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Items	From	To
Hair Oil, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toilet Soap Bar, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Cream	18%	5%
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Utensils	12%	5%
Feeding Bottles, Napkins for Babies & Clinical Diapers	12%	5%
Sewing Machines & Parts	12%	5%

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Items	From	To
Tractor Tyres & Parts	18%	5%
Tractors	12%	5%
Specified Bio-Pesticides, Micro-Nutrients	12%	5%
Drip Irrigation System & Sprinklers	12%	5%
Agricultural, Horticultural or Forestry Machines for Soil Preparation, Cultivation, Harvesting & Threshing	12%	5%

Relief in Healthcare Sector

Items	From	To
Individual Health & Life Insurance	18%	Nil
Thermometer	18%	5%
Medical Grade Oxygen	12%	5%
All Diagnostic Kits & Reagents	12%	5%
Glucometer & Test Strips	12%	5%
Corrective Spectacles	12%	5%

Automobiles made affordable

Items	From	To
Petrol & Petrol Hybrid, LPG, CNG Cars (not exceeding - 1200 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
Diesel & Diesel Hybrid Cars (not exceeding - 1500 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
3 Wheeled Vehicles	28%	18%
Motor Cycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
Motor Vehicles for transport of goods	28%	18%

Affordable Education

Items	From	To
Maps, Charts & Globes	12%	Nil
Pencils, Sharpeners, Crayons & Pastels	12%	Nil
Exercise Books & Notebooks	12%	Nil
Eraser	5%	Nil

Save on Electronic Appliances

Items	From	To
Air Conditioners	28%	18%
Television (above 32") (including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%
Monitors & Projectors	28%	18%
Dish Washing Machines	28%	18%

PROCESS REFORMS

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- Who determines that he would not pass Input Tax Credit exceeding ₹2.5 Lakh per month and opts for the Scheme

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- Zero Rated Supplies
- Supplies with Inverted Duty Structure



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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

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Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of GH NABI MIR S/O ALI MOHD MIR R/O KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR 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 Mst SHAHMALI W/O ALI MOHD MIR has passed away on 22/06/2006 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... , GH NABI SON 54 years Labour
- 2....TAJA BEGUM daughter 71 years H/W
- 3...FATIMA daughter 46 //

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir 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.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora

Subject: Application of RAFEEQA BEGUM D/O LATE GHULAM HASSAN MIR R/O SALOOSA KREERI 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 GHULAM HASSAM MIR S/O AB AZIZ MIR R.O SALOOSA has passed away on 25/10/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... SARA BEGUM wife 85 years aged widow
- 2...RAFEEQA BEGUM daughter 46 years H/W married

IThe 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.

Naib Tehsild Wagoora

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.

Naib Tehsild 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

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 ATTIQULLAH 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 ATTIQULLAH BUKHARI
R/O ...KREERI
Distt..... BARAMULLA**

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**



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Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION CHRARI-SHARIEF
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER | Single cover system
E-NIT No.22/RNB/CHRAR of 2025-26 | Dated: 29/08/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works: -

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	MHA	Class
1	Renovation of Path from Main Road to Pony Shed at Yousmarg.	3.00	200	6000/-	20 days	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	DEE

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Sanctioned

Position of funds: Committed/Available

Project Authority Chief Executive Officer YDA

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29/08/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30 /08/2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	30 /08/2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	08 /09/2025 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	09/09/2025 at 11.30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Charisharief

Note: -The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy.

Any short fall found in the soft copy will render the Bid rejected.

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectarat Finance department vide No.OM

No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under: -

a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

b) The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).
2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Charisharief (Tender Inviting Authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Charisharief (Tender Receiving Authority). The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest 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 Charisharief within 03 (Three) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.

4. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Charisharief. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total contract cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

5. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder 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.

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

7. The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

8. The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited If: -

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No.:2312-21

Dated: 29 /08/2025

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Division Charisharief**

DIPK: 5858/25 | 03-09-2025



Srinagar

Thursday

September 04 | 2025

10 Rabi ul Awal, 1447 AH

Issue No: 210

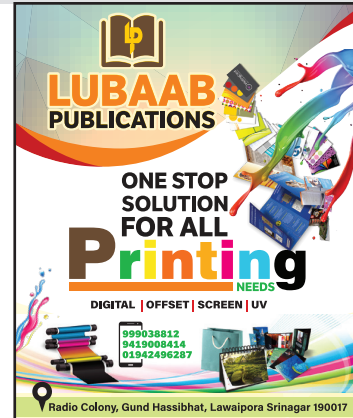
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15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATIONHEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



Two Killed as Flood Threat Looms in J&K

■ HT News Network

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, SEP 03: Nature's fury has once again struck Jammu and Kashmir with the heavy rainfall claiming two more lives in Rajouri and thousands of people were rescued and evacuated to safer places as multiple areas across the region were flooded on Wednesday, amidst the rise in the water levels in all the water bodies.

The heavy rainfall has claimed the lives of a mother-daughter duo in Rajouri district.

A mother-daughter duo was killed after a wall of their house collapsed due to heavy rains in Sunderbani. The deceased have been identified as Sita Devi, wife of Rattan Lal, and her daughter Sonia Rattan Lal—residents of Tanda Kangri. The bodies were recovered by police and rescue teams.

Similarly, a man went missing at Bantalab near the Telephone Exchange in Rajinder Nagar Nallah in Jammu

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CM Omar
Reviews Situation
Amid Inclement
Weather

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 03: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the situation arising from the incessant rains across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a post on X, office of the Chief Minister, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stated that he directed the administration to intensify ground response, ensure clearance of waterlogged areas, safeguard essential services, carry out timely evacuations in critical zones, and provide immediate relief.

It stated that ministers Javed Rana and

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People Need to Remain
Alert, Stay Calm and
Co-operate : Div
Comm. Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 03: Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg Wednesday urged citizens

to remain alert throughout the night. He said the next 6-8 hours will be particularly critical and appealed to all residents to follow the advisories issued by district administrations.

He said preventive evacuations have been activated in Srinagar and parts of South Kashmir and the next few hours are crucial.

Speaking on preventive measures, Garg, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) assured that essential supplies, including food, diesel, petrol, and kerosene, are sufficiently available, and there is no need to panic.

He added that health, power, and

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LG Reviews Flood Situation,
Offers Condolences over
Rajouri Tragedy

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 03: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha has spoken to senior officials and taken stock of the situation in the wake of excessive rainfall across the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir. He was briefed on rescue and relief measures

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Kashmir Floods: Dir FCS&CA says
adequate stock of essentials available

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 03: Director of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Dr. Owais Ahmed Wednesday oversaw the ration supply situation in flood-affected areas of Kashmir and visited multiple depots to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential commodities.

He said that teams have been traveling to various ration depots since morning, taking stock of supplies.

"We are well-equipped with everything, at least for the next six months, in case of any contingency. Our team is on the ground, constantly monitoring for any issues," Dr. Owais Ahmed told reporters, according to the news agency—

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Emergency preparedness: Relief centres set up across Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: As a part of emergency preparedness plan, the Srinagar district administration on Wednesday evening established a network of '15 relief centres' across the city, officials said.

They said these centres, along with deployed nodal officers and medical teams, are meant to ensure a quick and coordinated response in case of any eventuality.

According to an official order issued by

the office of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the relief centres have been set up at key locations including Ellahibagh Buchpora, Lalnagar Chanapora, Babdam, Khanyar, Barbarshah, Nowhatta, Raddapora, Palpora, Maloora, Zewan, and Khonmoh.

The order states that these facilities, established in community halls, schools, and panchayat ghars, will serve as safe shelters for affected families during emer-

gencies.

The administration has also appointed officers from various departments — Revenue, Rural Development, Agriculture, Labour, Cooperatives, and District Industries Centre — as nodal officers for each centre.

Their mandate includes coordinating relief measures, maintaining communication with district control rooms, and ensuring adequate food, shelter and other essential services.

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3,000 Vehicles Stranded
on Jammu-Srinagar
Highway

■ HT News Network

QAZIGUND, SEP 03: More than 3,000 vehicles, mostly heavy motor vehicles (HMs), are stranded on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, while all major routes in the Union Territory remain closed on Wednesday after fresh rainfall, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that landslides and shooting stones triggered by incessant rains blocked the

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Incessant Rains Submerge
South Kashmir, Disrupt
Connectivity

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA/ANANTNAG, SEP 03: Continuous heavy downpour for the last two days has triggered flood-like situations in most parts of south Kashmir, inundating villages, damaging bridges, and leaving thousands of people stranded.

Standing crops, orchards, and residential structures have suffered extensive damage,

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MHA team arrives in
Jammu to assess
flood losses

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 03: A team from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) arrived in Jammu on Wednesday evening to assess areas affected by heavy rainfall, flooding, and landslides.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the team would review the ground situation, assess damages,

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Jammu schools to
remain shut till Friday

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 03: In view of inclement weather and flood like situation, the government Wednesday said all educational institutions in Kashmir division shall remain closed on Thursday.

The government however said that the schools in Jammu division shall continue to remain closed till Friday.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Ashul Garg said that the government

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Can Kashmir Afford Sleepwalk Into Another Flood Disaster

■ HT Special Correspondent

SRINAGAR, AUG 03: Fear is not just of rain but fear is of our fragile land. Fear of we might once again be overwhelmed by floods. Each spell of heavy downpour brings back the traumatic memories of September 2014, when Srinagar turned into a vast lake and thousands were left homeless. A decade later, the question remains disturbingly relevant: Have we learned anything?

The answer is a big no. Despite tall promises and countless reviews, the measures undertaken after 2014 remain half-

HT NEWS ANALYSIS



J&K gets 190 additional MBBS Seats

More expected before 3rd round of counselling

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 03: In a major boost to medical education in Jammu & Kashmir, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has today issued Letters of Permission (LoP) for 190 additional MBBS seats across five Government Medical Colleges of the Union Territory.

The approvals include 50 additional seats each for Government Medical College Baramulla, Government Medical College Doda, and Government Medical College Kathua, while Government Medical College Jammu and Government Medical College Srinagar have been allotted 20 seats each. With this development, the total MBBS

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Grateful to PM Modi,
Union Health Minister: LG

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 03: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra and Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda for increasing MBBS seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

LG Sinha wrote on X: "Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji & Hon'ble

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Div Com Kashmir inspects preventive measures being taken to clog vulnerable spots at Barzulla, Gandbal

Also inspects functioning of UT level Emergency Operation Centre at Hari Niwas

■ HT News Desk/ DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP03: In view of inclement weather conditions & rising water level of Jhelum, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Wednesday visited Barzulla & Gandbal to inspect the protective measures being taken by Irrigation & Flood Control department to clog the vulnerable spots to avoid breaches.

During his visit to the spot of automatic water level recorder near Bone & Joint Hospital, Div Com directed for closure of the gap to avoid any potential threat of breach and flooding. The spot serves as a means for dewatering and out flow of the hospital drainage system.

Div Com instructed the SE,

I&FC to find a permanent solution to address the issue and to avoid risk of breach in the left bank of the flood channel near the hospital.

While addressing the media at the spot, Div Com said that currently the water level at Sangam & Ram Munshi Bagh shows rising trend and informed that IMD has reported possibility of receding water level in the later part of the day.

However, he said that the contingency plan has already been put in place by I&FC department to respond to any exigency. Speaking about the reinforcement steps being taken at B&J hospital, he said that the gap is being filled with sand bags and shall be completed within a couple of hours.



Sharing information about the rescue measures being taken in South Kashmir, he said that District Disaster Management teams are conducting rescue measures in low lying

areas and evacuated some families to safer places. Div Com informed that teams of District Administration Kulgam were on the ground during the night to ensure evacuation of people

in nine villages.

"Wherever inundation in low-lying areas in Anantnag & Kulgam has occurred, the administration is following evacuation protocol", he added.

In Srinagar, he said, the teams of district administration are in the field and a contingency plan has been put in place to immediately respond to any exigency.

"Our emergency control rooms are operational, power supply is up-end, and telecom services are Ok. Hopefully there should be reasonable improvement in couple of hours", he said.

Anshul Garg said we all need to remain alert and people need to follow advisories issued by district administrations and remain away from water bodies. He said that magistrates have been deployed to monitor the ground situation and alert people.

