravendran Nair; Batt Koch (The Lost Lane), directed by Siddarth Koul and Ankit Wali; Tasrufdaar (Djinns of Kashmir), directed by Kapil Mattoo; and Naqsh-e-Daur (The Story of Gulam Nabi Dhar), directed by Baba Tassaduq Hussain.

Spanning Kashmiri and Hindi languages, the films explore themes ranging from childhood, family and memory to displacement, identity, heritage, resilience and the changing social landscape of Kashmir.

'Searching for the Grandpa' follows two young siblings in a Kashmiri village on Eid. Arifa centres on a woman returning to her ancestral home in Kashmir and confronting memories of her childhood and father. Batt Koch explores displacement, identity and the enduring idea of home through the story of a Kashmiri migrant family. Tasrufdaar (Djinns of Kashmir) weaves together mystery, memory and the scars of Kashmir's past, while Naqsh-e-Daur portrays the life and legacy of a Padma Shri-honoured woodcarver in downtown Srinagar, highlighting Kashmir's craftsmanship, heritage and resilience.

The selected films will form part of the competitive programming of the four-day International Film Festival, offering audiences and filmmakers an opportunity to engage with distinctive cinematic voices and stories from Jammu and Kashmir.

Autumn session of Assembly to begin on Sep 21

on various issues, including alleged misgovernance.

The government, however, is likely to push for the restoration of statehood to the erstwhile state of J&K.

The assembly Speaker had on April 4 adjourned the House sine die, marking the conclusion of the Budget Session, which spanned 22 sittings across February, March and April.

As the details provided by the Speaker, a total of 110 hours & six minutes were consumed during the proceedings. The assembly session had commenced on February 2, with the Budget presented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on February 6. After sittings till February 20, the session had resumed on March 27, following a five-week recess.

Eight government bills were received, introduced and passed in the House, while 25 papers and one Ordinance were also laid. The assembly had recorded one of the highest numbers of sittings among states.

Thirty-six pending private members' bills and 39 new bills were received. Of these, 36 were admitted and three disallowed. A total of 72 bills were listed, 24 taken up and two introduced.

Also, 1,528 AQs were received, including 802 starred and 726 unstarred. Of these, 1,379 were listed, 151 taken up, 144 disallowed, two withdrawn and three not listed. A total of 331 supplementaries were also raised.

A total of 110 calling attention notices were received, of which 63 were disallowed and 47 admitted. A total of 26 notices were listed and taken up. 128 resolutions were received, 101 admitted, 27 disallowed, 14 listed and four taken up, while none was adopted.

Russia welcomes India's Ukraine peace efforts

Yamuna River had also been reviewed. Police said a vigilant watch will be maintained from the Purana Qila as part of the security arrangements. Meanwhile, ahead of the summit, the New Delhi Municipal Council is undertaking beautification and streetscape improvement works across major areas of New Delhi.

The works include road repairs, refreshed kerbs, clearly marked zebra crossings, upgraded footpaths, thematic paintings and improvements to public spaces. The civic measures are aimed at improving the overall appearance and infrastructure of the National Capital ahead of the international summit.

The BRICS Summit will bring together Leaders of BRICS Member and Partner Countries, Outreach Countries, and Heads of International Organisations.

'Significant progress' over Hormuz: Iran

route.

Iranian forces have restricted traffic through Hormuz, a vital energy conduit, since the war with the United States

broke out on February 28.

The US has imposed a counter naval blockade on Iranian ports.

President Donald Trump said in recent days that American forces had helped facilitate the passage of vessels through the strait, "averaging 30 ships a night".

Iran's security chief Mohsen Rezaei said Sunday that the US tries each night to help five or six ships through, "and usually these ships get hit".

Tehran has required vessels to seek permission to transit, insisting there will be no return to the pre-war system of unrestricted navigation.

It has also sought to impose service fees on ships using the strait -- a move strongly opposed by Washington and regional countries.

Iranian officials recently said a deal between Oman and Iran could be signed "in the coming days".

They have however insisted the strait will not reopen until the United States meets Iranian demands, including removing oil sanctions, unfreezing Iranian assets abroad and lifting the naval blockade on Iranian ports.

India joins US-led initiative to develop secured 6G networks

security, foreign policy, and economic prosperity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released India's 6G Vision document on March 22, 2023, which envisages the country becoming a frontline contributor in the design, development, and deployment of 6G by 2030.

GoC reviews operational preparedness along LAC

troops and Indo-Tibetan border police (ITBP) personnel for their steadfast resolve, professionalism and commitment while operating under demanding conditions, officials said.

Interacting with the troops, the GOC exhorted all ranks to continue leveraging emerging technologies and innovative solutions to further enhance operational effectiveness and combat readiness, the officials added.

The visit reaffirmed the Army's focus on maintaining a high level of operational preparedness and combat readiness along the LAC in the strategically important Ladakh sector, officials said.

EU warns of chilling new terror menace 25 years after 9/11

groups, recorded the attack on Snapchat, and asked on social media for someone to save and give him the video after his release.

In the "manifesto", he said he wanted to do something "significant" and "exciting". No political motive was given for his rampage, according to an EU document on the emerging threat of nihilistic extremist violence.

