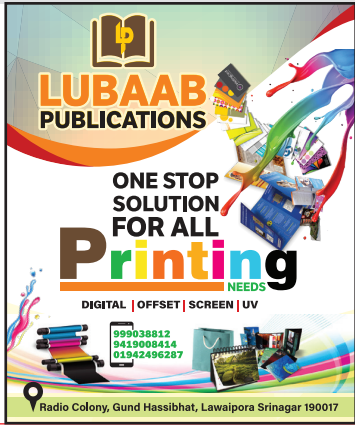


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Flood Threat Looms as Jammu Rivers Rise

■ HT News Network

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, SEP 02: In a week, the water bodies across Jammu have once again swelled, crossing the alarm mark at multiple places, prompting authorities to issue an advisory urging people to stay away from vulnerable spots. However, a teenage boy lost his life after being struck by lightning in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Jammu region has witnessed extreme weather conditions since August 14, 2025, leading to the loss of over 100 lives, including 65 in the Kishtwar cloudburst incident and 35 in landslides along the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) route.

One more life was lost in a natural calamity in Anantnag district today. A 16-year-old boy lost his life after being struck by lightning in Kokernag.

Officials informed that Dilawar
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CM Omar Abdullah Thanks Delhi, Haryana for Flood Relief Support

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 2: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the chief ministers of Haryana and Delhi for extending support to the Union Territory's flood relief efforts.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini contributed Rs 5 crore towards the relief fund, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta called Abdullah to offer her government's support for the flood-affected Union territory.

"Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Haryana Government @NayabSainiBJP for

● Turn on Page 2

IGP Kashmir Orders Building Audit for Emergency Preparedness

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 2: Kashmir Police chief V K Birdi on Tuesday called for conducting safety audit of

buildings to ensure preparedness and evacuation in case of flash floods and cloudbursts in view of the inclement weather forecast.

Kashmir IGP Birdi was speaking at a security review meeting at the Police Control Room Kashmir, called to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the upcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebrations.

Taking note of the current weather forecast, Birdi directed officers to take proactive measures to mitigate any possible disruptions.

The police chief of the Valley stressed the need for police to conduct a safety audit of buildings and ensure preparedness and evacuation in case of

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Satish assesses water level situation

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 02: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma Tuesday conducted an extensive inspection of the Tawi river embankments to assess the water level situation and review the preparedness of the district administration in dealing with any flood-related eventualities.

He was accompanied by ADC Jammu Anusya Jamwal, senior officers from the Flood Control, Irrigation & PHE, Revenue, and Disaster Management departments.

The Minister, during the visit, took stock of the safety measures put in place to protect habitations located along the river banks and in adjoining low-lying areas. He was briefed by officials about the deployment of machinery, availability of rescue boats, positioning of medical and relief teams as well as arrangements for temporary shelter camps in case of emergencies.

While interacting with the officers on the

● Turn on Page 2

Army Starts Work On Bailey Bridge To Restore Traffic On NH-244

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 2: Braving incessant rains, the Army on Tuesday started the construction of a Bailey bridge along National Highway-244, over the Jangalwar stream, to provide connectivity to Doda and Kishtwar districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

This is the second such bridge being

constructed by the Army in the wake of last week's record rainfall that has left behind a trail of death and destruction in the region.

"Devastating floods in the Jammu region have submerged vast areas, sweeping away homes, bridges and fields. NH-244, the lifeline to Doda and Kishtwar, was washed away near Thattri,

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28 BJP MLAs contribute Rs 28 cr: LoP Sharma Says BJP stands with flood-affected families

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 02: Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly, Sunil Sharma Tuesday expressed deep concern over the widespread devastation caused by incessant rains, cloudbursts and flash floods that have disrupted normal life across the Jammu region.

Addressing a news conference at the BJP

headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, accompanied by Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary & MLA, Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North, and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh, LoP Sharma informed that the disaster began with the cloudburst in Chashoti village on August 14, followed by another in Kathua on August 16, and further aggravated by continuous rains from

August 24 to 26, leading to severe destruction in Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, and other districts.

Highlighting the proactive role of BJP representatives, Sharma said, "BJP leaders and MLAs have stood shoulder to shoulder with the people, participating in rescue and relief operations. This is not a favour but

● Turn on Page 2

No fresh traffic on NH

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPT 02: Continuous heavy rainfall in Banihal and adjoining sectors on Tuesday once again disrupted movement along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, with authorities' suspended vehicular traffic for safety reasons.

Reports of minor landslides and shooting stones from several stretches have heightened concerns over commuter safety.

Traffic Police officials said that the highway, which was partially restored yesterday after days of closure, could not be opened on Tuesday due to persistent rainfall.

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J&K dep'ts on high-alert

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPT 02: Amid heavy rains and adverse weather advisory, the Jammu and Kashmir government has placed all departments on high alert and directed them to take precautionary measures to safeguard lives and property.

A senior government official said that the government has instructed all concerned departments to remain fully alert in view of the forecast of heavy rainfall, with the possibility of cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides in high-altitude areas.

"Control rooms are active, and both the divisional administrations are in constant touch

● Turn on Page 2

SMVD Yatra suspended

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPT 02: The Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra remained suspended for the eighth consecutive day on Tuesday due to inclement weather conditions in the region.

The SMVD Shrine Board has already announced that all bookings — including helicopter services and accommodation — have been cancelled with a 100 percent refund until the pilgrimage resumes.

It may be recalled that on August 27, a devastating landslide near Inderprastha Bhojnalya at Adhkuwari — midway on the 12-kilometre

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JKBOSE exams postponed

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 02: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Tuesday postponed exams of class 10th and 11th which were scheduled to be held on tomorrow (03.09.2025).

It said the decision has been taken in view of bad weather conditions across the region, and added that fresh dates will be notified separately.

The Office of J&K Board of

● Turn on Page 2

CS Reviews Post-Flood Restoration Measures In Jammu Stresses On Urgent Action On HM's Directions

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPT 2: In the aftermath of the visit of the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah to Jammu yesterday to personally assess the extent of damage caused by the recent flash floods, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting with Administrative Secretaries and Divisional Administration to review the swift and time-bound implementation of the directives issued by the visiting Minister.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need for seamless inter-departmental coordination to bring immediate relief to the affected people and ensure



early restoration of essential services, including power supply and potable water, in the shortest possible timeframe.

Placing particular emphasis on connectivity, he directed that all efforts be undertaken on a war-footing to restore damaged road links at the earliest, as road connectivity forms the backbone for other relief, rehabilitation, and restoration measures.

He instructed the respective Divisional and District administrations to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the restoration of damaged infrastructure across the flood-affected areas, ensuring strict adherence to timelines.

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Post-Heavy Rainfall, PDD Restores Supply Swiftly In Jammu

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 02: The Power Development Department (PDD) has issued a handout providing an overview of the power restoration works undertaken following the incessant rainfall and flash floods that caused severe damage to power infrastructure in the Jammu region on August 25 and 26. What made the restoration efforts truly exceptional was the strong teamwork and synergy between the Department and various state and central agencies such as NHPC, PGCIL, NHAI, and Police.

The PDD closely coordinated with these agen-

cies, which provided timely assistance and logistical support wherever needed to ensure the swift and uninterrupted execution of restoration work across all affected districts.

As a result, the Department successfully restored electricity supply across the Jammu region within a record time, despite the scale of destruction being so widespread that no district was spared from the damage. The torrential rains, coupled with overflowing River Tawi, local nallahs, and landslides, caused unprecedented damage particularly to the transmission and distribution infrastructure.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Flood Threat....

Ahmad Bhokad (16), son of Mohammad Sardar Bhokad, a resident of Soin Wangam, Kokernag, was hit by lightning at Nawkhan near Margan Top, resulting in his on-the-spot death.

Meanwhile, as moderate to heavy rainfall was witnessed in the Jammu region from late Monday evening, water bodies in Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, and other places saw an unprecedented rise, leading to flood threats in the Jammu region again. The water level in Kashmir's water bodies was flowing well below the flood alert mark at the time the report was last filed.

The details indicate that the water level crossed the flood alert mark today, with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) issuing an urgent advisory, advising residents to stay away from the banks of the River Tawi and other swollen rivers in the Jammu region.

Heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours has triggered a critical flood situation across Jammu, with the River Tawi, Ujh, Basanter, Chenab, and Ravi rivers breaching alert and danger levels, prompting heightened vigilance from authorities.

Udhampur recorded the highest precipitation till this morning, with the figures revealing a total of 60.4 mm of rainfall at the station. Rajouri recorded a rainfall of 56.4 mm till this morning.

Batote station witnessed a rainfall of 55.1 mm since morning till evening, while 17.6 mm rainfall was recorded at the station till this morning.

Bhaderwah saw a rainfall of 42.6 mm since morning, while Katra recorded 32.7 mm till 5:30 PM. The data reveals that Jammu recorded a precipitation of 11.4 mm since morning and 17.8 mm till this morning.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of the region, the highest rainfall of 15.4 mm was recorded since this morning, followed by 13.2 mm in Kokernag.

During the fresh wet spell, Jammu city's River Tawi experienced a rapid rise in water levels, approaching the danger mark.

The SDRF reported that the Tawi has crossed the flood alert level, raising concerns about potential inundation in low-lying areas.

The District Magistrate of Jammu has reiterated warnings for residents to avoid the riverbanks, saying there is an imminent risk of flooding. A recent post on X by the District Magistrate said, "Citizens of Jammu are requested to stay away from Tawi River banks. The water levels may reach the danger mark within a short period of time."

The Tawi's rising levels follow a similar trend observed in Udhampur, where the river had previously crossed the evacuation level of 24.975 ft on August 26, 2025, surpassing both danger and evacuation thresholds. Authorities warn that continued rainfall could push the Tawi in Jammu city past the danger mark in the coming hours, potentially leading to evacuations in vulnerable areas.

Kathua's Ujh River at Panjirthi has also crossed the flood alert level, with a recorded discharge of 59,750 cusecs, surpassing the alert threshold of 48,000 cusecs. While it remains below the danger level of 88,000 cusecs, officials are closely monitoring the situation due to the steady upward trend.

Similarly, the Ravi River in Kathua has breached its flood alert level, with the water level recorded at 524.97 meters above mean sea level (MSL), exceeding the alert level of 523 meters.

The danger level for the Ravi stands at 527.91 meters, and authorities have warned that further increases could lead to severe flooding in villages such as Bagthali, Massos Pur, Keerian Gandial, Barni, Dhanna, Dhanore, Karyali, and adjoining areas.

The SDRF, alongside local disaster management teams, have been placed on high alert across Jammu, Kathua, and Samba districts.

Meanwhile, the weatherman here has predicted heavy rainfall until tomorrow, saying that generally cloudy weather is expected with one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thunder at many places during the daytime, with the possibility of heavy to very heavy rain over Kathua, Jammu, Udhampur, and Reasi, along with moderate to heavy rainfall over Doda, Samba, Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban, Kishtwar, Anantnag, and Kulgam, mainly towards late tonight and early tomorrow, continuing till late afternoon.

Director Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that from September 4 to 7, a brief spell of rain and thunder is expected at a few places. From September 8 to 11, a spell of moderate rain is expected over a few districts of Jammu division during the night of September 8 and the 9th, with improvement thereafter until the 11th evening.

The fresh weather forecast has raised fears of flash floods and further inundation. Residents in flood-prone and low-lying areas are urged to remain indoors, avoid riverbanks, and keep emergency supplies ready.

In its advisory, the MeT has stated that there is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rain in a few districts, as well as the possibility of cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones at many vulnerable places.

It said that a rise in water levels in rivers is expected and urged people to stay away from water bodies, nallas, river embankments, and loose structures. Besides, the public has been advised to stay alert and updated.

Moreover, the Indian Army and other disaster response teams are actively engaged in rescue and evacuation operations, particularly in areas affected by overflowing rivers.

It is worth mentioning here that the government has closed all educational institutions and non-essential offices in Jammu to ensure public safety.

Railway services have also been disrupted, with 18 trains cancelled due to soil erosion and

flash floods near the Chakki River, and traffic between Jammu Tawi and Katra has been suspended—(KNO)

CM Omar....

contributing Rs 5 Cr. to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund," according to a post shared by the official X account of the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister.

Abdullah said this generous support will strengthen ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts. Earlier in the day, Abdullah expressed gratitude to Gupta for offering support for the flood victims. "Chief Minister thanked Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, @gupta_rekha Ji, for her call expressing solidarity with the flood victims of J&K and for extending her generous offer of support from the Delhi Government," the J-K CM's office said on X. Abdullah said, "Such gestures of cooperation and goodwill strengthen our resolve in these difficult times." Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an unprecedented monsoon onslaught with more than 130 people killed and 33 missing in cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods in Kishtwar, Kathua, Reasi and Ramban districts since August 14.

The dead include 34 pilgrims who were hit by a landslide en route to the Vaishno Devi shrine on August 26.

Record rainfall on August 26-27 caused flash floods in low-lying areas in Jammu and other plains, causing heavy damage to infrastructure.

IGP Kashmir.....

flash floods, cloudbursts, waterlogging, or inundation.

He instructed that disaster management teams remain on high alert, with adequate manpower and equipment in readiness to respond to emergencies.

While reviewing the security preparedness ahead of the Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebrations in the Valley, Birdi asked police to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the upcoming festival. The meeting was attended by all range deputy inspectors general (DIGs) and senior superintendents of police (SSPs) of Kashmir Zone.

The discussions focused on facilitating smooth and secure congregations and processions across the Kashmir Valley to mark the auspicious occasion.

During the meeting, the IGP, Kashmir held detailed deliberations with senior officers regarding security preparedness across the Valley.

Birdi emphasised the need to maintain a heightened vigil and ensure foolproof arrangements, particularly at major shrines, mosques, and other religious places where large congregations are expected.

Special focus was laid on the Dargah Hazratbal shrine and other prominent religious places where night-long prayers and large gatherings are anticipated, the spokesman said.

The IGP directed officers to enhance surveillance at sensitive locations, maintain effective area domination through intensified patrolling, and ensure efficient crowd management to prevent any untoward incidents.

Birdi also underlined the importance of proper traffic regulation to facilitate smooth movement of devotees. (Agencies)

Satish assesses....

ground, the Minister directed them to maintain round-the-clock monitoring of the river water level and ensure a swift communication mechanism between field staff and control rooms. He asked for the immediate dissemination of alerts to the public in vulnerable areas so that people can be safely evacuated at the earliest in case of any exigency.

The Minister further stressed upon ensuring adequate stock of ration, drinking water, medicines and other essentials at relief centres. He directed the Civil Supplies department to make advance provisions so that no family faces hardship in the event of displacement.

Expressing satisfaction over the arrangements already made, Satish Sharma said the government has put in place a robust mechanism for flood preparedness, but constant vigilance and coordinated response are critical in dealing with such natural challenges. He appealed to the general public to remain calm yet cautious and to cooperate fully with the administration by following advisories and safety guidelines.

In a humanitarian gesture, the Minister announced that he will be donating his two months' salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, reaffirming commitment towards supporting relief and rehabilitation efforts. He said that such contributions, though modest, can go a long way in extending timely help to families affected by natural calamities.