On the occasion, he also

inspected the delivery of critical health care services to the patients by the hospital administration and availability of medical & paramedical staff besides availability of medicines.

Div Com also visited Gandbal where he inspected restoration efforts underway for reinforcement of the river bank near the bridge. On the occasion, he interacted with the locals and assured a permanent solution for strengthening of the bank and execution of the remaining works.

Later, Div Com visited the UT level Emergency Operation Centre at Hari Niwas to take the stock of addressing of distress calls of people and resolution of urgent issues faced by them.

Rivers on the Rampage: Dykes Breach as Chenab, Tawi Swell Menacingly

■ Amir Iqbal Khan

BHADARWAH, SEP 3: On one hand, Rivers Chenab and Tawi on Wednesday rose menacingly to perilous levels, breaching protective dykes at several points and unleashing flash floods. On the other hand, similar breaches in the protective embankments battered Bhadarwah and adjoining belts. Torrential rains lashing the region for the past 48 hours have also left tributaries Neeru Nallah and Haliyan stream in full spate, inundating hamlets and sweeping away standing crops.

Floodwaters ravaged houses, washed away fertile land and marooned scores of families. In many pockets, villagers reported losing livestock alongside property, stoking fears of a humanitarian crisis if the downpour does not abate.

Calling the situation "unprecedented," Mohammad Saleem Butt, a resident of Bhadarwah, said, "In Bhallessa area, multiple landslides have blocked all major routes. Continuous rain has rendered hills unstable with boulders rolling down on their own. In Bhadarwah too, connectivity has snapped, leaving communities cut off."

Officials confirmed that arterial roads leading to remote belts stand blocked by fresh landslides. Rescue teams are grappling with treacherous terrain to access marooned habitations. Farmers in the low-lying tracts voiced despair, lamenting that maize and paddy fields lie completely submerged. "This year's entire harvest is lost. For small farmers like us, it means both hunger and financial ruin," rued Abdul Rashid, a villager from the Neeru Nallah belt.

With water levels in Chenab and Tawi still on the rise, the administration has issued advisories urging people along riverbanks and flood-prone zones to evacuate to safer ground. Relief camps are being established though locals complain that the emergency response remains far from adequate.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has forecast further heavy spells over the next 24 hours, warning of more breaches, flash floods and landslides thereby deepening the region's woes.

CS sensitizes Kashmir administration about the flood preparedness

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP03: In view of the prevailing weather conditions and the emerging flood situation in Kashmir, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high level meeting to review and sensitize the divisional and district administrations about the preparedness and response measures.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries of Jal Shakti, Power Development,

Home/DMRRR, Health & Medical Education, Housing & Urban Development, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, besides Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, IGP Kashmir and all the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Kashmir Division, and Commissioner SMC, among others.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a detailed review of the availability and functioning of essential services, including health, power, and telecom, across the Valley. He stressed that

uninterrupted supply of essential commodities such as food grains, LPG, fuel, and petroleum products must be ensured for the public.

Emphasizing the importance of preventive action, the Chief Secretary directed all Deputy Commissioners to identify vulnerable areas and initiate precautionary evacuation where required.

He also instructed them to earmark and prepare adequate relief shelters for accommodating evacuees, ensuring that all neces-

sary arrangements are put in place in advance.

The Chief Secretary underscored the need for the administration to remain in close contact with the public and extend timely assistance. He directed that emergency helpline numbers, including those of the Emergency Operation Centre, be widely publicized so that people can reach out to authorities without delay in case of any exigency.

He further asked the district

administrations to issue advisories in accordance with local requirements and ground realities, urging them to maintain strong presence on the ground to take immediate mitigation measures in this crucial hour.

Reiterating the government's commitment to safeguarding the lives and well-being of citizens, the Chief Secretary called upon all concerned departments and officials to work in close coordination and respond proactively to the evolving situation.

Inclement Weather: DC Ganderbal visits low-lying areas along Sindh Nallah

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, SEP 03: In view of the prevailing inclement weather, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today conducted an extensive visit to various low-lying areas of the district to assess the ground situation arising due to rising water level in the Sindh Nallah.

During the visit, DC inspected Bumloora, Fatehpura, Gadoora, Rakhi Haran and other vulnerable locations to personally take stock of the situation.

DC was briefed by Executive Engineer I&FC about the current water level and measures undertaken for strengthening

embankments at vulnerable stretches.

DC directed I&FC authorities to keep men and machinery in a state of readiness and ensure availability of sandbags at identified locations. He further emphasized on keeping evacuation plans in place.

Tehsildar informed that suitable locations for evacuation have already been identified and will be activated if required.

DC instructed that regular announcements be made in vulnerable areas to keep the public alert and aware of precautionary measures in case of emergencies.

Later, DC also visited Kijpora Kangan and reviewed the

condition of the Kijpora road over Kijpora Nallah. He directed SDM Kangan to remain vigilant and asked Beacon authorities to ensure timely clearance of debris from affected spots along the SSG road to keep it traffic-worthy.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to safeguarding public life and property, while urging residents residing around Sindh Nallah and other water bodies to remain cautious, avoid unsafe areas and follow advisories issued by the district administration.

DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihagi, Executive Engineer I&FC, Tehsildar Ganderbal and other concerned officials.

Dy. CM attaches two DMOs on public complaints

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP03: Taking serious note of the complaints by general public, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary attached District Mining Officer (DMO) Kupwara to the office of Director Geology & Mining Jammu and DMO Samba to Directorate of Geology and Mining Srinagar.

An order issued in this regard read that pending into various complaints against the District Mining Officer Kupwara, Mumtaz Ahmad, who has additional charge of DMO Bandipora, is hereby attached with immediate effect in the office of Director, Geology & Mining Jammu.

Similarly, District Mining Officer Samba, Mohd Sharfraz has been attached in Directorate Geology & Mining Srinagar with immediate effect. It is also ordered that DMO Kathua shall hold additional charge of DMO Samba in addition to his own duties.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked the officials to prioritize public service as it is the prime motto of the Omar Abdullah led government. He cautioned that complaints against the officers shall be taken seriously and immediate action will be initiated against them.

Satish Sharma conducts extensive tour of flood affected areas, takes stock of ongoing relief operations

Assures timely, complete rehabilitation of all affected families

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP03: In a decisive move to strengthen flood preparedness and relief operations across Jammu district, the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today conducted extensive tours of several flood-prone and affected villages including Naibasti Naraina Palanwala, Dhar Channi, Palatan, Gigrail, Datyal, and Gajrail.

During his visit, the Minister inspected water levels, reviewed the on-ground response of the administration, and interacted with local residents to take stock of their concerns. He directed officials to extend robust and timely support to communities at risk, emphasizing that the protection and well-being of every citizen must remain the top priority.

Expressing deep appreciation for the Indian Army, Minister Sharma lauded their swift rescue operations and unwavering com-

mitment towards safeguarding lives. He also commended the efforts of the district administration, frontline workers, and volunteers for their dedication and timely service during this challenging time.

"The safety and well-being of our people remain our topmost priority. The government, in close coordination with the Indian Army and civil administration, is working tirelessly to provide relief, restore essential services, and support the rehabilitation of affected families. No one will be



left behind in this effort," the Minister affirmed.

To strengthen relief operations, the Minister directed the Food and Civil Supplies department to ensure uninterrupted

ration, availability of safe drinking water and fuel supply to all relief centres. He further instructed for comprehensive damage assessments to be conducted on priority so that time-

ly compensation can be extended to affected households. He also called for restoration of road connectivity, electricity, and water supply in affected areas. The Minister further urged the people of vulnerable areas to remain vigilant, follow safety advisories, and cooperate with authorities. He also reiterated the Government's firm resolve to complete rehabilitation of all affected families as well as implementation of long-term flood mitigation and prevention measures across vul-

nerable regions.

Pertinently, due to coordinated action of the administration, residents from vulnerable areas like Dhar Channi, Palatan, and Indri Patan were successfully evacuated to safer locations. Temporary shelters have been established and equipped with food, clean drinking water, LPG, and other essential supplies. Additionally, community kitchens (langars) are functioning round-the-clock to ensure that no family faces scarcity of basic necessities.

Chief Executive Officer DDMA assesses relief, restoration efforts in Ramban district

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, SEP 03: Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak, who also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), today chaired a meeting of key departments to review scale of rain and flash-flood induced damage to public infrastructure in the district.

The ADC took stock of damages to both public and private infrastructure, the progress of restoration works and other relevant information pertaining to agriculture and allied sectors.

The meeting was attended by ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Executive Engineers of PWD, JP-DCL, PMGSY and Jal Shakti, Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

The ADC directed Tehsildars to submit compensation cases for losses suffered by affected people in their jurisdictions. They were directed to physically verify the damaged infrastructure, collect pre- and post-damage status re-



ports, and submit cases to provide relief to genuine applicants under SDRF norms.

It was informed that ex-gratia relief has already been provided to the families of the deceased by Chairman DDMA (Deputy Commissioner), while the process of compensating other victims for damages is being carried out on a war footing.

The ADC directed the PWD, JPDCL, PMGSY and Jal Shakti Department to submit detailed reports on damage assessment and restoration of essential supplies and services, public utilities, along with pre- and post-damages as well as restoration works with photographic and video-graphic evidence. He also instructed all departments to ensure the early restoration of road connectivity and essential services including water and power supply across the district.

The ADC further directed Executive Engineers to ensure that engineers and field staff remain present in their respective areas to expedite restoration works as per the issued directions.

Nodal Officers of Stakeholder Departments sensitized about National Tobacco Control Prog

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP03: A one day sensitization workshop on National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was today held for the Nodal Officers of key stakeholder departments by State Tobacco Control Cell Directorate of Health Services Jammu.



Participants from Health, Police, Sales Tax Excise, Education, Labour, members from Civil Society and several other stakeholders attended the workshop.

In his address, Director Health Services, Jammu Dr Abdul Hamid Zargar highlighted the impending need for eradicating the menace of Tobacco consumption. "More than 50 lakh persons lose their life to tobacco attributable causes yearly worldwide- the number of deaths in India being 13.5 lakh," the DHSJ said. He said that the Department of Health is actively working in the field of Tobacco Cessation and has established Tobacco Cessation Centers in all the District Hospitals of Jammu Division, where the people are being provided free counselling and medicines to help them quit its use. He informed the participants of the efforts being made by the department to create awareness amongst the population regarding the ill effects of Tobacco, and prevent the people from picking up this habit.

He stressed about the importance of multi stakeholder cooperation in Tobacco Control and the role of each Department to address the growing menace of Tobacco. He impressed upon the participants to implement the provisions of COTPA 2003 and other tobacco control laws in letter and spirit.

The participants were sensitized about the Epidemiology of Tobacco use, Tobacco Control Laws including COTPA-2003 and PECA 2019, Tobacco Free Educational Institutions and Tobacco Free Village initiative of Government of India.

DC Poonch reviews road safety measures to curb accidents

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

POONCH, SEP 03: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, who also chairs the District Level Road Safety Committee (DLRSC), conducted a detailed review meeting to assess and strengthen road safety measures across the district.



The discussions focused on immediate and long term steps to be taken to minimize road accidents and ensure the safety of commuters.

The Deputy Commissioner issued strict directions to all concerned departments to install speed limit signboards, convex mirrors, and crash barriers at vulnerable points, based on need and priority.

In a significant directive to the Chief Education Officer, the DC emphasized that vehicles must not be permitted to carry pre-nursery students. Additionally, he stressed on holding awareness programs in schools and colleges to educate students on road safety rules and regulations.

Addressing infrastructural concerns, the Deputy Commissioner directed the executive engineers to immediately identify and rectify black spots—accident-prone areas—on roads to ensure the safe movement of the public.

The Committee also underlined the need for strict enforcement against negligent driving, calling for revocation of driving licenses of individuals found guilty of accidents due to careless or reckless behavior.

The DC reiterated the district administration commitment to building a safe and responsible road culture, urging all stakeholders to work in close coordination for effective implementation of safety measures.

JMC intensifies water supply measures amid heavy rainfall disruption

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 03: Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav today visited Company Bagh in the city to inspect the water tankers deployed to meet the drinking water needs of the residents.

Continuous and heavy rainfall over the past few days has severely disrupted the regular water supply network, creating widespread inconvenience and shortage of safe drinking water in several localities.

