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Industry must invest; take advantage of budget announcements: Modi

so that he can present it in the meeting of the Union Cabinet and brief about various activities of the respective ministries and the reform outlook.

It is learnt that the cabinet secretariat has circulated a specific form, laying out the format in which each ministry will write its future reform initiatives as well as achievements of the last few years.

The ministers will have to clearly convey the key points of the reform of their respective ministries, when it was implemented or when it could be laid out and what the results are expected from them.

The prime minister has made it clear that every ministry must immediately focus on its reform priorities so that its results could be seen on the ground, the sources said, adding the entire exercise is part of the government's broad roadmap of making the country developed by 2047.

In an interview with news agency last fortnight, the prime minister had said his government's 'Reform Express' is benefitting common citizens in a big way and his top three reform priorities for the next decade will be continued structural reforms, deepening innovation and further simplification of governance.

Asked to prioritise three economic reforms for the next decade, Modi said, "Our direction is clear, rather than limiting it to a fixed number."

"First, we will continue structural reforms that improve competitiveness and productivity. Second, we will deepen innovation in technology, manufacturing and services. Third, we will simplify governance further so that citizens and businesses can operate with greater ease and trust," he said.

Addressing a post-Budget webinar on 'Technology, Reforms and Finance for Viksit Bharat' on Friday, the prime minister said when government, industry and knowledge partners come together, "reforms translate into results", and "announcements on paper turn into achievements on the ground".

"My suggestion is that we should develop a clear 'Reform Partnership Charter' which will have collaboration between government, industry, financial institutions and academia. This charter will become an important document in the goal to achieve Viksit Bharat by 2047," he said at the webinar.

Addressing a conference of chief secretaries in December 2025, Modi had said India has boarded the 'Reform Express' and the primary engine of this 'Reform Express' is India's youth and demography and that is why, it is government's endeavour to empower this demography.

Respect your past, connect with your roots: LG to youth

He exhorted students to embrace innovation, pursue fresh research, experiment boldly and unlock nation-building doors.

The LG said the purpose of education was not merely the acquisition of knowledge but creation of enlightened citizens who were sensitive towards their duties.

"True education prepares youth to forge entirely new answers and solutions that the world has not yet imagined. Students enter campuses not merely for degrees, but to nurture culture, explore new ideas, choose bold paths, and courageously drive societal progress," he said.

"The pace at which the world is changing is almost beyond comprehension and technological explosion has quietly transformed both educational institutions and industries alike," he added.

He directed the faculty members to make their higher education campuses the manufacturing hubs of new ideas.

"The effort must go beyond curriculum. Let there be genuine dialogue across disciplines. Let every lecture in every classroom become a doorway to new possibilities," he said.

On the occasion, the LG also launched podcast "JU Vaachan", an initiative of Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Jammu University.

Jammu University vice-chancellor (Prof) Umesh Rai, divisional commissioner Ramesh Kumar, dean research studies Prof Neelu Rohmetra, dean students' welfare Prof Prakash Anthal, heads of departments, faculty members, senior officials and students in a large number were among those present on the occasion.

Total lunar eclipse on Mar 3

4.34 pm IST and end at 5.33 pm IST. The magnitude of the eclipse has been calculated at 1.155, indicating a deep total eclipse.

In India, the eclipse would largely be observed at the time of moonrise. In most cities, including Shimla, the Moon will rise after the beginning of the umbral and total phases, meaning residents will witness the concluding stages of the eclipse.

In Shimla, moonrise is scheduled at 6:21 pm, and the umbral phase will remain visible for approximately 27 minutes thereafter. However, in parts of North-East India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, even the end of the totality phase will be visible.

Astronomically, a lunar eclipse occurs on a full moon when the Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon, aligning in a straight line. A total lunar eclipse takes place when the entire Moon passes into the Earth's umbral shadow.

The previous lunar eclipse visible from India occurred on September 7-8, 2025, and was also total. The next lunar eclipse visible from the country would be a partial one on July 6, 2028.

Sky watchers are advised that lunar eclipses are safe to observe with the naked eye, without any protective equipment.

Teacher suspended over 'misconduct'

Moughla, stated that during an inspection on February 18, 2026, the teacher was allegedly found in an intoxicated condition within the school premises during working hours, adversely affecting the academic environment.

The order mentions that the teacher had previously served a notice seeking an explanation regarding absence from duty and alleged consumption of liquor during school hours. However, authorities observed no satisfactory improvement in conduct.

In addition, written complaints were reportedly received from staff members, parents, and members of the public, alleging misbehavior, harassment of staff, negligence in teaching duties, and conduct unbecoming of a government servant.