"The safety and welfare of the people is our topmost priority. The government is fully geared up to respond to any situation and all possible assistance will be extended to safeguard lives and property. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our people in this hour of need", the Minister maintained. The Minister assured that the administration will remain on high alert until the situation normalizes and reiterated that proactive steps will be taken to mitigate risks and minimize damage.

Army Starts Work.....

crippling mobility and cutting off villages," the Jammu-based White Knight Corps unit of the Army said in a post on X.

It said the engineer troops of the Army are currently carrying out mobilisation of bridging stores and building a Bailey bridge over Doda's Jangalwar Nallah, aiming to restore partial connectivity at the earliest.

"Despite challenges of weather and terrain, the bridge construction has commenced in full swing with engineers in close coordination with civil administration. Area protection by troops of White Knight Corps and traffic control by J&K Police are ensuring smooth progress of restoration efforts," the Army said.

In a 12-hour operation on August 29, Army engineers erected a 110-foot Bailey bridge, connecting the flood-hit Tawi bridge, to restore vehicular traffic on the vital link in Jammu city.

The Ramban district administration has also roped in the Army to erect a temporary Bailey bridge at Batti. A bridge at Batti was recently washed away by flash floods in the Chenab, affecting connectivity to Gool sub-division, parts of Ramban tehsil and several strategic national projects.

Army engineers visited the site to ensure early restoration of the vital connectivity link to Gool sub-division.

More than 130 people, mostly pilgrims, were killed and over 120 injured, while 33 remained untraced following cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods in Kishtwar, Kathua, Reasi and Ramban districts since August 14.

The record rainfall on August 26-27 also caused flash floods in low-lying areas of Jammu and other plains, causing widespread damage to public and private properties. (Agencies)

28 BJP MLAs.....

our duty towards society."

He added that BJP representatives have consistently taken up the public's concerns with the government and coordinated with officials of the concerned departments to ensure prompt relief measures.

However, Sharma strongly criticized the NC-led J&K government for its lack of seriousness and inadequate response, terming their efforts as mere "lip service" and "eyewash."

He said that the government demonstrated a perfect example of step-motherly treatment with the Jammu region in this tragedy. He said that despite having control over essential departments like electricity and water supply, the government failed to act on a war footing.

In contrast, Sharma praised the Union Government and the LG administration for their prompt and committed response as was evident in timely rescue operations in Mata Vaishno Devi route tragedy. He recalled that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the region recently, and now, Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji, accompanied by senior officers of the Army, Police, CAPFs, and civil administration personally reviewed the ground situation. The Union Home Minister also met affected families, local MLAs, and BJP leaders to chalk out a comprehensive relief strategy.

Outlining the immediate measures, Sharma informed that the Union Home Minister directed the MLAs and senior leaders to interact with affected families on September 4-6, organize medical camps on September 9, and conduct cleanliness drives on September 10-11. He further added that rehabilitation of nearly 200 families affected by the cloudburst in Margee village of Warwan has been requested.

In a significant announcement, Sharma revealed that all 28 BJP MLAs have contributed Rs 1 crore each, amounting to Rs 28 crore, for relief efforts. Additionally, BJP MPs have also pledged Rs 2.5 crore each, taking the total to Rs 35.5 crore.

The Union Government has already released Rs 209 crore to the UT Disaster Response Fund (UT-DRF) and constituted a high-level committee to submit a report within two days, following which a relief package will be finalized and released within shortest possible time. The Union Home Minister has also asked the CMs of other states to contribute economically to recover from this tragedy, said Sunil Sharma.

Sharma further said that the Army, CAPF, and others will promote the people of health on a mission basis. He stressed that the Union government has made it absolutely clear that every possible maximal help will be provided to the people.

He also shared that a request has been made to allow the farmers to sell the accumulated aggregates on their fields on their own. The free ration to all the affected people is requested, which will be conveyed to FCI by the Union Home Minister. He added that all the union ministers of departments related to flood affected fields, will visit and organize meetings with the J&K government. Sharma reiterated that the NC government in J&K has miserably failed the people in their hour of crisis, while the BJP, Union Government, and LG administration remain fully committed to ensuring maximum relief and rehabilitation.

No fresh traffic....

"Our priority is the safety of travelers. With heavy rainfall, we cannot risk allowing traffic movement at this stage," a senior traffic police officer said.

The officer further advised commuters not to travel on the route without confirming the latest status. "We urge people to avoid unnecessary travel and check official updates before starting their journey. The situation is being closely monitored, and decisions will be taken keeping public safety in mind," the officer added.

However, the officer clarified that traffic was moving smoothly on the Mughal Road as per the advisory issued.

The 250-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is the only all-weather road linking Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country, and frequent closures due to rains and landslides disrupt essential supplies.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department

has predicted more spells of rain in the coming days, keeping officials and restoration teams on high alert. (KINS)

J&K depts on....

with departments. People are advised to remain vigilant and follow advisories issued by the administration," the official said.

The officials further confirmed that the departments have been directed to maintain readiness and ensure an immediate response in case of emergencies.

Rescue teams, disaster management units, and key departments have been asked to remain deployed in vulnerable areas.

Over the past few weeks, incessant rains have battered several districts of Jammu and Kashmir, triggering flood-like situations in low-lying areas especially of the Jammu division.

Several deaths, damage to property, and disruptions in road connectivity have also been reported, while assessments of losses are still underway.

Authorities have reassured the public that all possible measures are being taken to minimize damage and ensure safety, with both the LG administration and the elected government jointly monitoring the evolving situation. (KINS)

SMVD Yatra....

trek from Katra to the holy shrine — claimed over 30 lives and left 20 others injured.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ordered the constitution of a high-level three-member committee to investigate the causes of the landslide and recommend preventive measures.

Officials said that the resumption of the yatra will depend on weather conditions.

Meanwhile, devotees across the country who had planned their pilgrimage have been advised to wait for further announcements from the Shrine Board. (KINS)

JKBOSE exams.....

School Education (JKBoSE) said in a post on X (formerly Twitter), "All the exams of Class 10th and 11th scheduled for tomorrow i.e, on 3rd September 2025 stands postponed. Fresh dates will be notified separately".

CS Reviews.....

Highlighting the importance of public health, the Chief Secretary directed that all water sources be tested for contamination prior to supply, so as to prevent any outbreak of water-borne diseases.

He further instructed the Health Department to organize health camps in all affected villages, with medical teams conducting vital health checks and ensuring the availability of essential medicines to the local population.

In addition, he called for a detailed safety audit of all public infrastructure in the flood-hit regions, particularly educational and health institutions, bridges, and government offices, to ensure structural stability and safeguarding of human lives.

Stressing that these measures hold the highest priority, the Chief Secretary made it clear that the directives emanate directly from the Union Home Minister and must, therefore, be implemented with the utmost urgency and seriousness.

The Chief Secretary further reiterated the government's commitment to not only providing immediate relief and rehabilitation to affected families but working towards long-term resilience through better infrastructure planning, disaster preparedness, and preventive measures to mitigate the impact of such calamities in the future.

Post-Heavy.....

Several transmission towers collapsed, foundations were submerged, and receiving stations were inundated with water. According to reports, with most feeders down, the power load in the region plummeted to just 299 MW on August 26, compared to the normal demand of around 1,050 MW.

Despite the daunting challenges posed by inclement weather, the restoration teams of PDD swung into action immediately, working round-the-clock under extremely adverse conditions. By isolating faulty network elements and sourcing power through alternate arrangements wherever possible, the department managed to restore the load to 725 (70% of normal load) MW by 7 PM on August 27 and further to 960 MW (92% of normal load) by the evening of August 28. The restoration drive was carried out through close coordination among all J&K power corporations—JKPDC, JKPTCL, and JPDCL under the supervision of Principal Secretary, PDD, Sh. H. Rajesh Prasad.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo closely monitored the progress of the restoration works and remained consistently updated on the situation. Their intervention played a crucial role in arranging necessary resources from various agencies including central PSUs which significantly contributed to quick and effective restoration of the system.

The transmission lines damaged by the torrential rains traverse extremely challeng-

ing terrain, including hilly slopes, river crossings, and remote areas with poor road connectivity. On the first day of rainfall, many transmission tower structures along the 132 kV line at the River Tawi crossing collapsed one after another in a cascading manner. Additionally, towers on key transmission lines—such as the one feeding power to Kishtwar district and the 132 kV Hiranagar-Battal-Manwal Transmission Line supplying power to Batal and adjoining areas, including electric traction systems also collapsed. Likewise, 220 kV Barn-Kishanpur transmission line also suffered extensive damage, affecting power supply to Districts of Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi and Jammu. The towers on these lines were situated on difficult-to-access hilly slopes, complicating restoration efforts and causing widespread blackouts and a panic-like situation for the department.

To overcome the formidable challenges, the MD JKPTCL, Rahilla Wani and her team deployed special measures and innovative solutions to restore power swiftly. For instance, the collapsed tower on the Hiranagar-Battal Manwal line was replaced using the Emergency Restoration System (ERS)—a modular-type special tower structure designed for quick deployment with the support of PGCIL. Unlike conventional towers, which can take months to erect, the ERS enables restoration within 24 hours. However, despite the tower collapse, power supply to most of the affected areas was restored immediately through alternative receiving stations by the JPDCL teams working in tandem, preventing a prolonged outage.

High-strength cranes and specialized equipment were used to string conductors on the towers of damaged 220 kV Barn-Kishanpur transmission line near Nagrota. The damaged tower on the Kishtwar line was also restored in record time despite its location in the tough hilly terrain of Doda district. In areas where roads had been damaged or washed away, materials had to be offloaded and carried head load over steep hills. Despite harsh weather conditions and limited connectivity, restoration teams demonstrated remarkable dedication working round the clock under the close supervision of senior officers to ensure timely completion of the work.

Executive Directors of PGCIL, Tarun Bajaj, and NHPC, Ram Swaroop, extended full technical and logistical support, playing a crucial role in accomplishing the mammoth task of power restoration under these extremely challenging circumstances.

The situation was even more alarming in the distribution sector, where out of 1,349 feeders, only 364 were functional by the evening of August 26. Nearly 19,000 distribution transformers, out of a total of 49,000 in the region, were affected, in addition to hundreds of damaged poles and conductors—making it one of the worst outages ever witnessed.

The immediate action taken by the Managing Director JPDCL Sh. G. P Singh and his team was to restore power supply to essential installations, including Defence Installations, Jal Shakti, AIIMS & GMC Jammu, and other major hospitals in the city. These critical installations were given top priority, and electricity was successfully restored to most of them on the very first day of the rainfall. Restoration work continued day and night. Through continuous monitoring, swift deployment of manpower and machinery, and the use of short-term measures and innovative approach, full restoration was achieved well ahead of the anticipated timeline.

The heavy rainfall also impacted power generation severely. Amid heavy downpour; flooding of Power Houses, damage to access roads, and excessive silt load had forced shutdown of all hydroelectric projects of JKSPDC in Jammu Division. Amidst these challenges, the 900MW Baglihar Hydroelectric Project was restored to generation within 60 hours of shutdown. Operations were halted on 26th August due to dangerously high silt levels in the Chenab River. Through round-the-clock efforts involving road clearance, dewatering, cleaning of the powerhouse, testing of critical components, and continuous silt monitoring, MD JKSPDC Rahul Yadav and his team successfully brought the first unit online by 28th August evening, and all units were synchronized by 29th August to secure energy supply for the region.

Beside this close coordination was maintained with upstream and downstream projects, the Divisional and District Administration for regular discharge date to mitigate flood impacts and alert generation.

While temporary restoration has been completed by the department, permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure, including towers, poles, and substation equipment, would require considerable time, even several months. Accordingly, the department has already conducted a parallel assessment to determine the requirements and plan for permanent power restoration, which would be conducted in due course as and when the weather conditions normalize.

The extraordinary efforts of the PDD workforce, coupled with timely support from central agencies, turned what seemed an impossible task into a success story for Jammu region.

Div Com Kashmir reviews functioning of Horticulture & allied department

Urges officers to loop in local associations to utilize train services for transportation of fruit crops

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 02: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Tuesday chaired a review meeting of Horticulture and Horticulture Marketing & Planning departments, to assess their functioning, implementation of schemes, and achievement of targets.

The meeting was attended by Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing (HP&M) and Joint Director Horticulture

department along with technical officers.

On the occasion, Joint Director Horticulture presented an overview of the role of the department regarding annual income generation, contribution to UT GDP, employment generation, area brought under High-Density Apple Plantation, CA Storages, Food Processing Units and other vital activities.

He also shared information regarding interventions of the department to boost the Horticulture production with mod-



ern technology & incentives.

Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Ghulam Jee-lani presented activities & schemes under HADP, CAPEX Budget, NABARD, JKICP and e-NAM. He also presented in length regarding Post Harvest Management, Development of Market Infrastructure, Market Intelligence, Marketing / Promotions, Training for Grading & Packing and Survey & Market Studies.

Speaking on the occasion, DivCom instructed for encour-

aging stakeholders to come forward to establish CA Storages & Cold Stores.

Also, he emphasized on reducing the dependency on import of plant material from outside the country and stressed on development of local stock material of plants.

Besides, he urged for looping in local associations for utilization of train services for transportation of local crop to various markets of the country so the farmers can earn maximum benefits.

CEO Ganderbal visited Govt HSS Batwina

HT News Desk

GANDERBAL, SEP 09: Worthy Chief Education Officer (CEO) Ganderbal Shri Oneel Kumar Bhat today paid a visit to Govt Boys Hr. Sec. School Batwina to review the overall academic environment and to assess the infrastructure status and AVAILABILITY of basic facilities.

During the visit, the CEO conducted thorough INSPECTIONS of school buildings, classrooms, drinking water facilities and overall maintenance of school



premises.

The CEO stressed the importance of providing a safe, clean, and conducive learning environment for students.

CEO interacted with students to assess their academic progress and understand their learning needs. He also engaged with teaching staff to review classroom practices, teaching methodologies, and administrative functioning.

On-spot instructions were issued to the heads of institutions for immediate remedial measures wherever deficiencies were found.

The visit reflects the department's commitment to improving educational infrastructure and ensuring that every child has access to a quality learning environment.

SBI Handwara Branch Undertakes Major Plantation Drive, Plants 300 Trees Across Sub-District

HT News Desk

HANDWARA, SEP 2: In a significant step towards environmental conservation, the State Bank of India (SBI) Branch Handwara, under Regional Business Office-IV Srinagar, organized a large-scale plantation drive under its CSR initiative, planting 300 saplings at various locations across the sub-district.

As part of the drive, 100 saplings were planted at Government Degree College (GDC) Handwara, 100 at Girls Higher Secondary School Handwara, 50 at Army Goodwill School Budkoot, and 50 at Government Higher Secondary School Wadipora.

The initiative reflects SBI's long-



standing commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection. For many years, SBI Handwara has been carrying out plantation drives and other green initiatives to expand green cover and promote ecological balance in the region.

Officials present on the occasion emphasized that such sustained efforts not only enhance green cover but also contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment for future generations.

Speaking on the occasion, SBI officials reaffirmed: "We believe in a sustainable future — for our customers, for communities, and for our nation. Through our pan-India CSR initiatives, we are committed to shaping a greener tomorrow."

Budgam Residents Anguished Over Lack of Clean Drinking Water, Demand Action

Ubaid Mehdi

BUDGAM, SEP 2: In several areas of Budgam district, people are up in arms against the non-availability of clean drinking water. Residents said that due to continuous rainfall over the past several days, the tap water being supplied has turned muddy and unfit for consumption, posing a serious risk of waterborne diseases.