In response to this crisis, the Jammu Municipal Corporation has mobilized maximum resources and initiated free water tanker supply across the city. Tankers have been strategically stationed to serve the most affected and densely populated areas, ensuring that basic drinking water requirements are met on an urgent basis.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav interacted with residents and field staff to review the supply arrangements. He emphasized that water tankers are presently being provided on a community-based system, where tankers are dispatched to designated collection points in each locality. From these points, residents can fetch drinking



water for their homes.

Clarifying the situation, Dr. Yadav said that individual household delivery of tankers is not possible at this stage due to the high demand and the ongoing challenges posed by the weather. However, he informed citizens that they may avail private water tankers after 7:00 PM if additional supply is needed, as the government resources are fully engaged during the day to serve the maximum number of areas.

The Commissioner assured that

this is a temporary emergency arrangement and that JMC teams are working round-the-clock to restore normal water supply systems as soon as the rainfall subsides and technical repairs are completed.

Helpline numbers have also been established to assist citizens in reporting shortages and requesting tanker services in their localities. Dr. Yadav appealed to residents to remain patient, cooperate with the administration and use water judiciously during this challenging period.

DC Reasi seeks explanation from 13 officials for unauthorized absence amid relief operations

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, SEP 03: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik, explanations have been sought from several officials and officials who were found absent from duty amid the ongoing relief operations.

In view of the inclement weather conditions, the District Administration Reasi has been actively engaged in relief and restoration operations across the district under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. To ensure uninterrupted functioning of essential

services, the General Administration Department (GAD) as well as the District Administration had already cancelled the leaves of officers and officials.

Despite these clear instructions, it was found that 13 officials, including Chief Agriculture Officer, District Agriculture Officer, eight Block Development Officers (BDOs), Medical Officer Dharmari, an Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) and one Senior Assistant posted in Mahore Sub-Division—left their stations without seeking permission from the competent

authority. Such conduct of these officials amounts to serious dereliction of duty and a violation of government directives.

The concerned officials have been directed to explain their position for remaining absent from duty amid the ongoing relief operations. The DC has set a short deadline for submission of replies, failing which strict disciplinary action as per service rules will be initiated against the defaulters.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasized that during emergency situations, the presence

of officers at their respective headquarters is critical to ensure smooth coordination of relief work, timely redressal of public grievances, and effective management of resources. She made it clear that laxity or negligence on part of government employees will not be tolerated.

Meanwhile, the District Administration has reiterated its commitment to provide all possible assistance to the people affected by the recent weather-related disruptions. Restoration of essential services such as road connectivity, electricity, water

supply, and healthcare facilities is being carried out on war footing. Teams of revenue, police, health, PWD, and other line departments are working in close coordination to mitigate hardships being faced by the public.

The DC also appealed to officials to discharge their duties with utmost dedication and accountability, reminding them that government service is a public trust, and dereliction during crises undermines the relief efforts and affects the credibility of the administration.

DC, SSP Rajouri inspect landslide clearance work on National Highway

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, SEP 03: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar, today inspected the National Highway to review the situation arising due to heavy rainfall in the district.

During the inspection, the DC issued strict directions for the immediate clearance of landslides to ensure smooth traffic movement and uninterrupted connectivity along the vital road link. He emphasized that restoration work must be taken up on priority to minimize incon-

venience to commuters, particularly those travelling for medical emergencies and essential supplies.

To comprehensively assess the situation, the DC directed Sub Divisional Administrations to deploy teams to evaluate rain-induced damages. The district administration is closely monitoring the ground situation to ensure timely restoration of essential services and to provide necessary assistance to affected residents. Revenue and police officials were also instructed to remain stationed in vulnerable areas for prompt response in case of further incidents.



The SSP Rajouri directed traffic police to regulate vehicular movement effectively and prevent congestion along affected stretches. He also instructed officials to place adequate manpower and machinery at critical points to facilitate uninterrupted traffic flow once clearance is achieved.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the need for coordinated efforts among Public Works, PMGSY, and NHAI authorities for swift clearance operations. Special focus was laid on ensuring availability of adequate machinery, particularly JCBs and loaders, at sensitive spots where landslides oc-

cure frequently.

Meanwhile, the health and emergency teams have been kept on alert to respond swiftly to any distress calls. The DC also appealed to the public to exercise caution, avoid unnecessary travel during heavy rainfall, and follow advisories issued by the district administration in view of the prevailing weather conditions.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to safeguarding lives and ensuring the safety of commuters while assuring that round-the-clock monitoring will continue until full normalcy is restored along the National Highway.

HT EDITORIAL

Restore flood basin areas so as to avert flood threat

At a time when flood threat is looming large over most parts of the Kashmir valley both the masses and the people at the helm should look into an important issue that is connected with the ongoing disturbing situation. Over the years the people have constructed houses, shops, commercial establishments, hotels, guest houses and educational institutions along the banks of rivers spread across the different districts of the valley.

In the Srinagar city areas like Padshahi Bagh, Mehjoor Nagar, Lasjan, Soiteng and adjacent ones were classified as flood basins and the people in the past were advised not to come up with constructions in these areas. When the water discharge in the river Jhelum used to exceed the danger mark the water was diverted towards the flood basins and there was no threat of flood to the other parts of Srinagar city. However, the situation changed with the passage of time.

For the reasons best known to the people at helm common masses were allowed to construct houses and other properties in the flood basin areas. This virtually changed the urban landscape of the Srinagar city and as on date there are no flood basin areas in the summer capital of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. As such when the water of river Jhelum crosses the danger mark people living near the water body are under continuous threat.

It was due to this reason that Lal Chowk, the city centre of Srinagar district got marooned in flood in 2014. The inundation of the city centre was somewhat unprecedented as it was probably for the first time that a capital city got submerged in flood water. At that time river Jhelum breached at multiple places along the banks right from Rajbagh to Abi Guzar thus leading to inundation of Lal Chowk, Polo View, Regal Chowk, Budshah Chowk, Court Road and many other areas falling in the city centre.

Following the devastating deluge of 2014 the authorities had promised that a proper disaster management plan would be framed and no one would be allowed to play with Mother Nature. The promise remained on paper only as on date the city centre and other areas are yet again on the radar of a deluge. If there are rains for a few more hours then there are chances that Lal Chowk and other areas of the city centre would witness yet another flood thus exposing the tall claims of the administration.

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Celebrating Teachers' Day:
Honoring the Architects of Viksit Bharat 2047



■ Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

On this special occasion of Teachers' Day, celebrated on 5th September, we are reminded of the incredible debt we owe to the educators who have shaped our lives. The journey to a Viksit Bharat, a developed India by 2047, is not just about economic and technological progress; it is about building a strong, ethical, and knowledgeable society. In this grand national project, the teacher is the true cornerstone. They are the ones who turn classrooms into launchpads for our nation's future, molding young minds and laying the groundwork for a prosperous tomorrow. It's fitting that we honor Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary, a true visionary whose life showed us that a teacher is more than an instructor—they are a guide, a philosopher, and a nation-builder. His legacy reminds us that investing in our teachers is the single most important investment we can make in our country's future.

A Legacy of Nation-Building

India's development story, from the dawn of independence to the powerhouse it is today, has been profoundly shaped by the silent and persistent work of its teachers. Beyond the grand narratives of political and economic reforms, it was the teacher in every village and city who patiently brought literacy to millions, making them participants in the national project. This foundation of education and awareness allowed our society to overcome challenges and embrace new opportunities. We have seen how figures like Madan Mohan Malaviya, through his vision for Banaras



Celebrating Teachers' Day
Meaningful Teacher's Day Gift Ideas to Appreciate Your Mentors

Hindu University, created a temple of learning that would produce generations of leaders. I also have the privilege of being the manas putra of Mahamana. In the modern era, educators like Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, a scientist and President, always saw himself first as a teacher, inspiring countless students to pursue science and innovation. These individuals and a multitude of unnamed, dedicated teachers across the country have built the human capital that drives our progress today, from our thriving IT sector to our advancements in space technology. The progress we celebrate as a nation is a direct result of their tireless efforts, one student at a time.

The Teacher as a Catalyst for Change

India's quest for a developed status requires us to move beyond traditional methods of education. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is the most significant blueprint for this transformation. It recognizes that to prepare students for a rapidly changing world, we must empower our teachers to become more than just deliverers of information. The NEP calls for a shift from rote learning to a more holistic, multidisciplinary approach, making the teacher a facilitator who encourages

curiosity and critical thinking. This is a profound change. Teachers must become partners in learning, helping students connect classroom knowledge with real-world challenges. This policy's success hinges on their commitment and ability to adapt. The transition asks educators to reinvent their methods, to become mentors who guide students to be thinkers, not just learners. This is a crucial step in preparing our youth to be creators, not just consumers. It is the teacher who will cultivate these vital skills, one class at a time.

Igniting Innovation and Research

Beyond simply teaching, teachers have a vital part to play in sparking innovation and research. While we rightly celebrate our top research institutions, we must remember that the desire to discover often begins in a school classroom. Teachers are uniquely positioned to turn a child's natural curiosity into a lifelong pursuit of knowledge. By creating an environment where asking "why?" is encouraged and where intellectual risk is celebrated, they lay the foundation for the scientific and technological breakthroughs that will define India in 2047. When teachers engage in their own research, even on a small scale, they serve as powerful role models. They demonstrate

that a life of continuous learning and discovery is a rewarding journey. This is how we build a strong research culture from the ground up—by making every classroom a potential laboratory for new ideas and every teacher a potential guide for the next big discovery. 5th September The values a teacher instills—like integrity and compassion—are the very building blocks of a resilient society. It is the teacher who helps shape this moral compass, one lesson and one interaction at a time. The cumulative effect of these efforts will create a society that is not only economically strong but also ethically sound.

Investing in the Future

The vision of a Viksit Bharat is a collaborative effort, and our teachers hold the key. To achieve this goal, we must give them the respect, support, and resources they deserve. We must invest in their training, recognize their contributions, and provide them with the professional autonomy to excel. When we empower our educators, we are essentially empowering every child, every family, and every community in our country. The path to a developed India is being paved in our classrooms. Every lesson taught, every student mentored, and every moment of inspiration shared brings us closer to our goal. Our teachers are not just shaping careers; they are sculpting the very soul of our nation. It is time we honored their profound responsibility with the support it deserves, for in their hands rests the bright and prosperous future we all dream of.

Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai's contributions to both academics and research have been exceptional throughout his three decades in academia. His leadership, both as a professor at BHU and as Vice-Chancellor of BRA Bihar University, has significantly enriched the academic landscape. Email: dcrai@bhu.ac.in

Embrace Life, Not Drugs



■ Sahil Manzoor

Drugs are lethal to our health, and we must keep away from them. It is our collective responsibility to eradicate their use from society.

Drug addiction is one of the root causes behind kidnappings, murders, loss of dignity, ruined personalities, and declining health. Drugs can lead to deadly diseases such as cancer in various organs. Addicts are at high risk of heart attacks, stomach problems, and countless other complications. Sadly, drug addiction has spread like wildfire among our youth, bringing with it a wave of social evils.

Drugs are not simply medicines used for treatment under a doctor's supervision; they are also substances misused for false happiness or momentary pleasure. This misuse is destroying our youth, our families, and our communities. Addiction does not just harm the body; it also destroys character, turning bright minds into negative thinkers and productive lives into wasted ones.

Drug addiction among youth has created alarming issues across society. Change may be difficult, but it is necessary. We must unite for the sake of our youth—the very foundation of our nation. Every one of us bears responsibility to fight this menace.

What Are Drugs?

Drugs prescribed by specialists help treat health problems. However, harmful drugs such as cocaine, brown sugar, cannabis, and others are misused, leading to devastating consequences. Disturbingly, even school-going children are falling prey to these substances, putting the future of our society at risk.

In Kashmir, drug addiction has been rising rapidly in recent years. According to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, nearly one million individuals in the Union Territory are struggling with substance abuse.

Why Drug Addiction is Increasing in Kashmir



Several factors contribute to this curse: Negative peer influence from friends, siblings, or acquaintances. Stress and lack of healthy coping mechanisms. Absence of proper counselling for youth. Easy availability of drugs in certain environments.

The consequences are dire—loss of health, wealth, family bonds, and even life itself.