Terming the allegations as grave misconduct and a violation of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees Conduct Rules, 1971, the CEO, Rajouri, ordered suspension under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, pending a departmental inquiry.

During the suspension period, the teacher would remain attached to the office of the Zonal Education Officer, Khawas, and would be entitled to subsistence allowance as per rules.

SFs fire at Pak drone; ops launched

PoJK, officials said.

An operation was later launched by security forces to find out if the retreating quadcopter had dropped weapons or narcotics into the Indian territory, the officials added.

Searches were in progress when reports last came in. Other details were awaited.

SC rejects TMC's challenge to EC's training of judges

and former district judges to assist the poll panel in the controversy-ridden SIR of electoral rolls in the state.

On February 24, the top court allowed the deployment of West Bengal civil judges, in addition to 250 district judges, and the requisitioning of judicial officers from Jharkhand and Odisha to handle 80 lakh claims and objections of those facing deletion from the electoral roll in the ongoing SIR exercise in the state.

Economy grew by 7.8 pc in 3rd quarter

product (GDP) is estimated to grow at 7.6 per cent during the current fiscal, as against 7.4 per cent in the advance estimates released by the ministry in January.

Also, the growth rate for the July-September period of 2025-26 has been revised upwards to 8.4 per cent from 8.2 per cent.

However, the growth rate for the first quarter was revised downwards to 6.7 per cent from 7.8 per cent.

Deadline for filing APRs extended by 15 days

tal, accessible on <https://jprs.jk.gov.in>. The period was further extended by 15 days.

"However, it has been observed that some employees have failed to submit their APRs within the prescribed timeline, resulting in default in this mandatory process. Furthermore, it has been noted that several employees have registered on the portal, but have not submitted their details," the notification said.

"Failure or non-submission of property returns by the government employees attracts a punitive action under the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and Rules made thereunder. Additionally, defaulting employees shall be deemed to have committed criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act and will be subject to penalties as stipulated in the Act. Furthermore, the non-submission of property returns leads to the denial of vigilance clearance for the defaulting employees," it added.

India flags security concerns of diplomats, anti-India activities in UK

threats in the digital domain require sustained information-sharing and coordinated responses.

The dialogue concluded on a positive note, with both delegations expressing satisfaction over the current level of cooperation, it said, adding that the officials from both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to bolstering bilateral security ties and maintaining momentum in their engagement.

The meeting also underscored the broader strategic partnership between India and the UK and agreed to continue working closely to address common security concerns and promote stability through structured and sustained institutional dialogue.

IAF showcases combat prowess, gives peek into Op Sindoor

fighter aircraft struck designated targets simultaneously, replicating coordinated attack patterns demonstrated during Operation Sindoor.

A Sukhoi fighter aircraft carried out a strike on a simulated terror camp, while suppression and destruction of enemy air defence systems were demonstrated to neutralise hostile capabilities.

The demonstration also featured decoy operations and loitering missions akin to those undertaken during Operation Sindoor. A radar cluster was neutralised in a simulated strike to "blind" enemy surveillance systems.

Rapid deployment of fighters was displayed, and a simulated airborne target was successfully engaged and destroyed.

The indigenously developed HAL Light Combat Helicopter Prachand demonstrated its agility by striking a simulated refuelling point. Apache attack helicopters, Mirage fighter jets and Mi-17 V5 helicopters also participated in the coordinated operations, underlining the IAF's multi-platform integration capability.

Howitzer guns were deployed by Chinook helicopters in operational locations.

After a brief break, during which a live demonstration of a firefighting robotic vehicle and a musical performance were held, the event transitioned into the night phase.

A briefing was given on the night targets, including tank clusters, bunker clusters and logistics clusters, which were destroyed by Su-30 and Jaguar fighter aircraft as well as Advanced Light Helicopter Rudra.

The night operations began with precision strikes on the designated simulated targets. Integrated combat capabilities were displayed as fighters and helicopters carried out coordinated missions in low-visibility conditions.

An AKASH surface-to-air missile was also fired as part of the demonstration.

A simulated hostage rescue operation was conducted by Garud commandos and 10 PARA (SF) personnel. The commandos slithered down from a Mi-17 helicopter onto a makeshift building, positioned themselves on all four sides to assess the situation,

and then entered the structure to neutralise threats and rescue hostages.

A mobile field hospital, 'Bhishm' was deployed to treat simulated casualties, highlighting the IAF's role in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Transport aircraft C-130J executed an assault landing for the evacuation of casualties, and air-landed operations were demonstrated.

Reinforcement operations were also carried out with additional forces inducted into the combat zone through C-295 transport aircraft to support troops engaged in the simulated battle scenario.