In particular, people from different villages of Khan Sahib area complained that although multiple filtration plants and storage reservoirs were constructed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), most of them remain non-functional. Locals alleged that despite paying a monthly fee for water



supply, they are forced to consume contaminated water.

"The government had promised

that every household would receive clean drinking water through taps under Jal Jeevan Mission, but the reality on the ground is completely different," said one of the residents.

People further added that several projects under JJM in the area are still incomplete, leaving households dependent on unsafe water sources. Expressing anger, they said that the Jal Shakti Department has failed to ensure safe drinking water despite repeated complaints.

Locals appealed to Deputy Commissioner Budgam and Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmad Dar to intervene at the earliest and resolve the issue before it leads to a public health crisis.

District-Level CCTU Meeting Held in Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 2: A district-level meeting of the Centre of Confederation of Trade Unions (CCTU) was held in Kulgam today, under the chairmanship of A. R. Najar, State President of the CCTU. The meeting witnessed the participation of grassroots members and leaders from various employee and workers' organizations across the district.

In his opening remarks, A. R. Najar highlighted the key agenda points, focusing on a wide range of service-related issues, challenges, and poor working conditions faced by daily-wagers, casual workers, scheme workers, contractual employees, Mid-Day Meal (MDM) cooks, and even regular employees.

Speakers at the meeting strongly urged the government to ensure the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act for all non-regular employees and demanded their inclusion in the 8th Pay Commission to ensure fair treatment and financial security.



The meeting also included a detailed discussion on preparations for the upcoming State Conference of the CCTU, scheduled to be held later this month.

Prominent trade union leaders including G. N. Shakhshaz, Tartaz Ah Shah, Shah Nawaz Ahmad, Fayaz Devsari, Aamina Ji, Haneeefa Ji, and Mukhtar Ahmad addressed the gathering and shared their perspectives on the current labor issues and union strategies. On this occasion, Fayaz Devsari was elected as the District Chief Spokesperson, while Ab Hameed was chosen as the District Vice President.

The meeting concluded with a strong collective resolve to continue advocating for the rights and welfare of workers at all levels.

KVK Kulgam Organizes 10th Rural Credit Workshop under JKICP at Chimmer

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 2: A Rural Credit Awareness Workshop was successfully organized at Chimmer, Kulgam, under the ambit of the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKICP). The event witnessed the active participation of over 140 farmers and rural youth, along with scientists, officers, and field experts from various departments.

The workshop was conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kulgam, in collaboration with the Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, and other allied sectors. The primary objective of the programme was to enhance awareness about institutional credit facilities, financial literacy, and credit-linked government schemes



that can support farmers in improving their livelihoods and transitioning into agri-entre-

preneurs.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ab Shakoor Khanday, Dr. Shahid

Ahmad, and Dr. Tariq Iqbal — scientists from KVK Kulgam — emphasized the vital role of timely and accessible rural credit in transforming the agricultural economy. They highlighted that the JKICP initiative is focused on empowering rural households by providing better access to finance, markets, and modern technology, thereby facilitating diversification into high-value crops and allied enterprises.

Senior officers from the line departments shared in-depth insights into credit-based government schemes, insurance plans, and subsidy-linked interventions available for farmers. Participants were encouraged to explore income-generating opportunities in integrated farming systems, dairy, poultry, and sheep rearing. Speakers underlined that institutional finance is a cornerstone of

achieving sustainable rural development.

During the interactive session, farmers and youth actively engaged with officials, seeking clarity on loan eligibility criteria, repayment structures, interest subsidies, and insurance coverage for crops and livestock. Officials assured the participants that the JKICP framework aims to bridge the gap between farmers, banks, and development departments, ensuring easier and more transparent access to credit at the grassroots level.

The participants appreciated the initiative, describing it as a timely and much-needed intervention to build financial awareness in rural communities. The workshop concluded with a collective pledge to promote financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, and climate-resilient agriculture under the JKICP programme in Kulgam district.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of development works under CAPEX, CDF & flagship schemes

Calls for timely execution of projects to speed up developmental works

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the status of ongoing development works across various sectors, including CAPEX, MPLADs, Constituency Development Fund (CDF), Heritage, Tribal Affairs, Revenue Capex, and the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY).

During the meeting, DC took sector wise review of all the developmental works taken up for the current fiscal. He also

assessed the progress made in the execution of works for various components under the District Capex Budget and other sectors for the current financial year.

Emphasizing the importance of timely action, DC urged all departments to expedite the tendering of pending works and ensure its timely allotment to avoid delays, besides timely completion of projects.

He stated that prompt execution is vital for delivering tangible benefits to the public and improving infrastructure and basic amenities across the district.



On the occasion, DC directed line departments to accelerate the pace of work on all ongoing projects to ensure their timely completion. He directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to adopt a proactive approach, maintain inter-departmental coordination and ensure quality and transparency in the execution of all development works.

DC further emphasized to ensure early completion of under-construction buildings for Revenue offices across the district. He called upon all Engineering and Planning divisions

to work in coordinated manner to meet public aspirations by achieving 100% execution targets in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of PHE, R&B, SMC, PDD, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, District Mineral Officer and other concerned Officers.

DC Srinagar initiates infrastructure upgradation works at DC office complex

Emphasizes quality work within set timelines to facilitate incoming public

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday initiated renovation and infrastructure upgradation works at the DC office complex, here.

These works are aimed to further improve the facilities and provide a more comfortable environment for visitors and the staff in the DC office and other subordinate offices.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat



Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildar South, Tehsildar Recovery and other concerned.

Work was initiated on construction of a new Public Toilet Complex for both Male & Female incoming visitors, making existing defunct Toilet units functional, work was also started on a specific dedicated toilet for female employees of the DC office, seating for incoming public, upgradation of Video Conferencing Hall, upgradation of Additional District Development Commissioner complex etc.

He also visited the Tehsildar South and Tehsildar Recovery offices.

Additionally, DC assessed ongoing efforts to augment and enhance public convenience facilities within the office compound.

On the occasion, DC directed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work and stressed the importance of maintaining high-quality standards while strictly adhering to the set timelines.

KVK Bandipora-1 organises awareness programme under Kisan Sampark Abhiyan-JKCIP at Nadihal Panchayat

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 02: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, in collaboration with the department of Agriculture and allied sectors, successfully organized a comprehensive awareness programme at Nadihal Panchayat under the flagship initiative Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, a key component of the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP).

The event aimed to sensitize farmers to Climate-Resilient Farming Practices, introduce scientific agricultural interventions, and create awareness about a range of government schemes and services available to the farming community.



The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 100 individuals, including progressive farmers, farm women, rural youth, and students.

Experts from KVK Bandipora-1 conducted technical sessions focusing on sustainable agriculture, market-oriented production systems, and entrepreneurship opportunities in the agri-sector. These sessions emphasized the adoption of modern technologies to boost productivity and farm income.

Officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, and Fisheries departments provided in-depth information about the latest schemes, input assistance programmes, and capacity-building avenues under JKCIP and other ongoing government initiatives.

Additionally, representatives from financial institutions highlighted the availability of institutional credit, subsidy-linked financial assistance, and streamlined procedures for agricultural loans.

The programme concluded with an interactive session, offering a platform for farmers to voice their concerns and seek expert advice on location-specific challenges.

Power Shutdown in Shalimar, Chadoora on Sept 7

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 02: According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out the pending works for installation of 11 KV isolators, shutdown of 33KV GIS Theed Shalimar line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Shalimar shall remain off while power supply to SKUAST, Telibal, Arbal, Deewan Colony and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM and 02:00 PM to 02:30 PM on 07 September, 2025.

Also in order to facilitate Tehsil Office Chadoora in the work of pruning of Chinar Trees near Tehsil Office, shutdown of 33 KV Chadoora-Panzan Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Panzan & Rangar shall remain off while power supply to Gadsathoo, Panzan, Lalgam, Rangar, Kathairground and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 AM on 07 September, 2025.

Likewise to carry out augmentation of 33 KV Watrehail Parthan line, shutdown of 33 KV Watrehail Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Waterhail, Charangam shall remain off while power supply to Samsaan, Parthan, Watrehail, PHE Substation and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 03:30 Noon on 03 & 07 September, 2025.



Similarly, in order to raise the height of Double Ckt at Pahroo and Lasjan Bypass, shutdown of 33KV BK Pora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at BK Pora, Khanda & Summerbugh shall remain off while power supply to BK Pora, Khanda, Checkpora, Chattergam, Summerbugh, Wagoora, Wadipora, Aribagh, Checkpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 03 September, 2025.

Moreover to facilitate All India authorities/HPT authorities to cutdown the poplar trees along the boundary of Receiving Station Narbal and also to replace worn out channels of 33 KV Sanoor Tap, shutdown of 33KV Shariefabad-Narbal line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Narbal, Sanoor, Kalipora shall remain off while power supply to Narbal, Mazhama, Kawoosa, Sozeith, Lawaypora, Malpora, Radbugh, Railway Station Mazhama and adjoining areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 02:00 PM on 04 & 08 September, 2025.

J&K BJP Hails Shah's 209 Cr Flood Relief, Terms Visit Strong Support: Manzoor Bhat

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 02: The Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir, warmly welcomes Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah Ji, on his visit to the Union Territory to review the situation caused by recent cloudbursts, landslides, and flash floods. Manzoor bhat spokesperson BJP J&K expresses gratitude for his announcement of Rs. 209 crore as the Central share to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), enabling immediate large-scale relief and rehabilitation across affected regions.

During his day-long visit, Shri Amit Shah Ji chaired three key meetings at Raj Bhawan, Jammu. The first reviewed damages with senior officers of the administration. The second was held with BJP MPs and MLAs, led by UT President Shri Sat Sharma Ji. The third assessed the security situation of the UT with top officials, where he reiterated the Centre's zero tolerance towards terrorism and lauded security forces for ensuring the safe conduct of the Shri Amarnath Yatra, which saw over 4 lakh pilgrims this year.

The Home Minister announced that advance survey teams from the Ministry of Home Affairs will soon assess damages to facilitate additional Central support. He directed the Health and Water Departments to ensure uninterrupted medical and drinking



water facilities, with Army, CAPFs, and Air Force units assisting the local administration. He also instructed the Food Corporation of India to supply extra rations and explore offline delivery in connectivity-hit areas.

Ensuring Future Readiness, Shri Amit Shah Ji called for a review of Early Warning Systems (EWS) and stronger forecasting using data analytics and Artificial Intelligence. He asked NDMA and the Meteorological Department to jointly study patterns leading to cloudbursts for a reliable early warning mechanism. Home minister emphasized on creation of the GLOF (Glacial Lake. Outburst Flood) Early warning system which is utmost essential for J&K as such lakes are in

abundance in the hilly terrain & snow-clad mountains.

Earlier in the morning, Shri Amit Shah Ji visited Manguchak village, interacted with flood-affected families, and assured them of full Central assistance. He inspected damages along the Tawi riverbanks near Bikram Chowk and offered prayers at the historic Lord Shiva temple on the riverbank. He underlined that compensation for damaged homes and property would be provided swiftly, while roads, electricity, and water supply would be restored on a war footing.

Commending ongoing rescue efforts, the Home Minister praised the UT Government, Army, NDRF, J&K Police, UTDRF, and CAPFs for their coordinated response. Over 5,000 people have been evacuated, 80 percent of electricity supply restored, health facilities and relief camps are operational, and food distribution is underway. He expressed grief over the loss of more than 130 lives in the calamities and reassured the people of J&K that the Modi Government stands firmly by their side.

Party spokesperson Manzoor Bhat welcomes Shri Amit Shah Ji's timely visit and his decisive Rs. 209 crore flood relief allocation for the Union Territory. The Party acknowledges his proactive leadership and compassionate outreach, which have instilled confidence among the people.

KVK Pulwama organizes Rural Credit Workshop at Wachi Zainapora

Chairperson DDC appreciates efforts towards raising awareness on agriculture sector initiatives

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, SEP 02: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian, in close coordination with the Agriculture and allied departments organized a Rural Credit Workshop today at Wachi in block Zainapora, under the Jammu & Kashmir Comprehensive Integrated Project (JKCIP).

The programme was chaired by Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Shopian, Bilqees Jan, while DDC Member Zainapora-II, Aijaz Ahmad Mir; DDC Member Hermain-II, Abdul Rashid Lone; Members from Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs, over 100 progressive farmers along with champion farmers also attended the workshop.

Besides, Senior Scientist & Head,



KVK Shopian, Prof. Zaffar Afroz Badri; Chief Horticulture Officer, Muneer Ahmad and representatives from Sericulture, Fisheries, JKHPMC, scientists of the Kendra, officers and officials from allied sectors were also present.

In her address, Chairperson DDC appreciated the efforts of KVK scientists for reaching every corner of the district and sensitizing farmers about various schemes launched by the UT Government for their welfare.

Earlier, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Shopian presented an overview of the programme, highlighting the implementation of various schemes for the larger benefit of the farming community.

The workshop aimed to enhance farmers' understanding of financial, technical, and institutional benefits available under JKCIP.

Discussions focused on pre-production interventions to improve productivity and achieve high yields, processing and value addition of farm produce, including grading, packaging, and viable transportation methods to extend shelf life, market linkages with national and international Mandis and the infrastructure needed to achieve profitable outcomes.

Representatives from the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, and JKHPMC briefed about their schemes and services, encouraging farmers to avail opportunities for better productivity and profitability.

The event concluded with an interactive session, where farmers clarified their queries and shared their experiences.

Rana reviews restoration efforts in Poonch

Stresses efficient execution and coordinated response

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

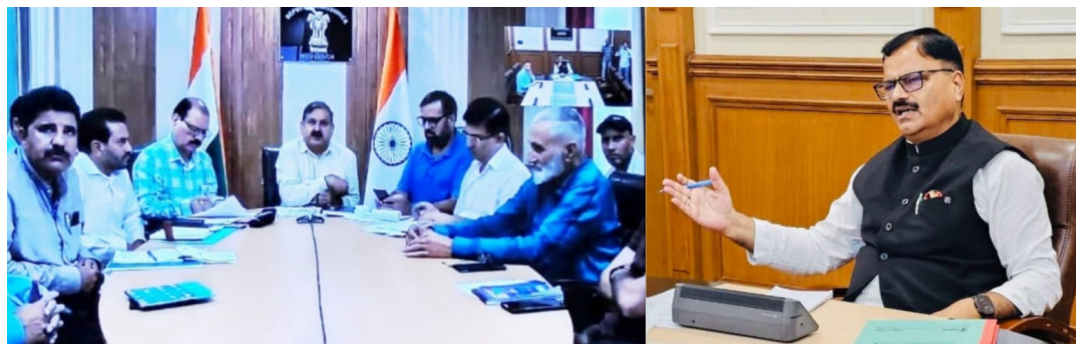
JAMMU, SEP 02: In the aftermath of the recent floods that caused significant disruption across Poonch district, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted a detailed virtual review of the relief and restoration efforts underway.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized the urgent need for efficient planning and execution of restoration measures. He directed all concerned departments to ensure that restoration work is carried out without delay and that departmental heads personally oversee on-ground operations to accelerate progress.