Law enforcement is working tirelessly to curb this menace. Police and agencies frequently arrest drug peddlers and crack down on supply networks. However, harsher punishments and stronger measures are still needed against those who are destroying the lives of our young generation—the future scientists, technologists, and leaders of tomorrow.

How to Eradicate Drug Addiction
We can all play a role in stopping this evil. Some effective measures include:

1. Parental & Family Care Parents must monitor their children's activities, peer groups, and habits. Regular visits to schools and colleges to check attendance and performance. Open communication at home about needs, problems, and emotions. If suspicion arises, parents should immediately seek professional counselling for their children.

2. Counselling & Awareness Monthly counselling sessions in schools, colleges, and institutions. Posters and awareness campaigns highlighting the consequences of drug use. Engagement of trained experts to guide and support vulnerable youth.

3. Sports & Healthy Activities Encourage children to take part in sports like football, cricket, and cycling. Promote gym activities and bodybuilding to channel their energy positively. Recognize and nurture their talents instead of burdening them with constant academic pressure.

Sports and bodybuilding provide a natural sense of achievement and self-confidence, reducing the temptation of drugs.

A Strong Message

Say NO to drugs. Take care of your health. Keep your dignity. Make your parents proud. Stay away from people who indulge in drugs, and if possible, guide them to quit.

Drug addiction is life-destroying and life-taking. Let us stand together, stay happy, stay safe, and stay healthy.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Current Flood in Kashmir



■ **Wani Arfat**

Kashmir valley, famed as heaven on earth, is a land where white mountains tower over green pastures and rivers spin eternity's melodies that have stumped poets since time immemorial. But again this heaven is gripped by the fury of flood-like scenario reminding mankind of nature's omnipotent hand and man's vulnerability. Rivers that used to provide life now are a torrent of fear, cutting short human life, property, crops, and centuries-long culture. The floods not only consume land, crops, and houses; it destroys the very fabric of shared memory, leaving an injury which would take years, if not decades, to heal. Everyone remembers the 2014 floods that left Kashmir devastated, and everyone remembers how thin the line is between human life and nature. The recurring floods call for a break at some significant points: the effectiveness of relief by the government, readiness and vulnerability of the natives, reasons behind such calamities, steps to prevent their effects, countermeasures, and what role each of them needs to play in order to rescue this fragile paradise.

The government, the most powerful protector of its citizens, has reacted with eagerness towards the floods. State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and Indian Army troops have been deployed across the valley, rescuing stranded families and rushing to the relief. Shelters for the displaced populations have been set up, medical camps are functioning to avert outbreaks of water-borne diseases, and engineers are monitoring the embankments of the Jhelum River and its tributaries round the clock, patching up weak spots with sandbags and machinery. Srinagar and district headquarter control rooms function day and night, and information bulletins pass through the radio, social media, and local networks to warn vulnerable populations. Though these are saving lives, these are reactive and not preventive steps and a testimony to lags in long-term planning. Relief is life, but preparedness prevents disaster, and Kashmir is still waiting for an all-encompassing, scientific flood management system that can prevent tragedy beforehand. With such initiatives from the government, Kashmiris leave no one behind when it comes to boldness and



indomitability.

When tragedy hits, individuals do not just sit around waiting for someone to issue instructions but go at it with determination. Villages and towns see volunteers from the youth groups organizing rescue teams, taking boats, make-do rafts, or their bare hands to pull stranded neighbors out of blocked roads. Community centers cook meals for stranded travelers, mosques, schools, and community centers are used as shelters. Aid, blankets, and medication flow in from the volunteer hands without waiting for appreciation. These people's solidarity kept thousands alive during 2014 floods, and it was evident that the cumulative strength of a people generally turns out to be more than the strength of any institutes. Once again, with the water levels increasing, Kashmiri resilience is the greatest battle against nature's wrath, demonstrating vigour, compassion, and cohesion in the face of adversity. The pandemic of repeat floods is caused by a mix of natural as well as anthropogenic factors.

Geographically, the valley is surrounded by big mountains, and its lifeline is the river Jhelum. Heavy rainfalls, uncontrolled snowmelt from drastic climatic shifts, and volatile weather because of climate change overflow rivers. But human negligence exacerbates such a natural susceptibility. Unplanned urbanization has consumed wetlands, erstwhile water cushions. Dal Lake, Wular Lake, and Hokersar wetlands, the "natural sponges of Kashmir" so far, have plummeted considerably

due to pollution, encroachments, and illegal settlements. Depth of Jhelum River lowered as a result of frequent dredging, and construction activity works on floodplains and deforestation worsen the situation. Ineffective city drainage systems channel even normal rain to induce fright and havoc. These floods are not the fury of nature alone; they are also the consequences of neglect of ecological harmony, sustainable development, and effective city planning by humans. To correct this catastrophe, multi-dimensional solutions of science, policy, and civic engagement need to be enlisted.

The course correction needs to be away from single-use developments, floodplain intrusions negated, and wetlands restored and preserved. Urban planning must heed natural drainage patterns, and efforts at afforestation must lead to ecological resilience. Better storm-water drainage systems need to be installed at Srinagar and other towns, with warning systems using satellite imagery, rain gauges, and area warning systems. Disaster management needs to be initiated in schools and colleges with first-aid, swimming, and rescue. Preparedness being a continuous exercise, the devastating effect of floods can be minimized considerably. Preventing floods once and for all requires vision, foresight, and strict enforcement of the rules.

The government must prepare an integrated Kashmir Flood Management Plan with well-defined timeframes, achievable targets, and monitorable mechanisms. Embankments along the Jhelum River must be scientifically

strengthened, and dams or reservoirs can hold excess water during monsoon rains and let it down slowly to avoid flash floods. Urban planning laws must be implemented strictly, dissuading building a house in floodplains. People must take a sense of responsibility by having dumped wastes properly, not permitting illegal construction of houses, developing trees, and doing saving the environment. Examples from countries such as the Netherlands and Japan, with advanced flood-control systems, must be cited so that the plan in Kashmir can be recommended as per the geography of the valley. Individual recommendations need continuous policy formulation, research, and public awareness outside crisis periods.

A rooted Institute of Flood Research and Monitoring in Kashmir would give daily reports to authorities with scientific advice about rainfall, river flows, soil erosion, and weather patterns. NGOs and civil society organizations would conduct community awareness on flood preparedness, emergency response, and environmental conservation. The media needs to move beyond headline reporting to take up ecological devastation, wetland erosion, and anticipatory action. Storying away the despondency narrative and building a narrative of accountability can progress in leaps and bounds even before calamity strikes. Kashmir floods are just about ascendant waters—these are the waters that define the struggle between preparation and laxness, memory and oblivion, human avarice and nature's largesse.

The 2014 tragedy must be remembered to instill the will to change. Rivers and wetlands must be honored and preserved as living sentinels. Science remedies and people's responsibility, and awareness and action through the interaction of government actions and grass-roots opposition, can prevent the pending catastrophes. Green signals being ignored, urbanization intrusions being accepted, deforestation, and unplanned growth will only lead to provoking nature's wrath with recurring catastrophes. The Kashmir waters, so lovely and deadly, shape the valley's fate.

Seized by wisdom, they nurture life, water fields, and fuel poets' hearts with words; left alone, they ravage homes, wash away livelihoods, and erase memories. Free to decide is the government, the people, the communities dwelling in Kashmir. By foresight, responsibility, and harmony with nature, vulnerability can be transformed into strength in Kashmir, and its rivers can become streams of life instead of floods of devastation. History is a lesson that human activity can irritate or appease the anger of nature.

Encroachments, cutting down of trees, and unauthorized encroachment have heightened the risk of floods in the valley, but joint efforts, conservation, and people's participation can safeguard life and property. Each tree that is planted, wetland restored, and river cleared is a shield. Combining old knowledge with new technology, people's participation, and mass mobilization with bringing the authorities to book, Kashmir's rivers, which have looked after generations, can continue to look after life instead of killing it. Finally, Kashmir floods are not waters overflowing banks; they are a tale of vulnerability, ruggedness, accountability, and hope.

All disasters have something to teach, preparedness is life, and unity conquers despair. The splendor of Kashmir and the wrath of its rivers exist side by side, compelling humanity to defend and live together with nature. Through a mix of state vision, technological fix, community resilience, and individual responsibility, the valley may turn threats into opportunities for preparedness, environmental stability, and harmony with nature. Rivers, lakes, and wetlands are lifelines, memories, and symbols of heritage and must be preserved. The onus rests on our shoulders and the time is now, for a robust, thriving, and secure Kashmir, led by wisdom, courage, and prudence.

The author is a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student, hails from Kuchmulla Tral. He is a member of the Kashmir Writers Association. His email address is wania6817@gmail.com

Continuous rain, increasing danger and our responsibility



■ **Dr. Priyanka Saurabh**

Continuous rain has challenged public life. Electricity lines, poles and open wires can become a death trap, while water-filled roads and drains invite accidents. In such a situation, a small negligence of the citizens can turn into a big tragedy. The administration has warned that do not go out of the house without reason during rainy days and keep a distance from electrical appliances. Society will have to spread awareness together. Remember – safety is protection and if there is life, then there is everything.

The rainy season is the most beautiful gift of nature. It quenches the thirst of the earth, gives life to crops, fills rivers and ponds and purifies the environment. But when this rain happens continuously and abnormally, this blessing sometimes turns into a curse. In a country like India, where the infrastructure is still not fully strengthened, continuous rain becomes a problem for the people. In the last few years, we have seen that due to abnormal rains, flood-like situation arose in many states, hundreds of people became homeless, electricity and water supply was disrupted and life became disrupted.

At such a time, it is not enough to depend only on the government or administration, rather it is the duty of every citizen to be cautious and make others aware. It is true that natural disasters are not completely under our control, but with caution and discipline we can reduce their impact.

The biggest danger during rainy season is from electricity. When the ground is wet, the roads are filled with water and there is moisture all around, the danger of electric shock increases manifold. The electricity department has warned the public in time to maintain a distance from electric wires, poles, cables and meters during this season. A little carelessness can prove fatal. Every year in India, hundreds of people lose their lives due to electric shock during the rainy season. According to the report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), about 10-12 thousand people die every year in accidents related to electricity alone, a large number of which occur during the rainy months. These figures make it clear how serious the danger is.

Open wires, loose poles and dilapidated poles are still a common sight in villages and towns. When these get submerged in water due to continuous rain, the possibility of electric current spreading increases. This danger increases even more when people come in contact with them due to carelessness. Many times children get into water puddles while playing, while they do not know that an electric wire is lying in the same water. Such incidents happen every year and this reflects the biggest carelessness of our society.

The biggest danger during rainy season is from electricity. When the ground is wet, the roads are filled with water and there is moisture all around, the danger of electric shock increases manifold. The electricity department has warned the public in time to maintain a distance from electric wires, poles.....

Going out of the house during rainy days is also not free from risk. One should avoid going out of the house without any reason. Even if there is some important work, one should go with caution. Slippery roads, deep pits and drains get hidden in water and accidents become common. Many times people go to water-filled places just for curiosity or entertainment, take photos there, make videos and post them on social media. But this curiosity puts them in danger. Unknowingly they can get caught in deep pits, drains or electric water. We have to understand that our life is a bigger thing than adventure or show-off. The truth is that if there is life, then everything is there.

Continuous rains pose a big challenge not only to personal safety but also to the administration. The electricity department has to remain alert round the clock so that electricity supply to the people is maintained and accidents can be avoided. Municipal corporations and panchayats have to deal with the problem of waterlogging. The health department has to fight dengue, malaria and water-borne diseases. After the rains, the mosquito menace increases, due to which the number of patients in hospitals suddenly increases manifold. The traffic department also has to deal with road accidents and traffic jams. This effort of the administration can be successful only when the citizens also understand their responsibility and cooperate.

Natural challenges like rain cannot be tackled only through administrative measures. Society also has to be aware and fulfill its responsibility. People of the locality and village should together keep the drains clean so that there is no waterlogging. Provide information about electric poles and wires to the department. Teach children not to go near open wires or poles in the rain. Spread only correct information on social media, not rumors. Many times false news and rumors make the situation more serious.

Rain not only brings troubles but also teaches us many lessons. It tells us that we should strengthen our infrastructure. It reminds us that messing with natural elements like electricity and water can be fatal. It teaches us that discipline and caution are the only things that can save lives.