The demonstration culminated in a spectacular drone show. Illuminated drones formed various shapes, including the map of India, the SU-30 fighter, the S-400 system, locations of terror camps destroyed in Operation Sindoor, the Parliament of India and the IAF crest, in the night sky.

Earlier in the day, President Murmu, clad in an olive green uniform and helmet, undertook a 25-minute sortie as a co-pilot in the indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopter 'Prachand' from the Jaisalmer Air Force Station.

The helicopter flew over the Pokharan firing range ahead of the evening demonstration. Before take-off, she was briefed by the captain and waved from the cockpit.

From the cockpit, the President, who is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, described the Prachand helicopter as "a powerful symbol of self-reliance" and extended her heartfelt greetings and gratitude to the armed forces personnel.

"I extend my heartfelt greetings and deepest gratitude to our brave soldiers. A warm salute to you, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat," she said.

The 'Vayu Shakti' demonstration was aimed at showcasing the IAF's operational preparedness, precision strike capability and ability to undertake multi-domain operations in a near-realistic combat scenario.

Govt to enforce e-challan at crushers: Dy CM

nisms in all districts.

Reiterating the government's zero-tolerance policy against illegal mining in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, Choudhary issued strict instructions that no vehicle shall be allowed to transport mining material without a valid 'parchi' (authorised e-challan).

"Only one load must be permitted against each parchi and any misuse or duplication shall invite strict action against the violator," he said.

Making GPS tracking mandatory, he ordered that all vehicles involved in mining operations must have functional GPS devices installed. "Vehicles operating without GPS shall be seized immediately and stern action shall be taken against defaulters."

Emphasising strict adherence to approved excavation limits, he asserted that no excavation shall exceed the prescribed depth and mining beyond authorized riverbed zones and illegal night operations shall be dealt with firmly.

Calling for stronger inter-departmental coordination, he stressed that collective responsibility and joint action are essential to eliminate illegal mining and prevent attempts to defame the administration. He assured full administrative backing to enforcement agencies and gave a free hand to the District Level Task Force to act decisively against violators.

"I give DCs, who head District Task Forces, and SSPs a free hand to take strict action against illegal mining offenders, including complicit officials. No external pressure will be tolerated while dealing with the offenders," he stated.

He strictly directed the Mining Department to intensify monitoring mechanisms and strengthen ground-level enforcement to safeguard natural resources.

Choudhary directed the DCs to identify the mining blocks, environmental clearance, fair demolition of illegal units, information on mining fund utilization and compliance on ensuring complete ban on illegal mining in all Districts.

He instructed on clearance of pending power dues by the crusher units, suspension of MDLs and adopting best mining policies from other states and UTs to curb the mining operations in J&K.

During the meeting, he undertook a detailed review of measures, including the status of mineral blocks, e-auctions, GPS tracking and IMSS implementation, enforcement actions against illegal mining, compliance of crusher units, proposed amendments in royalty and penalties, progress under DMFT, mineral exploration activities and overall regulatory position of the Department.

During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, stressed on maintaining tight vigil and effective action be taken to address the challenge of illegal mining in J&K.

At the outset, Director Geology and Mining Department, briefed the chair about the overall functioning and measures taken to curb illegal mining operations.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Mining Department, Ashwani Kumar; Chairman, Pollution Control Committee; Director, Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing; Deputy Commissioners (Chairpersons, District Level Task Force Committees) online; Director, Geology and Mining; MD, JKML; Special Secretary, Mining Department; Senior Superintendents of Police; Director Finance, Mining; DMOs and other senior officers.

Earlier, talking to reporters, Chowdhary announced the cancellation of all Mineral Dealer Licenses (MDLs) and said that strict measures had been put in place to curb illegal mining across Jammu and Kashmir.

"The government has taken a clear stand against illegal extraction of minerals and diversion of natural water bodies," he said.

Referring to his recent visit to Khundwal, Chowdhary said that mining activities had led to serious environmental damages, including the diversion of a dam, which subsequently resulted in flooding in adjoining areas.

He said the situation in areas, such as Belicharana and Khundwal, was alarming and warned that if illegal mining was not stopped immediately, several downstream areas, including Chatha and its adjoining localities, could face severe destruction.

Chowdhary said he had directed that no vehicle would be allowed to leave any crusher unit without

a valid "parchi" issued under the mining department's authorised system.

He made it clear that transportation of minerals without proper documentation would not be tolerated.

"It has been made mandatory for all vehicles, including dumpers operating at crusher units or engaged in mining activities, to be fitted with GPS devices. No vehicle will be allowed to operate without GPS tracking," he asserted.