He underlined that the focus must remain on quick resumption of essential services, including water supply, power, road connectivity and the distribution of food grains and other critical commodities, particularly in remote and vulnerable areas.

The Minister called for a comprehensive and inclusive rehabilitation strategy for affected families, along with the implementation of long-term preventive measures to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

He urged officials to ensure



that compensation and relief support are delivered swiftly and fairly, with special attention to the most affected and at-risk populations.

Highlighting the need for safety in educational institutions, Rana stressed the importance of conducting thorough structural audits of schools in flood-hit areas.

He directed the concerned departments to identify vulnerable school buildings, carry out urgent repair works and ensure that learning institutions are safe for students and staff.

As part of the damage assessment, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma briefed the Minister on the overall impact of the floods on infrastructure.

He informed that 18 schools in the district sustained damage, primarily involving boundary walls,

and that four schools require immediate restoration to ensure operational safety. These schools have been prioritized for repair to ensure the timely resumption of academic activities.

Regarding road infrastructure, the Minister was informed that of the 71 roads damaged in Mendhar subdivision, 65 have already been restored to motorable condition, with the remainder under active repair.

In Surankote Sub-Division, 10 roads were reported damaged, with restoration work underway on a priority basis. It was further shared that a majority of roads under the PMGSY scheme have also been restored. Recognizing the extent of damage to housing and protection

works in rural areas, Rana instructed that repair and rebuilding be taken up by the Rural De-

velopment Department, as a special case, to expedite relief and recovery in the most impacted villages.

Recognising the healthcare response to the floods, Deputy Commissioner informed that medical camps will be organized in flood-affected and other vulnerable areas over the next two to three days. To further strengthen medical outreach, the Minister proposed the deployment of Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) on a 10-day rotational basis in Mendhar, Surankote and Haveli, ensuring that people in remote or inaccessible regions have timely access to essential health services.

The Minister placed particular emphasis on the restoration of power supply, noting that interruptions in electricity directly affect water availability, as many

water supply systems are electrically operated.

It was reported that out of 162 water supply schemes affected by the floods, a majority have been partially restored, with full restoration in progress.

He further emphasized the critical importance of inter-departmental coordination to ensure a unified and effective disaster response. He called on all departments to work seamlessly and adopt a mission-driven approach to rebuilding and service restoration.

The Minister also stressed the need for maintaining adequate buffer stocks of food and essential supplies, particularly in cut-off areas, to avoid shortages during future emergencies.

In addition, Rana called for the scientific mapping of vulnerable zones and high-risk habitations, stating that such data-driven approaches are essential to guide future mitigation strategies, minimize disaster risk and enable timely and targeted interventions.

The Minister reiterated the Omar Abdullah Government's unwavering commitment to the people of Poonch, stating that all efforts will be directed towards rebuilding stronger, safer and more resilient communities.

DC Bandipora inaugurates Aadi Karmayogi BLMT orientation program at Chitternagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today inaugurated the three-day Block Level Master Trainer (BLMT) orientation program under the Aadi Karmayogi - Responsive Governance programme at the Forest Training & Research Institute Chitternagar, Bandipora.

The orientation program that is scheduled to culminate on 4th September 2025, is part of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' initiative aimed at empowering individuals and institutions for tribal transformation. The training is designed to build the capacity of master trainers in facilitating participatory planning, responsive governance, and holistic tribal development.



Addressing the gathering, DC emphasized the significance of responsive governance and community-led planning for sustainable development in tribal areas. She highlighted that the workshop would enable stakeholders to prepare village-level development plans focusing on infrastructure, education, healthcare, digital access, and livelihood opportunities, while preserving traditional knowledge and indigenous practices.

She further underlined the importance of skill development and the creation of intangible assets which can prove to be a boon during uncertain and hard times. She also stressed that the core mandate of the Aadi Karmayogi scheme should remain the guiding motive behind all efforts at the grassroots.

Praising the role of participating officers and volunteers, DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to making tribal villages self-reliant, socially empowered, and digitally connected.

On the opening day, District Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora, underscored the importance of mapping basic infrastructure needs such as roads, water, electricity, and healthcare besides promoting sustainable livelihoods through agriculture, livestock, fisheries, eco-tourism, and forest-based enterprises.

The program will continue over the next two days, featuring focused sessions on the preparation of block-level vision and action plans under the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan.

Among others, the event was attended by District Programme Officer ICDS, Yaar Ali Khan; District Information Officer, Principal KFT School, Block Development Officers (BDOs), volunteers and other concerned officers.

DC Kupwara reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, SEP 9: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress achieved under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna.

During the meeting, Executive Engineers of KP-DCL Handwara and Kupwara were directed to give special focus to increasing the pace of the installation of rooftop solar panels so that maximum households are benefitted with the scheme which aims to reduce the power bill of the consumers.



On the occasion, various vendors raised their issues before the chair about pendencies from different bank branches in disbursement of the loan applications. The DC directed the Lead District Manager to ensure clearing of all pending cases within a week's time positively. He directed the KPDCCL to hold door to door surveys to know the interests of the people who have applied under the scheme so that the interested households are facilitated.

The meeting was attended by CPO, Executive Engineers of PDD Kupwara and Handwara, AEEs, LDM, CSC Manager and registered vendors.

It was informed that 16000 applications have been received in the district so far out of which 403 solar rooftops have been installed.

Army Provides Relief, Medical Aid to Gujar-Bakkarwals in Pir Panjal

■ HT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEP 02: In the wake of severe weather conditions and cloudbursts affecting the higher reaches of the Pir Panjal region, the Indian Army promptly extended assistance to the affected local population under the banner of its 'Khariyat Patrol' with the reassuring message - "Hum Aapke Saath Hai".

Army personnel braved the inclement weather to reach out to vulnerable communities, providing essential relief material including blankets, food supplies, milk, and sleeping bags. In addition, a mobile medical camp was organized to address health concerns, particularly benefiting the Gujar and Bakkarwal families residing in these remote areas.

The initiative brought immediate relief to 40 individuals from the higher reaches who were facing acute shortages and medical difficulties due to disrupted connectivity.



The Indian Army remains steadfast in its commitment not only to safeguarding the borders but also to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the people, ensuring their safety, health, and well-being in times of crisis.

DC Udhampur reviews relief, rescue, rehabilitation and restoration measures

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, SEP 02: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today convened a meeting of officers from line departments to review the relief, rescue, rehabilitation and assessment of rain induced damages.

The meeting, held in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; Additional Deputy



Commissioner Prem Singh; IAS Probationer Seerat Baji; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan; Chief Planning Officer Uttam

Singh, besides other officers of line departments.

During the meeting, the DC took detailed feedback from the

concerned officers regarding the extent of damages, rescue operations, relief distribution, rehabilitation measures, restoration of essential services, losses to infrastructure and the immediate steps taken on ground.

She emphasized the need for timely assessment and submission of detailed reports so that necessary relief and restoration works could be initiated without delay. The DC directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure

prompt restoration of essential services in the affected areas.

She directed the officers to activate men and machinery at full scale to ensure the early restoration of drinking water supply, power supply, road connectivity and other essential services.

With regard to the restoration of road connectivity, the DC instructed the concerned departments to deploy at least 100 JCB machines for repairing and restoring all damaged roads.

DC Budgam chairs public darbar at Beerwah, listens to public grievances

Directs officers to ensure real-time redressal, identification of land for playfields

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today chaired a public darbar at Town Hall of Beerwah sub-division, to take stock of public grievances and demands from locals and representatives of various organizations.

During the public interaction programme, locals from Beerwah and its adjacent villages including Chewdara, Sail, Rathsun, Aripathan, Warihama, Otligam and Sonpah projected various demands before the DC.

The demands included uninterrupted electricity supply, establishment of a full-fledged PHC, early completion of pending school and PHC buildings, macadamization of interior and

link roads, and development of playing fields.

Bar Association Beerwah also raised the demand for construction of a Court Complex at Beerwah, besides a toilet complex within the existing premises. Similarly, the Head Granthi of Gurdwara Beerwah highlighted the issue of encroachment on the road leading towards the Gurdwara and requested timely intervention.

Giving a patient hearing, DC assured that all genuine demands will be taken up with the concerned authorities for prompt redressal. He said that the feasibility of all other roads, including inner links in the adjoining areas, shall be assessed for upgradation, restoration and macadamization.

DC further assured that



improvement works under Jal Shakti, KPDCCL, Health, and Education sectors have been duly noted and shall be addressed under the relevant heads.

He directed the concerned officers to expedite the completion of ongoing and pending projects, particularly school and health infrastructure, so that locals get timely benefits.

On the occasion, DC also directed sectoral officers to conduct special awareness-cum-registration camps under HADP, PM Vishwakarma and Mission Yuva in Beerwah sub-division, urging locals to participate actively and avail maximum benefits under these government schemes.

DC further directed all of-

ficers of the district to frequently visit different areas and provide real-time solutions to the genuine demands of the public.

He instructed the ACD Budgam to identify land for playfields so that every Panchayat has its own playing facility.

He also emphasized that officers must maintain close liaison with the public to ensure better education and awareness regarding various social security and employment generation schemes of the government.

Among others, CPO Budgam, SDM Beerwah, ACD, CMO, CEO, Tehsildar Beerwah besides all district and sectoral officers were present on the occasion.

HT EDITORIAL

Public Durbar changes face of governance

There was a time when people had to visit the various government departments in order to get their problems resolved. The concept of governance has undergone a sea change over the past few years and the government is virtually coming to the doorsteps of the common masses. Officers belonging to the different government departments are available to the people and the masses feel relieved since they need not to run from pillar to post in order to get their grievances resolved.

The concept of public durbar has virtually transformed the functioning of the government and its various departments. Over the years the officers have been made accountable and they have been forced to come out of the cosy comforts of their offices and visit localities as well as villages so as to listen to the grievances of the common people. In other words we can say that the offices have been shifted from the concerned deputy commissioner's office to the villages as well as towns.

Since a public durbar is followed by a follow up programme there is no room for lackadaisical attitude from the officers and officials of the different departments. These people cannot by-pass the orders or directives issued by their seniors in a public durbar and in case they do so the masses point out towards the same in the subsequent follow up programme of public durbar. In some of the cases the people counter an officer or an official in presence of a senior administrative official.

At times an officer or official cuts a sorry figure once he or she faces wrath from the people and that too in the presence of a deputy commissioner or his subordinate officer. There is no concept of victimization as on date and the officers as well as officials have to tread a cautious path while dealing with the public in their office or a public durbar. The people need not to fear and in the present day context there is optimum deliverance of people oriented measures or steps.

It goes to the credit of the people who evolved the concept of public durbar since it gives a chance to the people to get face to face with the people who are supposed to solve their problems. This has given a new meaning to overall functioning of the government and the democracy has flourished in real sense across the length and breadth of the country.

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Natural Disasters in J&K: A True Picture and a Wake-up Call



■ Abdul Qudir Kundiya

Natural calamities have been part of human existence since the beginning of time, but in the last few decades their frequency and intensity have increased to alarming levels. The fragile Himalayan region of Jammu and Kashmir has always been prone to landslides, flash floods, cloudbursts, and torrential rains, yet the devastation seen in recent times has shaken the very foundation of human resilience in the area. Across districts such as Kishtwar, Kathua, Reasi, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur and Samba, people have witnessed tragedies that words can hardly capture. From the pilgrimage town of Katra near Mata Vaishno Devi shrine to the remote villages of Mahore, Banihal, and Bhadarwah, the landscape is scarred with grief. The cries of families who lost their loved ones echo through the valleys like a haunting reminder of how fragile human life is before nature's fury. These cries, accompanied by tears that fall like drops of blood, leave us questioning where to turn, whom to save first, and how to recover from such irreparable loss. The devastation is not only physical but emotional, cutting deeply into the very spirit of society.

Everywhere across Jammu and Kashmir there are stories of tragedy. Private properties have been reduced to rubble, school and college buildings have collapsed under the weight of heavy rains, and mountain slopes have slid into rivers and valleys, burying whatever stood in their path. This is not limited to human settlements. Even the nests of birds have been destroyed, animals have perished in large numbers, and forests have suffered irreparable damage. Lightning has struck down trees, floods have swept away fertile fields, and rain has lashed relentlessly. The destruction of natural habitats, the displacement of wildlife, and the loss of biodiversity all indicate a deeper crisis that extends beyond human suffering. For ordinary people, the loss of homes,

roads, and bridges is not just a material setback but a blow to their social and emotional fabric. These structures are lifelines in a mountainous region where connectivity is already fragile, and their collapse means isolation, hunger, and despair.

The magnitude of destruction is so vast that recovery seems almost impossible. The scenes unfolding in Jammu and Kashmir resemble the aftermath of a silent apocalypse. Compensation and relief may help to some extent, but no amount of money can bring back the dead or erase the trauma etched in the hearts of survivors. Families who lost their breadwinners, children who lost their parents, farmers who lost their fields—all face an uncertain future. What has been destroyed in a matter of hours will take decades to rebuild, if it can ever truly be rebuilt.

Yet, amidst this gloom, a faint silver lining can be seen in the courage and unity of those engaged in relief operations. The Army, Police, Civil Administration, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and countless NGOs have joined hands in this struggle. Risking their own lives, they have reached villages cut off by landslides, rescued stranded families, distributed rations and drinking water, and worked tirelessly to restore connectivity. Their courage deserves not only appreciation but deep respect. They are the living proof that humanity, when united, can stand strong even in the face of nature's most brutal blows. While the monetary losses are beyond recovery, these relief measures give people a sense of hope. In the darkest of times, hope itself is a form of survival.

Another tragic dimension to this crisis is the collapse of essential services. Over the past few weeks, electricity and water supply have been disrupted in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Entire villages have been left without power for days, sometimes weeks. Water supply, already scarce in some regions, has been completely cut off, forcing families to walk long distances for drinking water. Life without electricity and water is not just an inconvenience; it is a slow erosion of survival itself. At such a critical time, providing rations, restoring electricity, and ensuring clean drinking water are not administrative tasks but

moral obligations. This is a call for collective action. If the government, local administration, and common citizens come together, what seems impossible can indeed be made possible. Disasters demand that communities rise in solidarity, helping one another shoulder the burdens of survival. The people of Jammu and Kashmir must embrace this call, for unity and cooperation are the only true answers to such challenges.

The district administrations have tried to address the crisis, but the scale of damage is overwhelming. The floods and storms have not only taken lives but also destroyed fruit orchards and crops, which form the backbone of the region's economy. Farmers, who depend entirely on their fields for livelihood, now stand devastated, watching the labor of years vanish in a single night of floods. For them, timely compensation is not charity but survival itself. It is imperative that the government ensures compensation does not remain confined to paperwork, political speeches, or newspaper headlines. Too often, the most needy are left out, while the influential manage to secure relief. This cycle of injustice must end. The way forward lies in setting up local-level committees in every Panchayat, involving revenue officials like Patwaris, community leaders, and district officers. Together, they must assess damages on the ground and ensure fair distribution of aid. This will guarantee that those who have actually suffered receive the relief they deserve. At the same time, the public must cooperate with officials, providing truthful information and supporting them in identifying victims. This is not a time for corruption or exploitation. It is a test of humanity, and failing it would be a crime against those already suffering.