If people take a little caution, the impact of even the biggest disaster can be reduced.

It has been seen many times in our country that whenever a natural disaster occurs, people face it together. Voluntary organizations come forward to help the flood victims, people give shelter and food to each other. This collectivity and cooperation is the biggest strength of Indian society. This cooperation and awareness is necessary even in a situation like rain.

The rainy season can be as dangerous as it is beautiful and life-giving. It depends on us whether we make it a boon or a curse. If we are careful, take the administration's warnings seriously and fulfill our social responsibility, then this season will bring joy and freshness to us. But if we are careless, go near electric wires and poles, leave the house without any reason and spread rumors, then this season can turn into sorrow and tragedy.

Today, the need is that we all together make this rainy season safe. Maintain distance from electric wires, poles and open meters. Do not go out without reason and even if you have to go out, take full precautions. Cooperate with the administration, spread awareness in the society and maintain discipline. Remember – safety is prevention. And ultimately it is true that if there is life, then everything is there.

The author is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045

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Floods and the Threat of Infections



■ Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo

Floods are among the most devastating natural disasters faced by humanity. They cause immediate destruction by sweeping away homes, damaging infrastructure, and displacing populations. But beyond the visible damage, floods carry an often-overlooked danger: the rise of infectious diseases. The true health crisis often begins once the waters recede, when contaminated environments, poor sanitation, and disrupted healthcare services create a fertile ground for outbreaks.

Waterborne Diseases:

One of the biggest health challenges after flooding is the contamination of drinking water. When sewage systems overflow and mix with floodwaters, harmful bacteria and viruses spread rapidly. This increases the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, viral hepatitis-A, and acute diarrhoeal illnesses.

Flood victims, especially in rural or resource-poor settings, may rely on rivers, wells, or hand pumps that become unsafe during floods. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable, as dehydration from diarrhoeal illnesses can quickly turn fatal if left untreated.

Vector-Borne Illnesses:

Stagnant pools of water left behind after floods are perfect breeding sites for mosquitoes. As a result, outbreaks of malaria, dengue, and chikungunya often follow flood events. The spread of these vector-borne diseases further strains already overburdened health systems. Without timely vector control measures—such as drainage, spraying, and distribution of mosquito nets—flood-affected areas can experience epidemics.

Skin and Respiratory Infections:

Living conditions in temporary shelters also increase the risk of infections. Overcrowding, inadequate ventilation, and poor sanitation often result in skin rashes, fungal infections, respiratory tract infections, and even tuberculosis transmission. Injuries sustained during floods—such as cuts, bruises, and snakebites—frequently become infected due to lack of clean wound care facilities.



Secondary Impacts and Climate Change:

Floods disrupt livelihoods, displace populations, and create food insecurity, which in turn weakens immunity and increases vulnerability to infections. Climate change has intensified these risks by making extreme rainfall events more frequent and severe. Warmer temperatures and erratic monsoons across South Asia and other parts of the world now mean that flood-related infections are becoming a recurring public health concern.

requires both immediate and long-term strategies. In the short term, authorities must ensure access to clean drinking water through chlorination, water purification tablets, or bottled supplies. Mobile health camps should be deployed to provide quick diagnosis and treatment of diarrhoeal and vector-borne diseases. Preventive vaccination campaigns—particularly for hepatitis-A and typhoid—can reduce risks in vulnerable populations.

Vector control programs, safe sanitation practices, and widespread community awareness campaigns are equally critical. People must be educated on boiling water, washing hands, and using mosquito protection to reduce their risk of infection.

Conclusion:

Floods leave behind more than physical devastation; they create conditions for hidden epidemics that can claim as many lives as the disaster itself. Recognizing the connection between floods and infections is vital for disaster preparedness. By combining strong public health measures with climate-resilient planning, societies can reduce the risk of secondary health crises and safeguard vulnerable populations from the silent aftermath of floods.

The Way Forward:

Addressing the health fallout of floods

Physician/Public Health Expert

drtasadukitoo@gmail.com

Eminent medico Launches Diabetes Education Program

In view of rising epidemic of diabetes, a Kashmir-based Physician and Public Health Expert, Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has launched a Diabetes Education Program to spread awareness, address patient queries, and guide the public on screening, prevention, and treatment of diabetes.

Dr. Itoo described diabetes as a major public health concern and emphasized that education plays a vital role in prevention and control. "Early detection, lifestyle changes, and timely management can greatly reduce complications," he said.

Pertinently, Dr. Itoo is a distinguished Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH – UK) and an International Diabetes Federation (IDF) Fellow – Belgium. Notably, he has also been nominated for the Board of Directors of the Endocrine Society (USA), reflecting his recognition at the global level.

He is also affiliated with prestigious organizations including the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), Endocrine Society (USA), and American College of Physicians (USA).



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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Two Killed as.....

late Tuesday night, following which rescue teams launched operations to locate him.

Heavy Rainfall Continues

It is worth mentioning here that Jammu and Kashmir witnessed heavy rainfall for the last three straight days.

Since this morning, Katra has recorded the highest rainfall of 106.3 mm, followed by 60.4 mm in Jammu, the details reveal. Banihal, Batote and Bhaderwah stations have recorded a precipitation of 36.0 mm, 35.8 mm and 15.0 mm, respectively.

In Kashmir, the highest rainfall since today morning was recorded at Qazigund at 29.6 mm, followed by 29.0 mm at Kokernag and 10.4 mm at Pahalgam.

Furthermore, the water bodies across Jammu and Kashmir, including the river Jhelum, swelled following the heavy rainfall.

The water bodies in the Kashmir Valley have reached alarming levels following heavy rainfall, with the Jhelum at Sangam, Pampore and Ram Munshi Bagh crossing the danger mark.

The officials said low-lying areas of Srinagar, including Khushipora Telbal, are facing inundation, causing distress among residents. The old Barzulla Srinagar bridge has been closed for traffic movement.

According to the Irrigation & Flood Control Department (I&FC), the latest readings at River Jhelum show: Sangam: 27.29 ft (danger mark: 25 ft); Pampore: 6.30 m (danger mark: 5 m); and Ram Munshi Bagh: 20.98 ft (danger mark: 21 ft).

Other readings include Asham: 10.89 ft (danger mark: 16.5 ft) and Wullar: 1576.54 m (full level: 1578 m).

Regarding tributaries, the data show: Vishow Nallah at Khudwani: 10.50 m (danger mark: 8.5 m); Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi: 5.70 m (danger mark: 5.7 m); Lidder Nallah at Batkoot: 1.38 m (danger mark: 1.65 m); and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama: 3.63 m (danger mark: 3.9 m).

Many Areas Submerged

Meanwhile, in Khushipora Telbal, eyewitnesses told KNO that water levels in the area are rising, with sudden inundation of houses, lanes and the main road.

Residents rushed to move their belongings to the upper storeys. "Water entered our homes within minutes. We could do little except protect children and elderly members," said a local.

Some parts of Mehjoor Nagar and Telbal are also waterlogged. Many households reported damage to goods stored on ground floors, while movement in the areas remains severely restricted.

In the Jammu division, the rivers like Tawi, Chenab, Basantar, Ujh, and Ravi, along with their tributaries, are flowing at or above danger levels, exacerbating flood risks in low-lying areas.

The Tawi River in Jammu was recorded at 15 feet, one foot above the danger mark, while the Chenab River in Akhnoor was flowing four feet above the evacuation level of 42 feet.

Rescue Operation Launched, Over 300 Evacuated

The flooding has left around 40 people trapped in a village in Akhnoor. The Border Security Force (BSF) evacuated 47 civilians from Village Fattu Kotli using two helicopters. Jammu Police carried out evacuations in Akhnoor, Khour, Belicharana, Miran Sahib, and other affected areas.

In Anantnag district, police rescued 25 nomadic families stranded under a bridge after water levels rose due to heavy rains.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh, said that continuous rainfall from early yesterday morning until the evening caused significant disruption across the district. The heavy downpour resulted in extensive damage, with approximately 60 to 70 houses destroyed, around 150 severely damaged, and another 350 to 400 partially affected. In addition to residential losses, the district's roads, schools, power infrastructure, and water supply systems suffered considerable impact. Restoration and repair work is currently underway to address these damages, he said.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, said that around 2,500 people were rescued from flood-affected areas of Kulgam.

In the Mahore subdivision of Reasi district, 86 houses were affected, and 100 families were shifted to safer locations. The official said rescue teams continue operations, and food and essential supplies have been provided to all displaced families.

Amid the prevailing situation, the authorities have urged residents to follow advisories and remain alert while rescue teams continue relief operations across the region.

Weatherman Predicts Improvement

Meanwhile, the weatherman has predicted an improvement in the weather conditions from tomorrow, but stated that a brief spell of rain and thunder at a few places with moderate showers over a few places of Jammu division cannot be ruled out for the next few days till September 07.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that from September 08 to 11, a spell of moderate rain is expected over a few districts of Jammu division during 8th late night and 9th morning and improvement thereafter till 11th evening.

The MeT has also issued an advisory, advising people to stay away from water bodies, Nallas, river embankments and loose structures, etc.

NHs, Roads Closed

Nonetheless, the heavy rainfall has triggered multiple landslides and mudslides, leading to the closure of several vital roads and highways across the division.

Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains closed for the second consecutive day due to landslides and land subsidence at Thard in Udhampur, with additional blockages reported at Chanderkote, Kela Morh, and Battery Peshama in Ramban.

The traffic on Jammu-Pathankot Highway also

remained disturbed due to being blocked near Vijaypur in Samba district following the damage of a pillar of the Devak River bridge.

The Bani-Basohli road (blocked at Sukha Nallah), Basohli-Mabanru road (at Dhani), Mahappur-Kathua road (at Peddy Nallah), and Qiala Chak-Ramkote road (near Kali Mata Mandir in Galak) remain closed. The Mughal Road and Jammu-Kishtwar National Highway are also shut due to landslides and shooting stones.

A massive landslide has also blocked the Doda-Pul Doda road on the Batote-Kishtwar stretch following continuous rainfall in the district, and authorities have advised people to avoid travel in the affected area until clearance work is completed.

The Jammu-Rajouri road between Tanda and Kalidhar Mandir is also closed, while the 4th Tawi Bridge has collapsed amid rising river levels, suspending traffic movement.

Also, the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch National Highway has remained closed since last night at Chowki Choura near Kandi Tunnel, leaving many vehicles stranded due to the disintegrated road surface. Officials have called for the immediate restoration of the highways to reconnect Rajouri with Jammu.

Army Launches Rescue & Relief Ops

In the ongoing devastating floods in Jammu region, the troops of White Knight Corps undertook prompt rescue and relief operations in the general areas of Dhar Khour & Channi Village, Akhnoor.

The rescue columns, in coordination with civilian agencies, evacuated 80-90 civilians, including children, to safety. Among those rescued were two persons in critical condition.

In order to provide immediate assistance, two Medical Camps have been established by troops of White Knight Corps at Pallanwala & Palatan.

The medical support was extended to all evacuees, reinforcing the Indian Army's commitment to stand by people in every crisis.

CM Omar.....

Satish Sharmajank briefed on the situation in Jammu, while minister Sakina Itoo and advisor to the CM Nasir Sogami provided updates on the situation in Kashmir.

The Chief Minister appealed to the people to follow advisories, avoid vulnerable spots, and stay safe.

Minister Sakina Itoo and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani briefed him on the latest situation in the Kashmir Valley, while Ministers Javed Ahmad Rana and Satish Sharma reported on conditions in the Jammu division, including flash floods, road blockages and vulnerable habitations near riverbanks and landslide-prone areas.

The Chief Minister directed the administration to intensify ground response, clear waterlogged areas, ensure supply of essential services such as power, water and healthcare, and ensure timely evacuation of residents from critical zones.

He instructed divisional and district administrations to work in close coordination with disaster response agencies, police and health departments, and to maintain readiness for any eventuality. CM directed that adequate stock of ration, fuel, medicines and drinking water be made available in vulnerable areas, with emergency medical teams kept on standby.

Chief Minister has been taking hourly updates on rising water levels in Jhelum and its tributaries, status of power & water supply, road connectivity and has directed concerned departments to ensure that advance warnings are issued to the general public about any eventuality and for administration to provide timely help and assistance to people.