"The government has introduced reforms in the mining sector, including satellite monitoring to track vehicle movement and verify authorised extraction. The system will help identify violations and prevent misuse," he said.

Chowdhary also said that all MDLs had been cancelled with immediate effect, saying that the previous system had enabled illegal mineral disposal.

He said directions had been issued to revisit and review all Stone Tipper Permits (STPs), and if required, cancel them to ensure transparency and accountability in the mining sector.

Reiterating the government's commitment, he said no company vehicle and no crusher unit vehicle would be allowed to operate without GPS and proper authorisation, stressing that illegal mining would not be allowed under any circumstances.

Adopt result-oriented approach:

LG Kavinder to officials

D'Souza briefed the LG on the ongoing works under CRIF across Ladakh. He apprised that 14 new projects had been sanctioned by the Government of India at an estimated cost of around Rs 931 cr.

Issues pertaining to land acquisition and their impact on timely project execution were also highlighted during the meeting.

PDD chief engineer Tsewang Paljor presented a detailed overview of the implementation of RDSS scheme under six different packages at a total cost of Rs 1216.86 cr. The projects are targeted for completion by March 2028.

He informed the meeting about the challenges faced by the department, including power purchase liabilities amounting to Rs 396.81 cr payable by the UT of Ladakh to Jammu and Kashmir Power Corporation Limited.

He also highlighted the requirement of adequate funds in the Financial Year 2026-27 for initiating the tendering process of the proposed 5 MW solar power project. The issue of manpower shortage for the operation and maintenance of existing and upcoming projects was also brought to the notice of the LG.

Administrative secretary, planning & finance, L Franklin, briefed Gupta on nine completed and upcoming projects under PMDP, including the Srinagar-Leh 220 kV Transmission Line, provision of 50 pc subsidy support for setting up solar driers, Pashmina promotion programme, Nimoo-Padum-Darcha Road, Zoji La Tunnel, among others.

An outlay of Rs 21,441 cr has been earmarked for Union Territory of Ladakh under PMDP for these initiatives.

Director, Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research (DIHAR), O P Chaurasia, also briefed the meeting about upcoming infrastructure development projects in Ladakh aimed at strengthening research and support systems in high-altitude conditions.

GAD secretary Michael D'Souza informed that around 1,385 non-gazetted posts were advertised in 2025 through both DSSRBs and LSSSB, out of which more than 900 matriculation and 10+2 level posts had already been filled.

He informed that examinations for 473 graduation-level posts were scheduled to be conducted in March 2026. The meeting was also apprised of the special recruitment drives planned for filling vacant teacher posts and other vacancies across various government departments in 2026. Progress regarding the filling up of gazetted posts in Ladakh through UPSC was also reviewed.

The LG expressed his gratitude to the PM Modi-led government at the Centre for allocating substantial budgetary support for infrastructure development projects under schemes such as CRIF, PMGSY, RDSS and PMDP.

He stated that the enhanced funding will enable Ladakh to emerge as one of the most developed Union Territories in the country and ensure world-class facilities for its people, including those residing in remote and border areas.

He emphasised that timely decision-making, inter-departmental coordination and strict monitoring at every level are essential to accelerate the pace of development in the Union Territory.

He asked officials to remain accessible to the public, address grievances promptly and ensure transparency and accountability in governance.

Stressing that public service is a collective responsibility, he called upon all departments to function with dedication, efficiency and integrity so that the benefits of government schemes reach the last person in the remotest village of Ladakh.

Emphasising equitable development, the Lieutenant Governor directed that development works must be evenly distributed across all parts of Ladakh so that no area remains neglected. He stressed special focus on border areas and called for regular review meetings to ensure that projects are completed within stipulated timelines without delay.

The LG commended the GAD Department and officials of the recruitment boards for conducting recruitment drives in a fair, transparent and time-bound manner. He reiterated that the UT Administration, with the support of the Government of India, is committed to filling vacant posts to ensure that local youth are gainfully employed and contribute towards the development of Ladakh and the larger vision of Viksit Bharat.

He directed both Deputy Commissioners to finalise the recruitment rules for the post of school teachers and notify the advertisement at the earliest. He asked all departments to work with dedication and efficiency for the welfare and development of the people of Ladakh and ensure that no work remains pending.

Among those present in the meeting were Chief Secretary Shri Ashish Kundra, Commissioner/Secretary Dr L Franklin, Administrative Secretary Shri Michael D'Souza, Deputy Commissioner Leh Shri Romil Singh Donk, Director DIHAR Dr OP Chaurasia and senior government officials.