"It's very much a fascination with violence. It's violence as a means of asserting oneself, as a means of gaining status in those online communities," Wegter told AP. "There's not a direct link with ideology."

In Italy last year, a 15-year-old boy planned a murder to gain notoriety online, authorities there said. He kept images and videos of assaults, murders, school shootings and child pornography on his smartphone.

Wegter said these kinds of incidents, which have been on the rise for two to three years, are not isolated but organized by online networks that are "often driven by young people, for young people often involving young boys."

He said that they "lead to offline violence. We've seen stabbings, a young individual stabbing an elderly person for no reason whatsoever."

"Such attacks are tough to prevent or track. They often involve "young individuals who will not have a criminal record, usually, who don't leave any footprints other than online perhaps, but then it's often behind encrypted walls and communities," Wegter said.

High on the list of groups authorities' radar is 764, which was founded by an American high school dropout, Bradley Cadenhead. He's serving an 80-year prison sentence for child pornography and sex offences, but the group still functions.

In Germany last year, a 20-year-old man believed to be a leading 764 member faced 123 charges over acts of "an unimaginable level of brutality and inhumanity," including murder, rape and the sexual abuse of children, the EU document said.

Unlike 25 years ago - when extremists, mostly from Saudi Arabia, entered the United States and trained to become deadly pilots - the terror threat facing Europe today is mostly organised online.

"The online environment, for all the good things it brings, is still too permissive," Wegter said. He described it as "a petri dish for the connection between different threats."

Privacy advocates insist that people have a fundamental right to communicate without unjustified intrusion. They accuse the authorities and some companies of undermining protections through spyware and other methods.

But Wegter said, "Our law enforcement must be equipped with the instruments and tools to deal with the threat as it exists today." He noted that 85 per cent of investigations take place in the digital environment. "It means that we have to adjust ourselves to that."

For the Dutch diplomat himself, it means talking more to authorities and organisations in other countries, notably those that such groups use as a rear base. "Because what happens outside our borders impacts on our security," including what's being amplified online, he said.

CS dedicates Socio-Economic Rehabilitation Centre for Drug Abuse victims at IMHANS Sgr

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 08: In a significant step towards strengthening the rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration ecosystem for persons affected by substance abuse, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today dedicated to public the Rehabilitation Centre for District Srinagar at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), Srinagar.

Those who were present on this occasion includes Principal Secretary Home; Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Principal, GMC Srinagar; Head, IMHANS Srinagar and other faculty members and doctors of the institute.

The Centre marks the operationalisation of the Phase-I pilot of the Rehabilitation & Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Vic-

tims, 2026, initiated by the Social Welfare Department in co-ordination with the Health & Medical Education Department, district administration and other concerned stakeholders.

After inaugurating the Centre, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, went around the facility and took detailed note of the various facilities and spaces created for its functioning, including the doctors' rooms, patient and family counselling spaces and group therapy facilities, besides the arrangements for referral and emergency linkages.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts made in creating the Centre and expressed hope that it would serve as the beginning of a sustained and long-term rehabilitation journey for the victims, enabling them to regain confidence, reconnect with their families and communities and progressively return to productive and dignified lives.

He observed that the opera-

the initiative follows the directions of the Chief Secretary during the high-level review of preparedness for the Phase-I pilot, wherein IMHANS Srinagar was identified as one of the principal pilot institutions for implementing the rehabilitation model on the ground.

The Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sarmed Hafeez remarked that the newly inaugurated Centre will bring together a multidisciplinary support framework involving medical assessment, counselling, social-work intervention, family engagement, case management, referral and follow-up, with a focus on developing an Individual Rehabilitation Plan for each beneficiary.

He added that the model seeks to address the multiple dimensions of substance-use disorders by ensuring that beneficiaries are not only supported through recovery but are also assisted in rebuilding family and community relationships and accessing avenues for edu-

cation, skill development, livelihood and sustainable socio-economic reintegration.

While describing the broad counters of the centre and its objectives, Principal, GMC Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah revealed that this Centre will facilitate coordination with community-level stakeholders, including ASHA workers, Self Help Groups and other frontline functionaries, thereby extending the rehabilitation process beyond institutional care and creating a stronger community-based support system. Moreover she gave out that the framework envisages creating a pool of trained Medical Officers/Psychiatrists, Counselors and Social Welfare Officials/Case Managers working in a coordinated manner besides focusing on the capacity-building in screening, assessment and referral, counselling, family engagement, case management, relapse-risk identification and ethical handling of beneficiaries.

The Centre will, accordingly, function as an important link between clinical care and community-based rehabilitation, with greater emphasis on continuity of support after treatment and reducing the risk of relapse and social exclusion.

The scheme also embeds in itself the strengthening of addiction psychiatry capacity in J&K through collaboration with the National Drug De-addiction & Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS New Delhi, including structured training, mentoring, observerships and joint research in addiction psychiatry, opioid agonist treatment, dual-diagnosis management and evaluation of rehabilitation intervention. The initiative reflects the support of Central government to the UT Administration's to adopt a people-centric, coordinated and recovery-oriented approach to substance abuse, recognising that sustainable rehabilitation requires not only medical intervention but also family support.