Appealing for public cooperation, the Chief Minister urged people to follow advisories, avoid unsafe areas, and report emergencies promptly. He assured that the government is closely monitoring the situation and committed to mitigating hardships.

"The safety and well-being of our citizens is our top most priority. I appeal to the public to stay vigilant, extend cooperation to the administration. Together, we will overcome this challenge," CM Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister directed officials to provide regular updates and reaffirmed that all possible measures are being taken to ensure relief and safety of the affected families.

Next few hours.....

telecommunication services are functioning normally across the Valley.

Preventive evacuations have been activated in several areas, particularly in Srinagar, Kulgam, Anantnag, and Pulwama. "Field teams, including revenue officers, magistrates, police, and SDRF personnel, are actively monitoring water levels and assisting citizens to move to safer locations," he added.

Garg noted that while water levels had receded in some areas during the day, continuous rises have been observed at Sangam and Ram Munshi Bagh. Field teams are closely monitoring these locations to prevent any risk to life and property.

He further stated that more than 300 relief shelters have been identified across districts, equipped with blankets, ration materials, power and water supply to support people in need. Citizens relocating to higher grounds or relatives' homes are being guided by administration teams.

"Mughal Road restoration work is ongoing, essential supplies are being replenished, and our health systems remain fully functional," Garg said. He stressed that emergency help desk at the UT level and district-level Emergency Operation Centres are operational and residents can also contact the widely publicized emergency number 112 for assistance.

The Divisional Commissioner cautioned that while the overall situation is under control, extreme vigilance is required. "The next few hours will be critical. I urge all citizens to remain alert, cooperate

with field teams, and follow district advisories throughout the night," he said.

LG Reviews.....

by Army, Air Force, CAPFs, district administrations, NDRF and SDRF teams on the ground to ensure the well-being of those affected by heavy rain and flood.

He was briefed that people affected by flood in Akhnoor were evacuated to safety by BSF, NDRF & Police. People from around 67 villages in Anantnag, Budgam, Pulwama were moved to safer locations and nomadic families in Pulwama and Shopian were provided shelters by the district administrations.

In Srinagar city, around 9 relief shelters are ready for emergency situation. The Lieutenant Governor asked the senior officials to take all necessary preventive measures against water borne diseases. He asked the senior officials to ensure rations, blankets, medicines, LPGs and pure drinking water to the affected families and speedy restoration of power infrastructure. He urged the people to take all possible precautions and safety measures. The Lieutenant Governor also assured that no effort is being spared by the Centre to ensure timely assistance to those in need.

He has also expressed his condolences to those affected by the tragedy in Kangri, Sunderbani in Rajouri district and wished for the well-being of all those impacted by the incessant rain.

Kashmir Floods:.....

Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He further assured that advance ration for September has already been allotted and distributed to residents. "In case of an emergency, we will ensure our stores are well-stocked, preventing any disruption in providing ration to the people," Dr. Ahmed added.

Meanwhile, FCS&CA officials stressed that all precautionary measures are being taken to maintain smooth supply lines amid rising water levels and ongoing flood warnings in parts of the Kashmir Valley.

Emergency preparedness.....

Further, the Health Department has deputed a team of doctors and paramedical staff at the designated centres. Notable among them are Dr. Rubee-na Aziz (ZMO Zadibal), Dr. Arshid Qadri (ZMO Khanyar), and Dr. Sameena Jan (ZMO Batamaloo), who will oversee medical preparedness and provide round-the-clock support if required.

The order also highlights nine evacuation-prone areas – Peerzoo Island, Kursoo Rajbagh, Padshahi Bagh, Lasjan, Soiteng, Gandbal, Pamposh Colony Palpora, Maloora, and Parimpora – where these centres will play a critical role during rescue and rehabilitation operations.

Moreover, departments such as SMC, KPDCI, PHE, Food & Civil Supplies, and R&B have also been roped in for smooth coordination.

Officials, as per KNO, said the initiative is a proactive safety measure aimed at minimizing risks and ensuring that Srinagar is fully equipped to respond swiftly in the event of floods or other emergencies.

3,000 Vehicles.....

Jammu-Srinagar National Highway at several locations forcing suspension of vehicular movement on Wednesday.

"Restoration work is underway, but frequent shooting stones and poor weather are hampering clearance operations," he said, adding that efforts are being made to reopen the highway by Thursday.

In addition to the National Highway, other vital roads have also been shut. The Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road, connecting the Valley with Ladakh, is also blocked, while the Sinthan Top Road and Mughal Road have been rendered unsafe after heavy rains triggered slides at several points.

"The continuous rainfall has made restoration work difficult. Our teams are on the ground, but safety remains a priority as fresh landslides occur intermittently," a Traffic Department official said.

The closure of these roads has severely hit connectivity, affecting both essential supplies and passenger movement. Fruit-laden trucks from Kashmir, meant for markets outside the Union Territory, have also been left stranded.

"We have been prioritising fruit trucks for the past several days as the highway has not been fully restored since August 26. A 20-km stretch between Udhampur and Chenani, particularly a 10-km patch between Bani Nullah and Samroli, is badly damaged. The worst-hit points include Tharad Bridge, Balli Nullah, and both carriageways at Samroli," the official said. He said that if the weather stabilises, two-lane traffic could be restored soon. "Our men and machinery are at work, we just need a window of clear weather to speed up restoration," he said.

Meanwhile, Kulgam Police on Wednesday organised a langar (community kitchen) at Qazigund for drivers and commuters stranded due to traffic disruptions on the highway.

The initiative was led by SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal (IPS), along with Additional SP (Highway) Qazigund, SDPO Qazigund, and other police officials. Adequate arrangements of wholesome meals and drinking water were made on the spot, providing much-needed relief to those in distress.

The gesture evoked wide appreciation from commuters and locals alike, who lauded the police's commitment to public welfare beyond conventional policing. Police said the endeavour reaffirms their resolve to stand shoulder to shoulder with the community in every circumstance.

Similarly, Udhampur Police provided food, water and other basic items to stranded people and ensured their safety till the road is restored. "Due to heavy rains and landslides, the highway remained closed, leaving many passengers and drivers stranded. Udhampur Police provided essentials and ensured

their safety till the road is restored," a spokesperson said.

Incessant Rains.....

while the administration has launched rescue and relief operations on a war footing.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in Pulwama district, the overflowing Romshi Nallah breached its banks, partially submerging Gundipora, Hassanwani, Uribagh, and Badibagh villages.

Residents said rainwater entered their homes, damaged stored food grains, and destroyed paddy fields and apple orchards, threatening their livelihood.

"We appeal to the administration to restore the original course of Romshi Nallah. Every time it swells during rains, our villages are cut off, and we face huge losses," said Abdul Majid, a resident of Gundipora.

The situation worsened after the approach road of Chandrigam bridge in Awantipora area caved in, forcing its closure for vehicular movement. The R&B Department, Awantipora, has diverted traffic through the Chandrigam–Amlar–Bargam–Noorpora route until the bridge is repaired.

Meanwhile, the Kaihgam area of Awantipora witnessed massive waterlogging, with streets and houses submerged. "The drainage system has collapsed. We are virtually trapped inside our homes, unable to move out even for essentials," said Rafiq Begum, a resident.

In Anantnag district, the swelling Brengi Nallah has inundated several low-lying areas. The water entered important institutions, including the BDO office, Anantnag, Soutul-Awliya Darul Uloom, and Idhara Tehqiqat, many residential areas and offices, forcing closure of official and educational activities. Farmers in the area fear large-scale devastation if the rains continue. "Paddy fields and orchards are under the water. If the water does not recede soon, the damage will be irreversible," said Ghulam Hassan, a farmer from Pulwama.

Similar situations were witnessed in south Kashmir's Kulgam, especially in Khudwani-Qaimoh, where water entered residential areas. Authorities said rescue teams, along with men and machinery, have been deployed at vulnerable points to strengthen embankments and restore connectivity.

At many places, including SIDCO Lassipora, the electricity line has suffered damage, due to which power supply has remained cut off to many areas, they said, adding that efforts are on to restore supply in the affected areas.

District officials confirmed that thousands of people have already been shifted to safer places in both Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag and even parts of Shopian.

The water level in most of the water bodies continues to rise, due to which there is fear among the people, while the administration is already on high alert.

MHA team.....

and coordinate with the local administration to ensure both immediate relief and long-term recovery measures.

The visit comes in the wake of unprecedented rainfall across Jammu and Kashmir, which has caused extensive damage to property and infrastructure.

Since early August, over 150 people have lost their lives in rain-related incidents in the Union Territory, including a significant number of casualties among pilgrims. Rescue operations are ongoing in several districts.

On September 1, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs announced the formation of Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) to evaluate damage caused by heavy rains, flash floods, landslides, and cloudbursts in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Punjab.

Each team is led by an officer of Joint Secretary rank from the MHA or the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and includes members from the departments of expenditure, agriculture and farmers' welfare, Jal Shakti, power, road transport and highways, and rural development.

According to officials, the IMCTs will conduct field visits to affected districts, examine relief measures already implemented by state and Union Territory administrations, and prepare detailed assessments that will guide further central assistance.

The initiative follows a mechanism introduced by Home Minister Amit Shah in 2019, under which multi-ministerial teams are dispatched immediately after a major disaster, rather than waiting for detailed reports from the states.

The officials said the IMCT's findings from Jammu and other affected states will form the basis for further central intervention, ensuring that resources are directed efficiently for relief, rehabilitation, and long-term mitigation efforts.

Jammu schools.....

has decided to close the functioning of schools in Kashmir division on Thursday as a precautionary measure.

Garg said, "In view of adverse weather conditions, all educational institutions including schools, colleges, universities and private coaching centers in Kashmir shall

remain closed tomorrow on 04.09.2025 as a precautionary measure."

Meanwhile, Director Colleges in an order said that in view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions and as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety and security of students and staff across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, all Government Degree Colleges, GCETs, private colleges in the UT of J&K shall remain closed on September-04.

In the meantime, Director of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) in an order said that the schools across Jammu and division shall remain closed till September-05 in view of inclement weather and flood like situation.

"In reference to the weather alert issued by the IMD and also keeping in view the incessant rains, landslides, flash floods, and severe waterlogging in low-lying areas, all government and private schools across Jammu Division shall remain closed till 05-09-2025 to ensure the safety of students and staff," DSEJ said.

The directorate further ordered that online classes shall be conducted wherever possible to maintain continuity of education.

The University of Kashmir officials also said that in view of adverse weather conditions, the university shall remain closed on Thursday. "All examinations scheduled for the day are postponed. The fresh dates will be notified separately," (KNO)

Can Kashmir.....

hearted. Dredging of the Jhelum has progressed at a snail's pace. The flood spill channel, designed to divert excess waters, is still largely dysfunctional. Wetlands like Hokersar, Bemina, and Narkara which once used to be nature's safety valves continue to be choked by encroachments and unplanned housing colonies. The very buffers that protected us are being eaten away in the name of development.

It is not just Kashmir that is vulnerable. The Jammu region is battered year after year by flash floods and cloudbursts, washing away roads and bridges, yet the response remains episodic rather than systemic. Each disaster is followed by condolence statements, token relief, and promises of "long-term solutions" that rarely move beyond files.

The complacency is dangerous. Climate change is intensifying rainfall patterns, making extreme weather more frequent. Our mountains, stripped of forests, no longer absorb water the way they once did. Urban expansion, indifferent to floodplains and drainage, ensures that even a few hours of rain now submerge our streets. When nature strikes, it does not wait for tenders, committee reports, or bureaucratic approvals.

Preparedness, not panic, should guide us. Early warning systems, functional control rooms, community-level disaster drills, and above all, ecological restoration must be made priorities. Urban planning cannot continue as if rivers and wetlands do not exist. Governance must shift from reactive firefighting to proactive risk reduction.

The floods of 2014 were described as a "once-in-a-century" calamity. But in the era of climate uncertainty, centuries shrink to decades, and decades to years. If Jammu and Kashmir continues to ignore the warning signs, the next deluge will not just be a natural disaster it will definitely be a man-made disaster.

Nature has given us enough reminders and sooner the better sense prevails to wake up as the real disaster might be our failure to act.

J&K gets 190.....

intake in Government Medical Colleges of J&K has now jumped from 1,185 to 1,375 seats.