The disaster has also exposed another pressing issue: the lack of educational infrastructure in rural areas. In many regions, children are forced to travel thirty to fifty kilometers to attend higher secondary schools or colleges. During disasters, when roads are blocked or destroyed, this becomes impossible, depriving students of their right to education. The government must treat this as an urgent lesson and establish more higher secondary schools and colleges in rural belts. This step will not only reduce pressure on urban institutions but also give underprivileged

children in remote areas a fair chance at education. For many poor families, sending children to faraway towns is financially impossible, and disasters make it physically dangerous as well. Education within reach would provide these children an opportunity to break free from the cycle of poverty and vulnerability.

The central government has announced some aid for the affected areas, but the relief provided so far is far from sufficient. What has been given is not even close to the scale of destruction witnessed. The people of Jammu and Kashmir need and deserve far greater assistance. The central government must recognize the gravity of the situation and provide substantial financial and infrastructural aid to the Union Territory. This is not merely about rebuilding roads or houses; it is about healing wounds, restoring dignity, and giving hope to those who have lost everything. Only through significant and timely support can the injured be treated, the homeless be sheltered, and the livelihoods of farmers be restored. This is the spirit of the Indian Constitution, which promises equality, justice, and support to every citizen in times of need.

The natural disasters that have struck Jammu and Kashmir are not just isolated events but warnings for humanity. They remind us of the fragile balance between man and nature, and of our responsibility to protect and respect the environment. They also highlight the urgent need for stronger infrastructure, better preparedness, and greater cooperation between government, civil society, and ordinary citizens. Above all, they teach us that in the face of devastation, unity and compassion are our greatest strengths. The path ahead is not easy, but with collective will, honesty, and determination, Jammu and Kashmir can recover. The people have suffered immensely, but they also carry within them resilience and courage. It is time for all of us, whether in administration, institutions, or as common citizens, to come together and rebuild not just homes and roads, but also the spirit of hope. Only then can we truly honor the lives lost and ensure that the future is safer for generations to come.

The writer is an eminent Dogri Poet/Writer of Jammu and Kashmir

Why are schools open even in dangerous weather?



■ Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

"The question of children's safety versus formality: Amidst dilapidated school buildings, administration's insensitivity and flood-filth, not studies but saving lives is the first priority - why politics of orders even in a disaster?" Calling children and teachers to school in the event of rain and flood is playing with their lives. Dilapidated buildings, dirt, waterlogging and traffic obstructions have already created dangerous conditions. In such a situation, it is more important to focus on the safety of children than on studies. Education is meaningful only when children learn in a safe environment. The government should rise above formalities in times of crisis and immediately declare a holiday, so that possible accidents can be avoided.

The rainy season is considered a time of adventure and play for children, but when this season becomes the cause of floods, dirt and life-risk, then the question arises that how sensitive is our system towards the safety of children and teachers. The decision of not closing schools despite the high alert declared for floods in 18 districts of Haryana recently puts a serious question mark on this sensitivity.

The dilapidated condition of school buildings is not hidden from anyone. In many places, there are cracks in the walls, water drips from the roofs and the floors get wet, inviting accidents. In buildings where studying is difficult on normal days, how can the safety of children and staff be ensured during continuous rains? Many government and rural schools are anyway in a ruinous condition due to lack of repair and maintenance.

The problem of cleanliness is also serious. Dirt, waterlogging and open drains make school premises unhealthy and dangerous. During rainy days, the risk

of mosquitoes and infectious diseases increases. In such a situation, calling children to school is only playing with their lives. Not only this, the transport system gets badly affected due to floods and waterlogging. Children and teachers face great difficulties in reaching school. In many areas, the roads are filled with knee-deep water, somewhere bridges are broken and somewhere rivers are in spate. The daily movement of children in such conditions is only an example of the administration's insensitivity.

The most surprising thing is that the government and the higher authorities do not give orders to close the schools even after knowing it. This decision seems more like a formality than a compulsion - as if by just giving the order, the responsibility has been fulfilled. The question arises that can any formality be more important than the safety of the children? If an accident happens, will this silence and negligence of the administration be forgiven? It is not new to put a temporary halt on the education system in times of disaster and crisis across the world. During the Corona period, schools remained closed for months and education was carried forward through alternative means. When the safety of children was considered paramount during the pandemic, then why is the same sensitivity not shown in the event of floods and natural disasters?

Here it can be argued that schools cannot be closed so that there is no loss of education. But is the importance of education greater than the lives of children and teachers? Education is meaningful only when students and teachers are safe. The decision to conduct studies under wet and crumbling roofs, in water-filled courtyards and in the fear of disease will not be called education, but compulsion and negligence. Actually, the real problem is both our policy and intention. The officials who should take immediate decisions after looking at the local conditions, just keep waiting for orders from the top. And the policy makers sitting at the top usually take decisions on the basis of paper reports and files. The result is that there is a big gap between the ground situation and the government orders.

Today, there is a need for the education department and the disaster management department to formulate a clear policy. It should specify under which circum-

stances schools will be automatically considered closed. For example, when a high alert for floods is issued in a district, when life becomes chaotic due to continuous rain, or when the safety of buildings is doubtful. This will enable lower level officials to take timely decisions and children can be saved from risks.

Along with this, emphasis should also be laid on regular repair and maintenance of school buildings. Leaking roofs and falling walls every monsoon expose the reality of our education system. If we cannot provide safe buildings for children, then the talk of the right to education proves to be hollow.

It is important to pay attention to another aspect. When governments talk of 'smart classes', 'digital education' and 'new education policy', why not resort to online or alternative education in times of disaster? Children's education can be continued without compromising their safety. But unfortunately, instead of such far-sighted steps, only the formality of issuing orders is carried out.

Children are the future of the country—we hear this sentence again and again. But when it comes to securing this future, our system fails the most. Keeping schools open in conditions like rain and floods is like putting the lives of both children and teachers at risk. This is not just insensitivity, but the height of negligence.

Now the time has come for governments to go beyond formalities and actually prioritise the safety of children. Schools should be closed immediately and reopened only when the situation becomes normal. The real purpose of education will be fulfilled only when children study and learn in a safe environment. If even this minimum safety cannot be ensured, then serious questions arise on the education system.

Sensitive governance is one that ensures the safety of its citizens—especially children—in times of crisis. If we fail in this basic responsibility, then all claims of development, education and progress will remain mere empty slogans.

The author is a Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana - 127045.



■ Jaswinder Pal Sharma

In the realm of human interaction, words are often seen merely as tools for conveying information. However, their significance extends far beyond simple communication; they are powerful symbols that shape perceptions, influence emotions, and craft the very essence of our personal brand. The choice of words we use daily acts as a reflection of our personality, values, and worldview, making it a vital component in how others perceive us.

Words as a Reflection of Personality

Every individual has a unique linguistic fingerprint—patterns of vocabulary, tone, and style that reveal facets of their personality. For instance, someone who frequently uses positive, encouraging language projects optimism and approachability. Conversely, a person who often employs precise, formal language may be perceived as professional and authoritative. These subtle cues build a mental image of who we are, often more effectively than our actions alone.

The Role of Words in Personal Branding

Personal branding is about crafting a consistent image that communicates your identity, expertise, and values. Words are the primary tools in this process. They help establish credibility, build trust, and differentiate you from

The Power of Words: Beyond Communication to Branding Your Personality



others. For example:

Tone and Style: Casual language can make you seem approachable and friendly, while technical jargon might

position you as an expert.

Vocabulary Choices: Using inspiring words like "innovative," "passionate," or "dedicated" can reinforce your com-

mitment and enthusiasm.

Consistency: Maintaining a coherent vocabulary across social media, professional interactions, and personal con-

versations helps reinforce your brand identity.

Strategic Word Selection for Impact

Being intentional with your words enhances your personal brand's effectiveness. Consider these strategies:

Authenticity: Use language that genuinely reflects your personality. Authenticity resonates more strongly with others.

Positivity: Words with positive connotations can uplift your image and foster goodwill.

Clarity: Clear, concise language demonstrates confidence and competence.

Empathy: Thoughtful words that acknowledge others' feelings create emotional connections.

Words as Brand Builders in Digital Spaces

In the digital age, your words often serve as your first impression. Crafting your online presence—through social media posts, blogs, and emails—with deliberate language can significantly influence how you're perceived. Consistent messaging and tone reinforce your personal brand and attract aligned opportunities.

Words are not just vehicles for communication; they are the building blocks of your personal brand. Every choice of vocabulary, tone, and style contributes to the larger narrative of who you are and how others see you. By consciously selecting your words, you not only communicate more effectively but also shape a compelling, authentic persona that leaves a lasting impression. Remember, in the art of branding your personality, words are your most powerful brushstrokes.

The author is a SS Master Vpo Waring Khara Tehsil Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib

BOOKS MY BEST FRIENDS

In a world of chaos, books offer hope, healing, and a path back to humanity



■ Mool Raj

There are times when the world feels unbearably heavy. We wake up to news of violence, hatred, and injustice. We hear of people being judged for their race, their gender, their beliefs, or even for simply existing. We see prejudice in many forms around us, sometimes openly, sometimes quietly. In such a world, where can we find peace? For many of us, the answer is simple: in books.

A book is not just a set of pages filled with words. It is an escape, a safe place, and sometimes even a friend. It has the power to lift us out of our immediate surroundings and take us somewhere far away. When the mind is tired and the heart feels restless, opening a book is like opening a window to fresh air. That is why many readers whisper to themselves: "Dear book, take me away, far, far from here." Take me away from cruelty, from prejudice, from endless arguments and divisions. Take me away from the noise of social media, from the constant rush of consumerism, from the pressure to always compete and compare. Take me away from hatred that burns, from greed that destroys, and from the feeling that goodness is slowly disappearing.

Books do something unique. They do not just help us escape reality; they help us believe in a better one. In the middle of despair, a story can remind us that kindness is still possible. A character can show us courage that we may not find around us. A poem can make us pause, breathe, and remember that beauty still exists in the world.

Unlike television or social media, which often bombard us with negativity and speed, books slow us down. They invite us to think, to reflect, and to see the world through

Books are my friends,
my companions. They
make me laugh and cry
and find meaning in life.

another person's eyes. Reading a novel can make us understand struggles that are not ours. Reading history can remind us that humanity has suffered before, and yet survived. Reading fiction can make us imagine worlds where peace and harmony are possible. In this way, books quietly build bridges where politics and power often build walls.

Books also make us gentler. They teach us empathy, patience, and hope. They remind us that human beings are more than just their flaws. A single line in a book can change the way we see life. A single story can inspire us to act with kindness. At the same time, books give us escape. They take us to magical lands, to times long past, or to futures we can only dream of. They show us possibilities beyond the limits of our daily lives. And yet, when we close the book, we return to the world differently. We are not the same person who first opened it. We come back calmer, wiser, and sometimes with a new perspective on our own struggles.

In today's world, reading is not just a pastime; it is a necessity. We

live in a time when anger spreads faster than kindness, when people are quick to judge but slow to listen, when the value of life is often measured in material wealth. To read in such a world is to resist. It is to say: I will not let noise drown out my thoughts. I will not let hatred harden my heart. I will not stop believing that there is still goodness left. This is why protecting and encouraging the culture of reading is so important. Our schools, our families, our communities must keep books alive. Because every page turned is a chance to build understanding. Every story shared is a chance to heal wounds. Every book read is a reminder that even in a cruel world, there is a possibility of compassion.

So, dear book, take me away. Take me away, not to forget the world, but to return to it with new strength. Take me away so I can believe again in kindness, in empathy, in hope. And when I return, let me return with a heart ready to make this world just a little better than before.

The author is a Regular Columnist and Freelance Writer

Education system and the Obligations of Institutions



■ Vijay Garg

What the communication mediums serve daily about the politics of India shows that we have forgotten the extremely important parts of our ancient culture: cultured social behaviour and mercurial ideological expression! Our Tarun and young look at the people whose act and behaviour continue to come before them. It first comes to the selected representative, especially in the parliament, whether or not. The question is whether the Parliament in our country is remaining to get the ability to run smoothly? If so, . Who is responsible for this alarming situation. The question has emerged in the last few decades by becoming a challenge even before teachers across the country to see if we have failed to build personalities that can run Indian democracy in accordance with its fundamental principles and concepts? Everyone takes pride in the Indian knowledge tradition and will not be reluctant to say that India was the leader in implementing the Republic! But any sensitive person will be disappointed to see the present situation! From the beginning, the formula for 'Mahajano Yen Gatea Sa Pantas' was the system of teaching children is currently hunting for confusion and looking for their way. The transmission of proceedings of both Houses of Parliament further upholds this confusion and inaccuracy. If there is a ruckus or unmerited behaviour instead of functioning in Parliament, then such scenes all the country sees again and again. The thoughtful thing is, what effect will it have on the sensitive brain of teenagers and youth? Would it be natural justice if a teenager or young behave like this with his teacher and act on it? People's representatives have all resources and facilities available, but such a teenager or young front, the future blurry constantly deepens. Their engagements and distress should come to the understanding of society and policy determinants. In front of the youth who were ready for the initial understanding of democracy around the year 1960, many favored heroes of freedom struggle were present in the country at that time. Their renunciation, austerity and service were eligible to become the abuses of history and also became. There is no need to say something on how much they are 'Mahajan' and in what position they are, with ideal and ethic conduct before today's youth, they hide in new generation of conduct and behavior covered with ever-increasing brightness of time and order, or are pushed back. Leaders declared criminals by the court also stay connected to their political party and keep pretending to keep putting their

energy in changing the direction of the country's siasat. The act of putting on such leaders often is not able to make arrangements. Many times people with criminal backgrounds remain savior for decades of political parties. Some doctors go to inconvenient hospitals and teachers in rural schools for two-three days on duty and sit-in with district level officials and make full attendance throughout the week. In schools, news of the trend of 'Evji Teacher' has been coming for many decades. Undoubtedly, India has earned its youth a big name on the global panel from profanity and medha, while its possibly 30-35% of school is expected Running at level, rest Ram is trust. State governments are busy with other priorities. There are about ten lakh approved posts vacant in government schools. The arrangement does not show any concern regarding this. So bright private schools are available for policy makers and those who implement them.

The challenges of education may not be different from the challenges emerging before the nation. It's a great pleasure to have you. What concept of democracy does it nurture that a universal nation decides what to buy from which country for India? i.e. Globally Zamindari which the masters of colonialism had assumed the God-given 'responsibility' and equipped themselves to The He had taken the responsibility of 'deliverance of ruggies', that 'right' is still not found out his thinking. Some people are not willing to leave the indomitable desire of 'superiority over other my birthright'. America and western countries keep selling or giving their created weapons to Ukraine, keep on fulfilling their selfishness in fighting that country and accuse India that it is promoting war because of oil procurement from Russia! In such a situation, it is necessary to empower national unity and to appear before the world, to honor the country. The country takes pride in Indian culture and rites, dreams of becoming a 'world guru' again, but even today in many places, some people are unable to bear to sit on the mare on the occasion of the marriage of a Dalit groom. Whether thinking is of US President Donald Trump or of this (ex) landlord of the village, there is no difference between the two. This rationality is now taking a generation-to-generation appearance in political families. If it is seen rising above the politics of the side-opposition for a while, it will be clear that this time only one expects from any Indian to strongly support the policy of not bowing down to the US of the Government of India, no matter how dissatisfied it is to the government. When military action took place against Pakistan, all the country together revealed contentment to him, the army's courage and preparation was praised by the Bhuri-Bhuri. However, even in this national expression, some people did not escape their actions, they kept raising questions which, not only the government, but also create disbelief on the army.