This timely enhancement will significantly increase opportunities for aspiring medical students from J&K, reduce competition pressure, and contribute to the long-term strengthening of the healthcare delivery system by producing more trained doctors. Officials have further indicated that more seats are expected to be approved before the third round of counselling, further expanding the capacity of medical education in the UT.

The Chief Secretary, J&K, has appreciated the sustained efforts of the Health & Medical Education Department in achieving this milestone and has expressed gratitude to the Ministry of health and family welfare. The national medical commission and Dr. V.K. Paul, Member NITI Aayog, for their guidance and support in the seat enhancement.

Pertinent to mention that Dr. V. K. Paul is associated with the Health and Medical Education Department J&K on many initiatives and reforms in the Health and Medical Education Department, which are expected to bring transformative changes in the healthcare ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir.

Grateful to PM.....

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda Ji for increasing MBBS seats across Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) of J&K, taking total MBBS seats in GMCs from 1,185 to 1,375."

"Under Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji's leadership, the number of additional MBBS and PG Seats has increased significantly over the last few years and he has ensured accessible, affordable and quality healthcare for all in the UT," he added.

Sakeena Itoo, Nasir Aslam Wani visit Anantnag, take stock of flood situation

Also chair meet with local MLAs, district administrations of Anantnag, Shopian, review flood situation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, SEP 03: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo along with Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani today visited Anantnag and took first hand appraisal of the prevailing flood situation in the district.

During the visit, the Minister and Advisor visited flood gauge station Sangam and assessed the current water levels. They reviewed the latest readings recorded at the gauge station and interacted with the officials of the Irrigation & Flood Control Department.

Officers of Irrigation and Flood Control department briefed the Minister and Advisor about the prevailing discharge levels, forecast trends, and precautionary measures being undertaken to ensure timely response in case of further rise.

On the occasion, the Minister

emphasized that safeguarding public health and safety remains the government's foremost priority. She directed the concerned officers to maintain close vigil, ensure round-the-clock monitoring of river levels and remain fully prepared with emergency response plans.

The Advisor to the Chief Minister underlined the importance of coordination among line departments for effective disaster preparedness. He stressed the need for real-time information flow to both district administrations and local communities, so that any emergent situation can be handled without delay.

Later, the Minister and the Advisor also held a meeting at district headquarters Anantnag to review the prevailing flood situation in Anantnag and Shopian districts.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Altaf Ahmad Wani, Abdul Majid Larmi, Reyaz Ah-



mad Khan and Zaffar Ali Khatana; Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid; Chief Engineer, FC Kashmir, ADDC, ADC, ACR, ACD, Anantnag, Exen PHE Bijbihara, Exen Flood Control Anantnag, AEEs of various wings and other concerned officers while as ADDC Shopian and other concerned officers of the district Shopian participated in the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, the Minister directed the officers to maintain round-the-clock monitoring of water levels of all rivers and streams and ensure swift communication mechanism between field staff and control rooms. She asked the Deputy Commissioners to disseminate necessary alerts to the public through their respective control rooms on hourly basis so that people in vulnerable areas can be safely evacuated at the earliest in case of any exigency.

The Minister further stressed upon officers to ensure adequate stock of ration, availability of drinking water and other essentials items. She also called upon the health authorities to keep availability of medicines, and readiness of medical teams to deal with any possible exigency. She further asked them to deploy mobile medical teams at vulnerable areas.

During the meeting, the Minister and the also took stock of the functioning of disaster management teams. They stressed on coordinated action between civil administration, police and local volunteers to deal with any kind of exigency. They reiterated the Government's priority to safeguard lives and appealed to the general public to remain calm yet cautious and cooperate fully with the administration by following advisories and safety guidelines.

Awareness programme under Aadi Karmayogi continues at Chitternar Bandipora

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 03: Block level Master Trainer orientation programme under Aadi Karmayogi - Responsive Governance programme continued on second day today at the Forest Training & Research Institute Chitternar, Bandipora.

The programme is being organised from September 2 to 4, 2025, as part of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' initiative for tribal transformation.

The sessions on the second day focused on participatory planning, responsive governance and preparation of village-level development plans with emphasis on healthcare, education, infrastructure, digital access and livelihood opportunities. Trainers also highlighted the importance of preserving traditional knowledge while promoting modern skill development.

Resource persons underscored the need to identify local gaps and build the capacity of grassroots institutions for sustainable tribal development. They further stressed that the Aadi Karmayogi programme aims to empower tribal communities by ensuring their active involvement in governance and decision-making processes.

The programme witnessed active participation of officers, BDOs, volunteers and concerned stakeholders, who deliberated on strategies to make tribal villages self-reliant, socially empowered and digitally connected.

DLSA Srinagar sensitizes students on critical social & legal issues at GBHSS Nawa Kadal

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 03: In order to sensitize students on pressing social and legal issues, with a particular focus on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the growing menace of drug abuse, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA),

Srinagar today organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Nawa Kadal, Srinagar.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and was conducted under the supervision

of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The event commenced with an awareness video on the Lokpal, presented in the local language to ensure accessibility and relevance for the student audience.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), delivered an insightful

session on the dangers and legal implications of drug abuse.

Panel Lawyer spoke on the provisions and protective mechanisms under the POCSO Act, highlighting the importance of safeguarding children from sexual offences and ensuring timely legal intervention.

The programme witnessed

enthusiastic participation from students, who engaged actively with the resource persons, raising pertinent questions and sharing their perspectives.

The interactive nature of the session made it both informative and impactful, fostering a deeper understanding of the legal safeguards available to them.

Eid-Milad -Un Nabi arrangements finalised at Udhampur

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, SEP 03: To finalize the necessary arrangements in connection with ensuing Eid-Milad - Un Nabi, a meeting of the District Officers was held today under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; IAS Probationer Seerat Baji; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan and other District Officers besides representatives from civil society attended the meeting.

Detailed discussions were held on

the arrangements for the auspicious day, especially the availability of drinking water supply, uninterrupted power supply, provision of First Aid, Fire safety, availability of quality consumable items and a check on overpricing, besides proper sanitation in the city.

The DC directed the concerned departments to take measures to ensure adequate water supply, First Aid, uninterrupted power supply, security arrangements and cleanliness in the district.

The Municipal authorities were directed to conduct special cleanliness and sanitation drives in the towns.

To keep a check on the rates

and quality of the eatables, a team of officers was constituted to conduct frequent inspection of the market.

The Chief Medical officer was directed to keep available Medicare facility at the venues of congregations and special prayers. The District Police was asked to deploy adequate police personnel at traffic jam prone places of the town besides ensuring traffic regulation by the Traffic police.

The representatives of market organizations were directed to prominently display the approved rate lists of eatables in the shops.

Implementation of ABDP works reviewed in Aspirational Block Marwah



■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, SEP 03: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works being carried out under the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) of the Government of India.

The meeting focused on the Aspirational Block Marwah. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the current status of key performance indicators across health and nutrition, education, Agriculture and allied sectors, basic infrastructure, drinking water, sanitation, financial inclusion and social development.

Each indicator was thoroughly reviewed, with discussions centered on current progress, suggestions for enhancement, and areas requiring urgent attention. He directed all concerned officers to intensify efforts to bridge gaps in sectors showing and to take immediate corrective measures to improve performance indicators and achieve the set targets.

The DC also stressed the need for collaborative efforts from all line departments to ensure holistic and timely development.

The meeting was attended by CPO Kishtwar Akhil Thakur, CMO Kishtwar Dr. Rajinder Kumar, CEO Kishtwar Sanjay Dogra, CAO Kishtwar Kushal Chandel, ExEn Jal Shakti Kishtwar Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, CDPO Marwah Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, LDM Kishtwar Harsh Rawal, besides other concerned officers.

District Admin Samba accelerates infrastructure development under SASCI

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SAMBA, SEP 03: To fast-track developmental projects in the district, Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today asked the executing departments to ensure strict adherence to project timelines and implement a robust monitoring mechanism.

She was speaking at a meeting convened to assess the progress of projects sanctioned under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme.

The high-level meeting, held at DC Office Complex Nandini Hills, brought together key departmental heads and project stakeholders to ensure optimal utilization of allocated funds and timely completion of critical infrastructure projects.

Deputy Commissioner Sudan emphasized the administration's commitment to transforming Samba's infrastructure landscape through efficient project execution. She directed all concerned officers to eliminate procedural delays and maintain complete transparency in project implementation. The DC issued clear directives to accelerate the pace of developmental works, remove operational bottlenecks hampering project progress, ensure strict adherence to project timelines, and implement robust monitoring mechanisms.

The meeting witnessed active



participation from developmental departments including Public Works, Health, Water Supply, Power and Industrial Development, reflecting the administration's integrated approach to development. The cross-departmental synergy is expected to streamline

project execution and maximize resource utilization.

"Our focus should be on delivering projects that enhance public welfare and strengthen district infrastructure," Deputy Commissioner Sudan remarked, emphasizing that periodic reviews will be

institutionalized to track progress and ensure accountability at every level.

She also directed the officers to adopt modern technology-driven solutions such as geo-tagging of works, digital progress tracking, and third-party audits

to improve efficiency and maintain transparency. The DC reiterated that priority will be given to projects directly impacting citizens, including healthcare facilities, road networks, water supply augmentation, and power infrastructure upgradation.



Former Punjab Minister charged in multi-crore forest department money laundering case

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 3: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today said that they have filed a supplementary chargesheet before a Special PMLA court in Mohali against Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, former Forest Minister of Punjab, along with four other accused persons in connection with a PMLA case.

The chargesheet was filed on August 22. Earlier, the ED had filed its first chargesheet against Sadhu Singh Dharamsot in March 2024, in which charg-

es had already been framed.

The ED initiated PMLA investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by the Vigilance Bureau, Punjab, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, and the Prevention of Corruption Act in connection with multiple irregularities detected in the functioning of the Punjab Forest Department.

The ED investigation revealed that Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, during his tenure as Forest Minister in the then Government of Punjab, demanded and accepted sub-

stantial bribes in lieu of granting permits for felling of Khair trees, effected transfers/postings of officers in the Forest Department, and issued No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the department.

"Based on the investigation conducted so far, it has been established that Dharamsot acquired Proceeds of Crime (POC) amounting to Rs 1.77 Crore through such corrupt practices. Further investigation in the Disproportionate Assets case revealed that Sadhu Singh Dharamsot acquired POC worth



Rs 6.34 Crore. In this regard, a Prosecution Complaint was

filed before the Hon'ble Special Judge (PMLA) in 2024," said the ED official.

The ED investigation further revealed that Sukhwinder Singh, Range Forest Officer, and Mohinderpal Singh, Block Officer, embezzled Government funds to the tune of Rs 53.64 lakh, which had been allotted to Budhladha Forest Range for the procurement of tree guards under the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme.

The investigation established that no procurement of tree guards was carried out; instead,

funds were routed to the bank accounts of casual workers and their family members and subsequently withdrawn in cash. Earlier, assets worth Rs 53.64 Lakh belonging to Sukhwinder Singh, RFO, had also been provisionally attached by ED.

The ED had also carried out searches at various premises in 2023 and also arrested Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Ex. Forest Minister of Punjab in 2024 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Further investigation into the matter is ongoing. UNI

Cabinet approves Rs 1500 cr incentive scheme to develop recycling capacity

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 3: The union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi today approved a Rs.1,500 crore Incentive Scheme to develop recycling capacity for separation and production of critical minerals from secondary sources.

The scheme is part of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) aimed at building the domestic capacity of and supply chain resilience in critical minerals. The critical mineral value chain comprising exploration, auction and mine operationalization, and acquisition of foreign assets, has a gestation period before they could supply critical minerals to Indian industry. A prudent way to ensure supply chain sustainability in the near term is through the recycling of secondary sources.

The Scheme will have a tenure of six years from FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31. Eligible feedstock is e-waste, Lithium Ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and scrap other than e-waste and LIB scrap e.g. catalytic con-



vertors in end-of-life vehicles.

Expected beneficiaries will be both large, established recyclers, as well as small, new recyclers (including start-ups), for whom one-third of the scheme outlay has been earmarked.

The Scheme will be applicable to investments in new units as well as expansion of capacity/ modernization and diversification of existing units and will provide incentive for the recycling value chain which is involved in actual extraction of critical minerals, and not the value chain involved in only black mass production.

The incentives under the Scheme will comprise 20 percent Capex subsidy on plant and machinery, equipment and associated utilities for starting production within specified timeframe.