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The Procrastination

The Silent Thief of Time and Productivity



■ Surinderpal Singh

Procrastination is a universal human behavior which is often described as the intentional delay of tasks despite knowing about the potential negative consequences. The word procrastination is derived from the Latin word procrastinare that means –“to put off until tomorrow” –this tendency is not merely laziness, but a complex interaction of psychology, neurology and social influences. In the recent decades, medical and psychological sciences have begun to recognize procrastination not just as a habit but as a form of self-regulation failure with significant consequences for health, productivity and well-being.

The Science of Procrastination

From a neurological perspective procrastination arises from a conflict that arises between the two brain regions: the limbic system, which seeks immediate pleasure after completion of the task and it also avoids discomfort after the missed deadlines and the prefrontal cortex is responsible for rational planning and creation of the long-term goals. When the limbic system dominates individuals postpone tasks that seem effortful or unpleasant in favor of short-term gratification.

Psychologically procrastination is linked to traits such as perfectionism, fear of failure, low self-esteem and difficulty managing time.

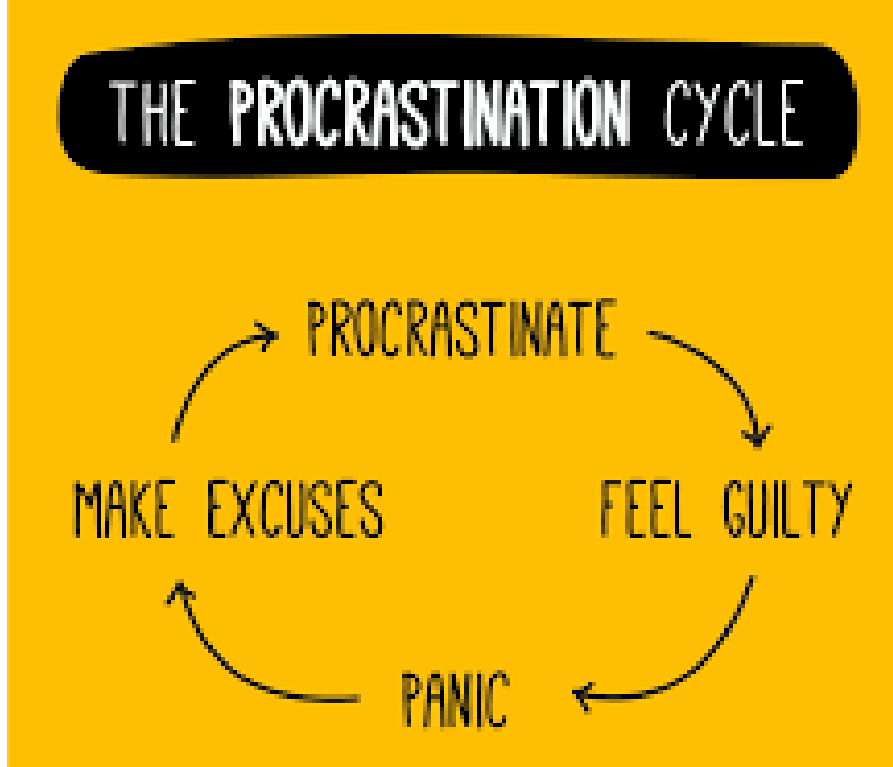
Researchers have classified it into two broad types:

- 1. Active procrastination** – where individuals deliberately delay the task but eventually complete them under immense pressure.
- 2. Passive procrastination** – where tasks are repeatedly delayed without successful completion, often leading to stress and missed deadlines.

Medical and Psychological Consequences

Chronic procrastination has been associated with increased stress levels, anxiety attacks and depression. Studies across the globe has showed that it could negatively impacts the sleep patterns, increases susceptibility to lifestyle diseases due to poor self-care and contributes to reduced academic and workplace performance. Physiologically, the stress caused by constant delay elevates cortisol levels which can weaken immunity and affect cardiovascular health.

Pros of Procrastination



Surprisingly, procrastination is not entirely negative.

- 1. Creative incubation:**
Some individuals generate better ideas when they delay in completion of the assigned tasks as their subconscious mind continues processing the task.
- 2. Pressure-driven productivity:**
Certain people have the natural tendency to work more efficiently under deadlines and under such pressure situations they could produce high-quality output in shorter time spans.
- 3. Prioritization tool:**
By delaying less urgent tasks individuals may inadvertently focus on what truly matters and requires immediate attention.

Cons of Procrastination
However, the disadvantages generally outweigh the benefits of procrastination:

- 1. Decreased efficiency:**
Constant delays in essential tasks could lead to rushed, lower-quality work which could be rejected by the society.
- 2. Mental health burden:**
Guilt, stress and anxiety starts accumulating after the missed deadlines for the essential tasks resulting in creation of a cycle of avoidance.
- 3. Lost opportunities:**
Chronic procrastinators may miss deadlines for education, career or personal growth.
- 4. Physical health risks:**
Neglecting exercise, medical check-ups or healthy routines due to delay can have long-term and fatal consequences.

Social and Psychological Changes Needed
To counter the issue of the procrastination,

both individual and societal shifts are essential:

- 1. Psychological Interventions:**
Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) can help individuals reframe from negative thinking and in reducing the habit of avoiding essential tasks. Mindfulness practices such as meditation can help in improving the ability to focus and reduce the impulsive drive for instant gratification. Time-management training could encourage an individual about the positives of realistic planning and gradual progress.
 - 2. Social Adjustments:**
Educational reforms should include special training in self-discipline, task planning and emotional resilience. Workplace policies can reduce procrastination by promoting supportive environments, flexible deadlines and reward systems. Digital well-being tools such as app blockers and focus reminders can help manage distractions in a technology-driven age.
- Procrastination is more than a casual habit of delaying tasks rather it is a scientifically recognized challenge with psychological, medical and social consequences. While it occasionally fuels creativity, its long-term effects can erode health, success and self-confidence. Addressing procrastination requires a combination of personal discipline, therapeutic intervention and societal support. In a world that is defined by productivity and efficiency of the individuals, understanding and countering procrastination is essential for individual well-being and collective progress of the society.

The author is a Faculty in Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib Punjab

National Nutrition Week: A Call to Embrace Millets for a Healthier India



■ Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

As India marks National Nutrition Week from September 1st to 7th, under the theme “Eat Right for a Better Life,” I find myself reflecting on a critical paradox. While our nation has made great strides in food production, we are still battling an unseen crisis of malnutrition. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024 classifying our hunger situation as “serious.” This data shows me that our problem isn’t just a lack of calories; it’s a deficiency of essential nutrients. In my work as a food scientist, I’ve come to believe that the key to creating a truly healthy and sustainable food system lies in returning to our agricultural roots: the humble millet.

In my view, the decline of millets from our national diet was a critical turning point. Following the Green Revolution, our agricultural focus shifted dramatically to high-yield, water-intensive crops like rice and wheat. This move, while successful in achieving food self-sufficiency, led to a dangerous lack of variety in our diets. We abandoned the rich diversity of our native grains for a narrow range of starches. My research confirms what our elders always knew: millets are a nutritional powerhouse. They are packed with protein, dietary fibre, and essential minerals such as iron, calcium, and zinc, which are crucial for combating common deficiencies like anaemia and bone density issues. Their low glycemic index makes them a valuable food for managing diabetes, and their naturally gluten-free nature makes them suitable for an increasing number of people with dietary sensitivities.

Beyond their health benefits, millets also offer a compelling environmental and agricultural solution. They are rightly called “climate-smart crops” because they are remarkably resilient. Compared to rice, which demands thousands of litres of water per kilogram, millets require significantly less, making them ideal for dry regions and a smart way to manage our water resources. Furthermore, their deep root systems help prevent soil erosion and improve soil health, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides. By bringing millets back, we are not just addressing a nutritional crisis; we are also building a more resilient and sustainable farming landscape that can adapt to the unpredictable effects of climate change.

Despite this clear potential, millets face significant hurdles. From a scientific and practical perspective, I see that farmers lack assured market prices and struggle with the high effort required for post-harvest processing. The tough outer hull of millets demands specific machinery, which is often expensive and hard for small-scale farmers to get. On



the consumer side, there’s a persistent lack of awareness, particularly in urban areas, and the higher cost of processed millet products compared to staple grains like rice and wheat presents a barrier to adoption.

To truly make millets a part of our national diet, we must look to science for a new approach. My own work and that of my team have shown that millets can be transformed from a simple grain into high-value functional foods. For instance, we use advanced analytical tools to perform bioactive profiling of millets, identifying specific anti-inflammatory or anti-cancer compounds. This allows us to move beyond a general health food and create specialized nutritional products. I have personally been involved in developing healthy snacks that blend millets with other traditional foods, such as my work in creating nutri-bars from millet and makhana (foxnut). We’ve also explored updating traditional methods, for example, by creating probiotic-fortified fermented millet drinks. This kind of innovation, which creates convenient, scientifically-backed, and appealing products, is essential for winning over the modern consumer.

Beyond the lab, these innovations must be supported by a comprehensive plan. We must continue to push for the integration of millets into public welfare schemes, as this creates a strong, stable demand. At the same time, we need to invest in making processing technology more widely available and helping companies bring new products to market. It is my firm belief that with the right combination of scientific innovation, smart policy, and a new appreciation for our agricultural heritage, we can build a food system that is both healthy for our people and strong for our planet.

This National Nutrition Week, let millets be more than just a passing trend. Let them be a powerful symbol of our shared effort to build a healthier, more prosperous India for generations to come.

Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai is the Vice-Chancellor of BRA Bihar University in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India. A distinguished academic and leading food scientist, his expertise and leadership continue to shape advancements in food science and nutrition, particularly in the context of public health and rural development.
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از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار واگورہ

عنوان درخواست محتاجب مسامتہ ثارہ نگیم زوجہ مرحوم غلام نبی شاہ سائیکہ
موضع و ترگرام تحصیل واگورہ ضلع بارہمولہ ب مراد نسبت
(Dependent certificate)

استہار بمسرا د آگاہی

بلد مندرجہ الصبر میرس کاغزات درخواست سامر کز دفتر ہزار میں زیر سماعت ہیں ۔
اس سلسلے میں رپورٹ پٹواری طالب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے۔ کہ سائیکہ کا پیر
مظفر احمد شاہ ولد غلام نبی شاہ موضع و ترگرام میں تا معلوم افراد نے مرخہ 12/05/1998
بلاک کیا ہے اور درخواست دہندہ عرصہ دراز سے جدوجہد کو پیش کو منتہا رکھتی ہے۔ سائیکہ
مرکور کور کا مستقل باشندہ ہے سائیکہ کا نسبہ زیر افراد پر مشتمل ہے

۱۔ ثارہ نگیم زوجہ مرحوم غلام نبی شاہ زوجہ موتی ۸۵ سال
۲۔ شریفہ نگیم زوجہ غلام نبی شاہ ۶۵ سال // شادی سہ
۳۔ محمد ایوب شاہ ولد غلام نبی شاہ پیر ۶۰ سال زمینداری
۴۔ چاہوید احمد شاہ ولد غلام نبی شاہ پیر ۵۵ سال زمینداری
۵۔ نجیہ نگیم دختر موتی ۵۵ سال گھر یلو کام
۶۔ افروزہ نگیم دختر موتی ۴۳ سال گھر یلو کام
۷۔ انجیز احمد شاہ ولد غلام نبی شاہ پیر موتی ۴۳ سال زمینداری

اس طور کنیکل (7) افراد پیش طابق پورٹ پٹواری مندرجہ افراد میں سے معاہدہ کوئی
وارثان یا زمینیں ہے۔ پینڈنٹ سرٹیفیکٹ پر پیشا ہر اور نے منہی کرکے عیاں نہیں، کو کو کوئی
عزیز یا عزیزاں وود یا پتر یا عزیزاں ساجھ دن کے اندر پیش کرے معاہدہ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عزیم
اعتراض قبول میں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار واگورہ

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

Subject: Application of Waheed Hassan Bhat S/O Ghulam Hassan Bhat R/O Kawarigam, Tehsil & District Anantnag for issuance of RBA Certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context a report was sought from the concerned Patwari Halqa. The report reveals that the applicant belongs to the family of Waheed Hassan Bhat S/O Ghulam Hassan Bhat R/O Kawarigam, Tehsil & District Anantnag consisting of the following members:

- Ghulam Hassan Bhat, 64 years, Father, Labourer – Other Sources: ₹50,000/-
- Haleema Bano, 59 years, Mother, Housewife – Nil
- Mohd Arif Bhat, 30 years, Brother, Labourer – Monthly Income: ₹8,000/-
- Tora Jan, 55 years, Mother (Step), Housewife – Nil
- Waheed Hassan Bhat, 20 years, Self, Student – Nil
- Khulsboo Hassan, 20 years, Sister – Nil

The total annual income of the family from all sources (Agriculture / Horticulture / Rental Shops / Houses etc.) is ₹1,46,000 (One Lakh Forty-Six Thousand only).

The applicant has applied for issuance of RBA Certificate. If anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Achabal within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

By Order
Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

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Public Notice

I, Aanisa Jan, D/o Bilal Ahmad Bhat, R/o Kawarigam, Tehsil & District Anantnag, hereby declare that I am applying for an RBA (Reserved Backward Area) Certificate.

My family details are as follows:

S. No.	Name of Family Member	Relation	Age	Occupation	Monthly Income
1	Bilal Ahmad Bhat	Father	45	Labour (Mazdoori)	₹7,000
2	Sherza Bano	Mother	40	Housewife	—
3	Aanisa Jan	Self	16	Student	—
4	Maria Jan	Sister	10	Student	—
5	Aalan Bilal	Brother	6	Student	—

Total Monthly Family Income: ₹8,000
Total Annual Family Income: ₹1,24,000

If anyone has any objection regarding the issuance of the RBA certificate in my favour, they may contact the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that period, no objections shall be entertained.

Applicant: Aanisa Jan
Father's Name: Bilal Ahmad Bhat
Address: Kawarigam, Tehsil & District Anantnag

Public Notice

Whereas, Ishrat Ali D/o Ali Mohammad Rather R/o Neelipora, Tehsil Handwara, District Kupwara has claimed that her name is incorrectly recorded as Ishrat Ali Rather instead of the correct name, Ishrat Ali in her UG and PG pass certificates issued by the University of Kashmir under Registration No: 14952-HD-2015.

Now, she intends to apply for a correction in her pass certificates (U.G., P.G.). Objections, if any, may be submitted to the University of Kashmir within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora

Subject: Application of SARA BEGUM W/O LATE GHULAM NABI SHAH R/O WATERGAM WAGOORA for the issuance of Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MUZAFFAR AHMAD SHAH /O GHULAM NABI SHAH R.O WATERGAM has passed away on 12/05/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below:

- 1... SARA BEGUM W/O late GH NABI SHAH wife 85 years House wife
- 2...SHAREEFA BEGUM.D/O GH NABI SHAH daughter 65 years married
- 3...MOHD AYOOB SHAH son 60 years Farmer
- 4...JAVID AHMAD SHAH son 57 years Farmer
- 5...NAYEEMA BEGUM daughter 50 years H/W
- 6...AFROOZA BEGUM daughter 47 years H/W
- 7....AIJAZ AHMAD SHAH son 44 years Farmer

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Naib Tehsildar Wagoora

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my husband name MUZAFFER MOHAMMAD KHAN S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN R/O LAWAYPORA .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0206050011815 wants to be registered on my name AFROOZA W/O LATE MUZAFFAR AHMAD KHAN R/O LAWAYPORA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....AFROOZA
W/O ... LATE MUZAFFAR AHMAD KHAN
Division.... BUDGAM
Sub division.... NARBAL

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I, Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo, son of Abdul Gani Dagroo, resident of Kalantra Bala, have noticed an error in the school records of my children. Their caste has been incorrectly recorded as "Malla" instead of the correct caste, "Dagroo". I now wish to correct the names and caste of my children in the school records. The correct details are as follows:

- Faizan Bin Ramzan
S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
- Nadim Ramzan Dagroo
S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
- Owais Ahmad Dagroo S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
- Ishraq Ramzan Dagroo S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo

If any person has any objections to this correction, they may file their objections with the Headmaster, Govt. Middle School Kalantra Bala, or the Zonal Educational Officer, Chandoosa, within seven days of the publication of this notice.

Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
S/o Abdul Gani Dagroo
R/o Kalantra Bala, Tehsil Kreeeri,
Distt. Baramulla, J&K

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh pesticides and Frertiliser under the name M/S AGROPULSE Pesticides & Frertilisers situated at Sadat pora Naidkhi, Bandipora, In this regard, if anybody is having any objection, may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora and PPO Lal Mandi, Srinagar, within the time period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

IMTIYAZ AHMAD HURRA
S/O: ABDUL KHALIQ HURRA
Contact: 6006131314

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh pesticides and Fertilizers license under the name M/S Pure Yield Agro Solutions (Pesticides & Fertilizers) situated at Gosh Bugh Pattan, In this regard, if anybody is having any objection, may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and PPO, Lal Mandi Srinagar, within the time period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

NAZIR AHMAD HURRA
S/O: BASHIR AHMAD HURRA
Contact: 7889380661

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as SYED RUQIYA BUKHARI D/O SYED ATTEQULLAH on my Aadhar card while my correct name is RUQIA AKHTER D/O SYED ATTUQULLAH BUKHARI as per school record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Aadhar authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.....RUQIA AKHTER , D/O SYED ATTUQULLAH BUKHARI , R/O ...KREERI , Distt..... BARAMULLA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Principal Government Degree College Qazigund

No. GDC/QZD/25/254 | Date: 30/08/2025

Tender for Running College Canteen 2025-26 | e-NIT No:-GDC/QZD/25/1 | Dated: 30/08/2025

Subject: Invitation of e-Tenders for Running the Canteen at Govt. Degree College Qazigund.

On behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders under two cover system are invited through Principal Govt. Degree College Qazigund from interested parties viz. Reputed Canteen Vendors/firms/contractors for running the college canteen for the session 2025-26from the date of award of the contract.

Name of the work	Tender Fee	EMD
Running of College Canteen	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 5000/-

The Tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, and detailed terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of the dates given below:-

Name of the Work: Running of College canteen within the college premises

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	30-08-2025
02	Period of downloading of Tender Document	From 30-08-2025 to 08-09-2025 up to 6 pm
03	Bid Submission Start Date	30-08-2025 from 7 pm
04	Bid Submission End Date	08-09-2025 up to 4 pm
05	Date of opening of Technical Bid (In case of holiday the Bid shall be opened on Next Day)	09-09-2025 after 10 am

Sd/- Principal
Govt Degree College Qazigund

DIPK: 5844/25 | Dated: 02-09-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT NO 630F R&B/Anantnag/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/5830-39 | Dated: 01-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	Class
1.	Construction of 03 ACR's 18x16 at Middle School Aung SSA.	52.78 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 44.73 + (18% GST Amount 8.05)	1600	105560/-	01 Working Season	AAY Class Only
2.	Construction of three Seated Lavatory Block at Girls Middle School Donipawa.	7.63 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 6.47 + (18% GST Amount 1.16)	300	15260/-	120 Days	CEE, DEE Class & MSME's Only

Major Head of Account: Capex Budget (Elementary Education) 2025-26

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Anantnag.

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Order No. 130 –DDCA of 2025, Dated 29.07.2025.

Position of TS: Accorded vide Order No. SEA(R&B) 30 of 2025-26, Dated 27.08.2025. and Order No. 01/RnB-Ang/DC-Edu/25-26, Dated 01.09.2025.

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms-and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		01-09-2025	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	01-09-2025	(04:00 PM)
		To	08-09-2025	(04:30 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	01-09-2025	(04:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	08-09-2025	(04:30 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)		09-09-2025	(11:00 AM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.		

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD{CDR/FDR/BG} should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. Note:a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs500/- whichever is lower.

b. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower

4. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

5. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

6. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

Sd/- (Er. Syed Ishfaq Ahmad)
Executive Engineer, R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK: 5799/25 | Dated: 02-09-2025

DC Budgam holds public darbar at Khag

Reiterates commitment to address public grievances at grassroots level

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today held a public interaction programme (Public Darbar) at Tehsil Office Khag.

While interacting with the large gathering, DC said that holding such public outreach programmes is aimed at bringing the administration at the doorsteps of the people.

He stressed that the basic motive is to listen to the day-to-day issues of the common citizens and ensure that their genuine demands including drinking water, electricity supply, road connectivity, irrigation facilities and healthcare are addressed on priority.

DC assured that the admin-

istration is fully committed to provide better services to the people, adding that sustained efforts are being made to improve essential amenities across all areas. He emphasized that public darbars not only bridge the gap between people and government but also create a platform for participatory governance.

On the occasion, locals from adjacent areas of Shunglipora, Drung, Lassipora, Khapora, Nas-erpora, Sugan, Zoogyari, Mal-pora, Khag, Bathipora Sitharan, and Hamchipora, also participated and put forth their demands before the district administration. Multiple demands were raised including construction and up-gradation of Sitharan-Khag main road, establishment of irrigation facilities, receiving station at Khag, augmentation of health



infrastructure including PHC, and development of playgrounds for youth.

Responding to the demands, DC directed concerned officers to take up the works on priority and ensure execution in a time-bound manner.

He particularly stressed on the immediate development of playgrounds in every panchayat, observing that "youth are our future and we need to strengthen them by engaging them in recreational and productive activities."

He added that creating avenues for sports and recreation will help keep the younger generation away from the menace of drugs and other social evils.

Dr Bilal urged parents and elders to remain vigilant and guide their children to stay away

from the menace of drugs, as-uring that the district admin-istration will continue to work tirelessly for a drug-free and progressive Budgam

The DC reiterated that the district administration is working with a vision of holistic development, with equal focus on infrastructure creation, social welfare and youth empowerment.

He called upon locals to extend cooperation in government initiatives and assured that no genuine grievance will go unheeded.

The public interaction programme was attended by CPO Budgam, SDM Beerwah, Tehsildar Khag, BDO Khag and other district and sectoral officers, who also took note of area-specific issues projected by the public.

ICMR-DHR sponsored Research Methodology Workshop commences at GMC Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 02: Multidisciplinary Research Unit (MRU) of the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar today inaugurated a three-day Research Methodology Workshop, sponsored by the Indian Council of Medical Research - Department of Health Research (ICMR-DHR).

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan, Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar, and Prof. Sabhiya Majid, Nodal Officer, MRU.

In her address, Prof. Iffat Hassan Shah lauded the MRU's pivotal role in strengthening the research ecosystem at GMC Srinagar. She highlighted that in March 2025, the MRU was recognized by the Department of Health Research as one of the best-performing units nationwide.

She further underlined the significance of the unit's academic collaboration with the ICMR-Collaborating Centre of Excellence (CCoE), St. John's Research Institute, Bengaluru, under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Prem Kumar Mony, which continues to provide robust academic and technical support.

The workshop has drawn eminent experts from GMC Srinagar, St. John's Research Institute Bengaluru, ICMR-DHR New Delhi, and faculty from leading medical colleges of the North Zone, including GMC Patiala, GMC Chandigarh, and Guru Gobind Singh Medical College Faridkot.



The inaugural function was also attended by senior officials, including Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator; Tahleela Asmat, Financial Advisor; Prof. Salim Itoo, Deputy Registrar Academic, and Shabir Ahmad, Deputy Director Planning, who appreciated the initiative and assured institutional support for promoting a culture of research.

Over the next three days, the workshop will cover research design, biostatistics, ethics in health research, and critical appraisal of scientific literature, aiming to build research capacity among faculty and young scholars for undertaking high-quality, evidence-based studies.

The sessions will be led by renowned experts, including Prof. (Dr.) Prem Mony, MD - Vice-Dean, St. John's Research Institute; Professor of Epidemiology & Population Health; Joint Director, ICMR-CCoE, St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences; Prof. (Dr.) Tinku Thomas, MSc, PhD - Professor of Biostatistics, St. John's Research Institute; Dr. Sumithra Selvam, MSc, PhD - Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, St. John's Research Institute; Dr. Deepika - Scientist C, Department of Health Research, MoHFW, Government of India; Sunil Pant - Finance Manager, Department of Health Research, MoHFW, Government of India; Dr. Tanu Anand - Scientist E&MRU/ MRHRU Nodal Officer, Division of Development Research, ICMR Headquarters; Prof. (Dr.) S. M. Salim Khan - President, J&K Medical Council.

DC conducts extensive tour of Bandipora tehsil, inspects institutions and public facilities

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today undertook a comprehensive tour of Bandipora Tehsil to assess the functioning of various key institutions and public facilities.

The visit commenced with an

inspection of the Block Medical Office Bandipora and the District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC). CMO and BMO were directed to manage the office in a manner that ensures the timely availability of medicinal supplies.

DC also visited the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) and Polytechnic College Bandipora to

review the training infrastructure and facilities available for students. During interaction with the staff, she underlined the importance of strengthening skill development initiatives to empower youth with industry-relevant competencies. She emphasized that merely offering diploma or certificate courses without practical expo-

sure would not serve the purpose.

Later, DC inspected the Auditorium at Kaloosa and took stock of the amenities available for public events and cultural programmes. She instructed the concerned officials to ensure regular maintenance and effective utilization of the facility for community-centric activities.

The visit also included an inspection of the Dak Bungalow at Ayathmulla, where DC reviewed the infrastructure from the perspective of necessary repairs. It was observed that, to ensure optimal use of such buildings, a strategy for introducing a pay-and-use model needs to be adopted.

DDC Rajouri reviews restoration of Water Supply Schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, SEP 2: District Development Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting here at Dak Bungalow to assess the restoration of water supply Schemes.

During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the need to set up public stand posts in worst affected areas to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply to the public. He also reviewed the water supply issues caused by power disruptions and directed the concerned officers to submit a list of affected areas to the Executive Engineer, PDD, for ensuring scheduled pumping operations.

Furthermore, the DDC conducted a scheme-wise review of all ongoing projects under JJM. He directed the ADC Kalakote to conduct an enquiry into the Jigni scheme and sort out issues delaying the allotment at Bhawani A Panchayat. He noted that pump rooms for nine schemes are still pending and instructed the officers to expedite their completion.

In addition, the DC directed all ADCs and SDMs to personally inspect the progress of JJM works in their respective jurisdictions at least once every fortnight to expedite the execution. He further emphasized resolving minor issues hindering the schemes nearing completion. He further directed to get all completed schemes



certified by Gram Sabhas.

The meeting was attended by ADC Chander Prakash; ADC Kalakote Tanvir Ahmed; ADC Kotranka Dilmir Choudhary; ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa; SDM Thanamandi Abid

Hussain; SE PWD Tilak Raj Sharma; Ex En PDD Abdul Rasheed; Ex En PWD Rajouri Aftab Anwar; Ex En PWD Nowshera Sarwar Mehmood and other district and sectoral officers.

DDC Rajouri reviews restoration of Water Supply Schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, SEP 2: District Development Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting here at Dak Bungalow to assess the restoration of water supply Schemes.

During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the need to set up public stand posts in worst affected areas to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply to the public. He also reviewed the water supply issues caused by power disruptions and directed the concerned officers to submit a list of affected areas to the Executive Engineer, PDD, for ensuring scheduled pumping operations.

Furthermore, the DDC conducted a scheme-wise review of all ongoing projects under JJM. He directed the ADC Kalakote to conduct an enquiry into the Jigni scheme and sort out issues delaying the allotment at Bhawani A Panchayat. He noted that pump rooms for nine schemes are still pending and instructed the officers to expedite their completion.

In addition, the DC directed all ADCs and SDMs to personally inspect the progress of JJM works in their respective jurisdictions at least once every fortnight to expedite the execution. He further emphasized resolving minor issues hindering the schemes nearing completion. He further directed to get all completed schemes certified by Gram Sabhas.

The meeting was attended by ADC Chander Prakash; ADC Kalakote Tanvir Ahmed; ADC Kotranka Dilmir Choudhary; ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa; SDM Thanamandi Abid Hussain; SE PWD Tilak Raj Sharma; Ex En PDD Abdul Rasheed; Ex En PWD Rajouri Aftab Anwar; Ex En PWD Nowshera Sarwar Mehmood and other district and sectoral officers.

JMC launches intensive cleanliness, relief operations post heavy rains

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 2: Jammu city has witnessed unprecedented damage due to the recent spell of heavy rains, leaving several parts of the city waterlogged and the residents distressed.

The incessant downpour has particularly affected low-lying areas, where water mixed with heavy silt and debris entered homes, causing severe inconvenience and damage to property.

In the emerging situation, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has immediately swung into action, deploying teams headed by nodal officers including Transport officers and sanitation officers with prime focus on flood hit areas by pressing additional machinery into service to address the crisis.

To increase the manpower for restoration works, as many as 200 extra Nallah labours were hired on emergency basis for muck cleaning and sanitation works.

Massive cleanliness drives are being undertaken at a war footing to clear the accumulated mud and debris from the affected areas.



Along with the mobilization of available machinery, extra machinery was hired to combat this situation.

Prominent among the worst-hit localities are Peer Ko, Gorakh Nagar, Rajendra Nagar and Gujjar Nagar, where operations are on round-the-clock to restore normal living conditions. Some of the areas of Gujjar Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, Sangrampur were cleared and work on other areas is in progress on fast track basis.

The overflow of the Tawi River has further aggravated the situation, inundating its adjoining areas and leading to substantial damage to infrastructure and residential premises. To counter this, Dr. Devansh Yadav Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation has issued strict instructions to all departments to expedite the cleaning process, restore essential services and provide immediate relief to the residents. He is personally visiting the spots and

monitoring the ground level situation.

Large mounds of mud and debris are being removed with the help of heavy earth-moving machinery, including JCBs, while field teams continue to manually clear clogged lanes and drains. Special focus is being laid on the restoration of water supply, with water being distributed through tankers on a ward-to-ward, community-based system to ensure uninterrupted access to drinking water

for the citizens.

In addition to sanitation and water restoration, the continuous rains have also disrupted electricity supply in several pockets of the city. The JMC is working in coordination with the concerned departments to expedite the repair and restoration work to minimize inconvenience to the public.