To ensure greater number of beneficiaries, total incentive (Capex plus Opex subsidy) per entity will be subject to an overall ceiling of Rs.50 crore for large entities and Rs.25 crore for small entities, within which there will be a ceiling for Opex subsidy of Rs.10 crore and Rs.5 crore respectively.

In terms of key outcomes, the Scheme incentives are expected to develop at least 270 kilo ton of annual recycling capacity resulting in around 40 kilo ton annual critical mineral production, bringing in about Rs.8,000 crore of investment and creating close to 70,000 direct and indirect jobs. UNI

German FM Wadephul calls on PM Modi, appreciates India's call for ceasefire in Ukraine

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 3: German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul today called on PM Narendra Modi and voiced appreciation for India's call for a ceasefire in Ukraine. The German FM, in a post on X, said that India's voice carries weight in the world and has influence when it comes to working for peace in Ukraine.

"Had great talks with @NarendraModi today. Our countries have taken good steps to expand our strategic partnership across the board, particularly in security & defence, economy & trade as well as skilled labour. We also greatly appreciate India's call for a ceasefire in Ukraine."

On his talks with EAM S Jaishankar, he said that India and Germany are natural partners, "we play in the same team & want to strengthen our partnership across the board".

"We aim to boost our bilateral trade & our cooperation. Be

it skilled workers or technology and space, our countries will always win when we work more closely together.

"As democracies we share the commitment to the international rules-based order which we want to uphold. India's voice carries weight in the world and has influence also when it comes to working for peace in Ukraine."

Earlier, during a presser with EAM Jaishankar after their bilateral talks here, the German FM had voiced appreciation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging for a speedy peace agreement in Ukraine during his bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Tianjin earlier this week.

"The fact that PM Modi when he met with President Putin of Russia pointed to a speedy peace agreement in Ukraine is important to us. We are working with our European friends to see that peace returns soon," German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said.

"We are working with our



European partners in confronting Russia as international law is being violated. It is a challenge, to reach a perfect peace agreement on such matters," he added.

Wadephul said that Germany realises there is a clear political

stance of India to contribute to bringing about the process of peace in Ukraine. "Here too we see eye to eye, and I agree the talk has been very fruitful," he added.

"In this conflict, we are pursuing a policy that we have to be

objective that Russia and Ukraine sit for negotiations. We have seen that Russia is not willing to sit for negotiations, while Ukraine has expressed its willingness to do so. Our only demand is that weapons fall silent, and that is a reasonable condition. And we want Putin to sit at the negotiating table (with Zelenskyy)," he added.

Asked about the additional US tariffs on India that US President Donald Trump said was being slapped for New Delhi's purchase of Russian oil and whether Germany concurred with it, the German FM sidestepped the issue.

He spoke instead about the European sanctions on Russia. "We have used sanctions on Russia, to ensure that Russia is unable to fund its war. We want to remove the financial basis that Russia uses to fund the war," he said, adding, "And at the same time we don't want to affect countries that need energy", in reference to India and its purchase of Russian oil. UNI

Germany voices appreciation of PM Modi urging for Ukraine peace agreement with President Putin

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"The fact that PM Modi when he met with President Putin of Russia pointed to a speedy peace agreement in Ukraine is important to us. We are working with our European friends to see that peace returns soon," German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said during a press meet after his talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar here today.

"We are working with our European partners in confronting Russia as international law is being violated. It is a challenge, to reach a perfect peace agreement on such matters," he added.

Wadephul said Germany realises there is a clear political stance of India to contribute to bringing about the process of peace in Ukraine. "Here too we see eye to

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INS Trikand arrives at Alexandria in Egypt; to participate in Exercise Bright Star

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 3: Indian Naval stealth frigate INS Trikand, arrived at Alexandria in Egypt, during her ongoing deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

The ship, which arrived on September 1, will participate in Exercise Bright Star 2025. The exercise is hosted by Egypt from September 1 to 10, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Bright Star 2025, is a multilateral US Central Command exercise across the air, land, and sea domains that promotes and strengthens regional security and cooperation, and enhances interoperability in irregular warfare against hybrid threat scenarios.

Apart from the USA, Egypt and India, forces from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Greece, Cyprus and Italy are also expected to participate in the exercise.

During the port call at Alexandria, INS Trikand will also engage in a host of activities to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation. These include discussions



with senior military officials, cross deck visits, cultural exchanges and sports fixtures to promote people-to-people connections.

With upcoming port calls in the region, key objectives of the operational deployment are professional naval engagements in the Mediterranean Sea to foster interoperability with partner maritime nations. These interactions aim to strengthen commonalities in procedures and to exchange best practices that would aid combined operations against traditional and non-traditional maritime threats. UNI

UAE senior official cautions that Israel's annexation of West Bank will end hopes of regional integration

■ United News of India

ABU DHABI, SEP 3: A senior United Arab Emirates official has warned Israel that any move to annex the West Bank will cross a "red line", threatening the future of the Abraham Accords and ending hopes for regional integration.

"Annexation would be a red line for my government, and that means there can be no lasting peace. It would foreclose the idea of regional integration and be the death knell of the two-state solution," Emirati special envoy Lana Nusseibeh told The Times of Israel in Abu Dhabi.

Her remarks came just days before Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is due to consult min-

isters on advancing annexation plans, and as Israel's far-right coalition pushes for the formal incorporation of large parts of the occupied territory.

The warning is the UAE's starkest since it became the first Arab country in over 25 years to normalise ties with Israel under the US-brokered Abraham Accords in 2020. Emirati officials have long described the deal as irreversible, making Nusseibeh's statement an unusually direct signal of disquiet.

She cautioned that annexation would be a "strategic loss" for Israel, removing the possibility of further Arab states following the UAE's lead. "For every Arab capital you talk to, the idea

of regional integration is still a possibility, but annexation to satisfy some of the radical extremist elements in Israel is going to take that off the table," she said. Her remarks come as Netanyahu has been mulling over the possible annexation of the area – an action only bolstered amid the declaration by several Western countries who announced their intention of recognising a Palestinian state in light of the crisis in Gaza.

The move, which is spearheaded by France, and joined by the UK, Canada, Australia and Belgium, has prodded hardliners in the Israeli premier's cabinet to consider it a very unique opportunity in disguise, due to Israel's



long maintained stance that any recognition of a Palestinian state "rewards" Hamas' terror onslaught on October 7, 2023 and incentivises terrorism.

On Wednesday, Finance Min-

ister Bezalel Smotrich called for annexing 82% of the territory, urging Netanyahu to act swiftly to assert full Israeli sovereignty.

Nusseibeh also appealed to Washington, saying the UAE

trusted President Donald Trump not to allow the Abraham Accords – seen as a central foreign policy legacy – to be "derailed by extremists." She argued the US administration still held key levers to encourage wider regional integration if Israel stepped back from annexation.

Her message, while warning of consequences, also held out the prospect of progress if Israel reversed course. Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, remain open to normalisation, she said, but only if Jerusalem drops its annexation plans and commits to a credible path toward Palestinian statehood.

"When Hamas tried to derail the Abraham Accords vision with

the October 7 attacks, we were firm in our response," she said, pointing to the UAE's condemnation of the assault and its delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

"Our view was that the vision of the Abraham Accords remains pertinent – that you can't let extremists set the trajectory of the region."

But she warned that Israel's deepening entrenchment in the West Bank risked pushing the region towards a "point of no return."

"The Abraham Accords' tenets of prosperity, coexistence, tolerance, integration and stability have never looked more under threat than they are today," she said. UNI





Starc Retires from T20Is to Focus on Tests, 2027 ODI World Cup

■ Andrew McGlashan

DUBAI: Mitchell Starc has announced his retirement from T20Is in order to prioritise Australia's heavy Test schedule from late next year and the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Starc, 35, played 65 T20Is after making his debut in 2012 and was part of the Australia side that won the 2021 T20 World Cup in the UAE. He last featured in the format at the 2024 World Cup in the Caribbean and has retired six months before the next edition in India and Sri Lanka. His 79 T20I wickets currently puts him second for Australia with his best of 4 for 20 coming against West Indies in 2022.

"Test cricket is and has always been my highest priority," Starc said. "I have loved every minute of every T20 game I have played for Australia, particularly the 2021 World Cup, not just because we won but the incredible group and the fun along the way.

From mid-2026 Australia face a hectic run in Test cricket including a home series against Bangladesh, a tour of South Africa, a four-match series against New Zealand, five Tests away in India in January 2027, the one-off 150th anniversary match against England at the MCG and then an away Ashes in mid-2027.

The ODI World Cup, which will be staged in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, will be held in October and November 2027 with Australia the defending champions.

"Looking ahead to an away Indian Test tour, the Ashes and an ODI World Cup in 2027, I feel this is my best way forward to remain fresh, fit and at my best for those campaigns," Starc said. "It also gives the bowling group time to prepare for the T20 World Cup in the matches leading into that tournament."

At his best in T20Is, Starc was able to find new-ball swing and execute his yorker at various stages of an innings. His pace may be the toughest aspect to replace as Australia build towards next year's World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, although the team have won 14 out of 17 matches since Starc last featured.

"I'm not sure we're going to find someone swinging the new ball at 145kph an hour," chair of selectors George Bailey said. "So it might not necessarily be a like-for-like replacement. Traditionally he's taken the new ball and been able to bowl some clutch overs at the death at the right time. "So have we exposed the type of players who might be able to fill that. I think Nathan Ellis become a really integral member of that T20 side.

Espncricinfo

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حاجی عبدالحمید کتاب رحمت حق
فاتحہ خوانی 4 ستمبر کو انجام دی جائیگی

یہ خبر انتہائی رنج و غم کے ساتھ شائع کی جاتی ہے کہ ادوی کشمیر کے معروف تاجر لال چک سرنگریں واقع ہے کے شیئرس کے بانی حاجی عبدالحمید کتاب ساکنہ راجہ لال نزدیکی پست آفس مورچہ 2 ستمبر بروز منگل کو کھٹھر حالات کے بعد وادی اہل کو لیک کر گئے۔ (اللہ وانا اعلم)۔ مرحوم ایک کامیاب تاجر ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ پاکیزہ اوصاف کے مالک اور صوم و صلوات کے پابند تھے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام نصیب فرمائیں۔ مرحوم کے نماز جنازہ پیش گوئی جمعہ شنبہ نے عصر لایا۔ جن میں تاجر، سیاسی، سماجی اور دینی افراد کی اچھی خاصی تعداد موجود تھی۔

مرحوم کی انتہائی فاتحہ خوانی مورچہ 4 ستمبر بروز جمعرات کو ان کے 11 بیٹے مرحوم کے بانی مقبرہ پر حاجی علی محمد صراف کدل سرنگریں میں انجام دی جائیگی۔

سوگواران
اعجاز احمد کتاب، لطیف احمد کتاب
(فرزند ان مرحوم)

Nitish Rana Turns Lost Years Into Comeback Story

■ Espncricinfo

NEW DELHI: Nitish Rana marked his return to Delhi cricket with a statement performance in the crunch games of the Delhi Premier League (DPL), leading West Delhi Riders to the title. In the three playoff matches, he produced one century and one half-century, finishing unbeaten each time with scores of 134*, 45*, and 79*. It was a decisive response from a player who had been searching for form across the past two years and had started the tournament poorly. His unbeaten 134 off 55 balls in Qualifier 1, with eight fours and 15 sixes, was the defining knock of the tournament.

"In big matches, it is very important for big players to perform because there is a lot of pressure in these games," Rana said afterwards. "Big players know a little better how to handle pressure, and I place myself in that category of players who can steer the game under pressure situations.

"As an experienced player, you know whether you are in good touch or not. I knew I was batting well, but the runs were not



coming. I continuously backed myself. I knew I was only one big innings away, and luckily it came when the team needed it most. Now we are champions."

The Qualifier also featured an exchange of words with South Delhi Superstarz spinner Digvesh Rathi, which went viral online. Rana did not want to linger much on the episode. "It would be very unfair if I only share my side of the story and Rathi doesn't get to say anything," Rana said. "All I can say is that he started it and poked me, so I replied. I was born and raised in Delhi, and I have hot blood too. If someone pokes me, I am not the kind of person to stay quiet... He got disturbed in his line and length, and I responded with sixes."

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