Given the risk of waterborne and vector-borne diseases in the aftermath of such flooding, Dr. Devansh Yadav has appealed to residents to cooperate with the ongoing operations, maintain cleanliness in their surroundings and avoid consumption of untreated or contaminated water. Awareness measures are also being intensified to prevent any outbreak of diseases such as dengue, malaria and cholera.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation reassures all residents that every possible step is being taken to bring the city back to normalcy at the earliest. Continuous monitoring of the situation is being carried out and emergency response teams are on high alert to address any emerging needs.



India's emerging as global leader of sustainability: Piyush Goyal

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEPT 2: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal today said India has emerged as one of the best-performing G20 nations in meeting sustainability commitments, with renewable energy capacity surging and global partnerships expanding.

Speaking at CII's 20th Global Sustainability Summit in the Capital, Goyal credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership with putting sustainability at the heart of India's growth journey. "Without Prime Minister Modi's decisive role, COP21 may not have been a success. He brought the Global South together to make sustainability a shared responsibility," he remarked.

Highlighting India's achievements, Goyal said the country had

already installed 50 percent renewable energy capacity, well ahead of schedule, and was on course to achieve 500 GW by 2030.

"India now offers round-the-clock renewable power at globally unmatched rates, around Rs4.60-Rs5.00 per kWh," he said, adding that transparent bidding had cut solar tariffs drastically over the last decade.

The Minister said India's economic strength and resilience were rooted in sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity. He pointed to the success of the UJALA scheme and urged startups to innovate in areas such as energy efficiency, water harvesting, and waste management. "The Prime Minister's mantra of Zero Defect, Zero Effect is our commitment to quality and sustainability," he said.

Calling India the fastest-grow-



ing large economy, Goyal said the country's 7.8 percent GDP growth in Q1 FY26 reflected the collective resolve of 1.4 billion people. "With India contributing 18 percent to global growth and soon to be the world's third-largest economy, we engage with the world from

a position of strength," he added.

On trade, the Minister noted that India was expanding its footprint through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with partners including the UAE, UK, EFTA bloc and Mauritius, while talks were ongoing with the EU, Chile, Peru,

New Zealand, and Oman. "We are also in dialogue with the United States for a bilateral trade agreement," he said.

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is a pact between two or more countries to reduce or eliminate tariffs, quotas and other trade barriers, making it easier and cheaper to trade goods and services between them.

Criticising developed nations for failing to deliver on their Paris commitments, Goyal said India would continue to lead by example.

"The developed world has let us down badly on financial commitments. Yet India's future is safe, secure, and resilient because it rests on sustainability, high quality, cost competitiveness, and inclusive growth that reaches the last man at the bottom of the pyramid," he asserted. UNI

Bhutan PM to visit Gaya, Ayodhya during India visit; meet EAM in Delhi

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 2: Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and his wife Tashi Doma will be on a visit to India from September 3-6, during which they will visit Gaya and Ayodhya, before coming to Delhi.

They will arrive in New Delhi on Friday evening, when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will call on them. They depart for home on Saturday.

In Bihar, the Bhutanese PM will visit Rajgir,



Nalanda on September 3-4. The Bhutanese PM and the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar are to inaugurate the Royal Bhutanese Monastery in Rajgir on September 4, commemorating the Golden Jubilee of bilateral relations.

He is to visit Ayodhya on September 5, and visit the Ram Temple and offer prayers. The Ayodhya administration has beefed up security around the Ram Janmabhoomi temple complex to ensure security.

The King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk had visited the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj in February this year and taken a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam and offered prayers. He was accompanied by the UP CM Yogi Adityanath during his visit. UNI

Trump calls Chicago 'murder capital of the world'

■ United News of India

WASHINGTON, SEPT 2: US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that Chicago is the world's most criminal city in terms of murders.

"CHICAGO IS THE MURDER CAPITAL OF THE WORLD!" Trump wrote on Truth Social.

He added in another post that at least 54 people were shot in Chicago over the weekend, and eight people were killed, which is "similar" to the last two weekends.

"Chicago is the worst and most dangerous city in the World, by far. [Illinois Governor JB] Pritzker needs help badly, he just doesn't know it yet. I will solve the crime problem fast, just like I did in DC. Chicago will be safe again, and soon," Trump said.

Earlier in the day, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that Trump would deliver an "exciting" statement related to the Pentagon on Tuesday.

On Monday, CNN reported that Chicago was expecting a significant surge in federal agents roaming its streets as the Trump administration is reportedly set to launch an immigration crackdown in the upcoming days.

The planned crackdown would be carried out by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, Border Patrol officers, and potentially members of the National Guard, the report said, citing sources with knowledge on the matter. The deployment could happen by Friday and might include armored vehicles, the report added. (UNI)

In 'Reverse Trap', CBI apprehends two for attempting to bribe GST officer with Rs 22 Lakh

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEPT 2: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) today said they had arrested two people for offering and paying a bribe of Rs 22 lakh to a Superintendent of the GST Intelligence Directorate.

A senior CBI official said the accused were identified as Ram Sevak Singh and Sachin Kumar Gupta.

"The case began when the GST Superintendent, who was conducting a probe into alleged tax evasion by several online companies, was approached by the accused. They allegedly offered him the bribe in exchange for favours in the ongoing investigation," said the official.

"Demonstrating exemplary integrity, the officer immediately rejected the illicit offer and reported the matter to the CBI. The CBI devised a meticulous 'reverse trap' operation—a strategy where the complainant official acts as the bait to catch the bribe-givers red-handed," said the



official

The official further said the plan was successfully executed, leading to the apprehension of Singh and Gupta as they were handing over the bribe amount of Rs 22 lakh to the officer.

Following the arrests, the CBI initiated extensive searches at multiple locations linked to the accused in Delhi and other cities. These raids are aimed at gathering further evidence related to the bribery attempt and

the larger tax evasion case that prompted it.

This operation highlights a growing trend of using reverse traps to target corruption at its source—the bribe-givers. It also serves as a strong warning that attempts to subvert the law by bribing public servants will be met with strict legal action.

The CBI has commended the GST officer's conduct, stating that such acts of probity are crucial in the nation's fight against corruption. UNI

Export obligations timeframe for QCO products extended to 18 mnths

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEPT 2: The Government today said that it has extended the export obligation period from existing six months to 18 months for quality control orders (QCO) products notified by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) under advance authorization.

Stating that the chemical industry has warmly received the decision by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) in a statement said that the time frame offers a substantial buffer to the

industry.

Products covered under a QCO must bear the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Standard Mark, which is obtained by obtaining a BIS license or certificate of conformity (CoC).

"This follows a similar adjustment for QCOs notified by other ministries, such as textiles, where the period was also extended to 18 months. This measure extends essential support and flexibility to exporters dealing with chemicals and petrochemicals across India. The move is poised to simplify trade processes and elevate the global market edge of Indian goods," said the statement.



Through the Advance Authorization Scheme, importers can

bring in duty-free raw materials for export production without

adhering to QCOs for those inputs, ensuring a steady flow of export operations. A significant number of these authorizations cater to the chemical sector, emphasizing the value of this policy shift, it further added.

As per the government data, in 2024-25, the sector's export contributions reached USD 46.4 billion, which is 10.6% of the total export value of the country.

The Department in the statement further said the move aims to ease financial pressures from input costs, guarantee raw material availability, and fortify the competitive position of Indian chemical products worldwide. UNI

SRI LANKA TO RENOVATE 100 RAILWAY STATIONS

■ United News of India

COLOMBO, SEPT 2: Sri Lanka on Tuesday launched the first phase of its Dream Destination project, a national program to renovate 100 railway stations across the country, the President's Media Division (PMD) said. The initiative was inaugurated at the Talpe Railway Station in the southern province, which is also a popular tourist destination known for its beaches. The project, a joint effort of the government, private sector, and the public, seeks to rebrand Sri Lanka's railway stations with a modern identity that meets international standards, the PMD said.

The Ministry of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation, in partnership with the Clean Sri Lanka program and private sector contributions, will oversee the drive. Sri Lanka's rail network, built mainly during the colonial era, remains a popular mode of travel for both locals and foreign visitors. Announced in June, the Dream Destination project aims to create a clean, safe, and attractive railway station network that ensures the comfort of all passengers, including those with special needs. UNI

California court declares "illegal" Trump's deployment of military personnel in LA

■ United News of India

WASHINGTON, SEPT 2: Amidst his legal battles in the US federal courts, President Donald Trump suffered yet another legal defeat with a court in California ruling against his deployment of the National Guard and Marine Corps in Los Angeles, calling it a violation of federal law, reports CBS News.

The presidential move - part of the Trump administration's sweeping crackdown on illegal immigration - has been heavily criticised, and met with fierce opposition, with a case filed by protesters against the decision.

In a 52-page ruling, District Judge Charles Breyer found the Trump administration's move to be violative of the country's Posse Comitatus Act, a 1878 law that prohibits the use of the military for domestic law enforcement.

Breyer blocked the Trump administration from deploying or using the National Guard currently deployed in California, and any military troops in the state, for civilian law enforcement.



"The evidence at trial established that defendants systematically used armed soldiers (whose identity was often obscured by protective armour) and military vehicles to set up protective perimeters and traffic blockades, engage in crowd control, and otherwise

demonstrate a military presence in and around Los Angeles," Breyer wrote.

"In short, defendants violated the Posse Comitatus Act."

The verdict greatly restricts the president's ability to use federal services for carrying out searches, detentions, deportations, crowd control, and other actions which come under the ambit of police operations.

Breyer's ruling came after he held a three-day trial in the case brought by California Governor Gavin Newsom in June, who sued Trump post his announcement that he would be deploying the California National Guard to quell protests against his anti-immigration practices in Los Angeles.

As of now, President Trump has deployed military personnel in cities such as Oakland, Baltimore, San Francisco, New York, Oregon, and Chicago, while having placed Washington DC's law enforcement under direct federal control, for battling rampant crime which he attributes to the high level of immigrants. UNI

ment from the hospital here.

Medanta Noida will offer tertiary and quaternary care across more than 20 super-specialties including Cardiology, Oncology, Neurosciences, Gastroenterology, Orthopaedics, and various transplant procedures. The hospital boasts a team of over 60 senior clinical experts, including 30 directors, all of whom have already joined the facility.

The hospital is strategically located to serve patients from across Delhi-NCR as well as underserved areas in Western Uttar Pradesh, said the statement.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director of Medanta, said, "With cutting-edge infrastructure, advanced technology, and a robust clinical team, this facility is designed to provide comprehensive tertiary and quaternary care. Its strategic location enables us to serve a broader patient base across Delhi-NCR and Western Uttar Pradesh, reinforcing Medanta's mission to expand access to high-quality, patient-centric healthcare nationwide."

At the same time, Pankaj Sahni, Group CEO of Medanta, emphasised the growing need for advanced medical services in the NCR region, stating, "The rising demand for specialised healthcare calls for a robust response. Medanta is well-positioned to meet this through scale, clinical excellence, and innovation. Our vision is to build a future-ready healthcare ecosystem that not only addresses present-day needs but also sets new benchmarks for quality, accessibility, and patient outcomes across India." UNI





Rashid, Ashraf Shine as Afghanistan Secure First Tri-Series Points vs UAE

■ Danyal Rasool

Sharjah: Afghanistan survived a brief scare from Muhammad Waseem to ultimately secure a comfortable 38-run victory, their first of the competition, on Monday. As so often, it was Rashid Khan who led the way for them, his 3 for 21 derailing the UAE at a critical juncture midway through their innings just when they looked to have made a fist of chasing 189. He also became the highest wicket-taker in men's T20Is in the process.

That target was set thanks to half-centuries from Ibrahim Zadran and Sediqullah Atal, whose 84-run partnership put their side on course after the early loss of Rahmanullah Gurbaz. UAE turned in a better bowling performance than they did against Pakistan, with their seam bowlers keeping Afghanistan quiet for the most part through the powerplay and then in phases during the middle overs, but paid the price for losing their discipline at the death. A priceless cameo from Karim Janat in the penultimate over meant 22 runs were added, and helped Afghanistan finish above par.

UAE rely so often on Waseem for a realistic shot, and that's exactly what he provided as he flew out of the blocks. They suffered none of the early difficulties Afghanistan had at the start as they stayed ahead of the asking rate thanks largely to their captain. But it always had the feel of a solo effort, and when he was dismissed, no one could replicate that scoring rate, and Afghanistan had enough on the scoreboard, and with the ball, to make the win look cushier than it once looked. The pressure was squarely on Afghanistan at the start, having lost the toss and beginning the day at the bottom of the table. That pressure was

compounded after Junaid Siddique and Muhammad Rohid got through three tight overs that allowed just 16, before Rohid drew an edge from a struggling Gurbaz to send him on his way. Atal and Ibrahim saw through a further couple of overs with the first five overs of the powerplay decisively going the home side's way. But UAE introduced seam bowler Saghir Khan for the final over of the powerplay, and the pair saw an opportunity. A slot ball first up was whipped over midwicket, and Saghir's lengths didn't improve as the over went on. Afghanistan plundered 18 from it, and it set the partnership on its way.

Atal picked his moments through the remainder of the partnership, finding a four or a six just about every over, with Ibrahim cashing in when Dhruv Parashar sent down an errant over. It wasn't until the Afghanistan 100 was brought up that UAE finally broke the partnership, but with eight overs to go, Afghanistan had the platform they needed to launch. And launch they did. Throughout much of the innings, UAE had held on to Afghanistan's coattails, making sure they never pulled too far ahead. That faded in the final four overs, though, as the wheels came off for the hosts and Afghanistan's lower-middle order plundered 49 off the following three overs.

Azmatullah Omarzai - whose cameo was pivotal to his side's acceleration - triggered the gear change with a six over the on side, with Ibrahim matching him later in the over. Omarzai would go after Saghir too, but it was Janat's takedown of Rohid - who had given away just 12 in his first three and taken two wickets - that took the game out of the UAE's hands.

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Kulgam Hosts IDPL Kho-Kho Tournament for U-14 and U-17 Boys

DC Kulgam Inaugurates Event Amid Enthusiastic Participation

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPT 2: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Jammu & Kashmir UT, organized the Inter-District Provincial Level (IDPL) Kho-Kho Tournament for Under-14 and Under-17 boys in the Kashmir Division, with District Kulgam proudly hosting the prestigious event.

The tournament was formally inaugurated today by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Shafi Khan (IAS), who attended the ceremony as the chief guest. He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Waqar Ahmed Giri (JKAS), YSS Officer Kulgam, Raja Ali Yaqoob, and several other officials and dignitaries from the district administration and the Department of Youth Services and Sports.



Organized under the supervision of the Joint Director of YSS Kashmir, the tournament has drawn enthusiastic participation from

teams representing all districts of the Kashmir Division. Competitions are being held in both Under-14 and Under-17 categories, with

several high-energy matches played today across two well-prepared courts.

In his inaugural address, DC Kulgam commended the

efforts of the organizing team and encouraged the young athletes to engage in sports with dedication and discipline. He emphasized the role of such tournaments in fostering teamwork, physical fitness, and a spirit of camaraderie among youth.

The tournament commenced in a peaceful and well-organized manner, reflecting not only the athletic talent of the participants but also their sportsmanship and unity. The event has generated significant interest among sports enthusiasts and local residents, who turned out in large numbers to cheer for their respective teams.

The matches will continue in the coming days, and the tournament is expected to conclude with a grand closing ceremony celebrating the spirit of youth and sports in the Valley.

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