



JAMMU FLOODS

LG directs officials to restore power, communication, water supply

- Chairs high-level meeting to review rescue, relief ops
- Visits Katra, meets injured
- Announces Rs 9 lakh relief for NOKs of landslide victims
- Briefs PM, HM about emerging situation



Yogesh

Jammu/Katra, Aug 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level meeting here on Wednesday evening to review the ongoing relief and rescue operations in flood hit Jammu region, he also announced Rs 9 lakhs relief for

the Next of Kins (NoKs) of Katra landslide victims.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the high-level meeting chaired by LG Sinha at Raj Bhawan here was attended by top officers of the administration and the security forces, including Army, J&K Police and paramilitary

forces.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor wrote: “Chaired a high-level meeting today at Raj Bhawan Jammu to review the rescue & relief operations, restoration of essential services and preparedness of UT’s and concerned central agencies, Army, NDRF, CAPFs to deal with the situation arising out of

incessant rain and floods.”

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials for restoration of power, communication and water supply on priority in areas where flood water is receding.

He was informed that more than 5000 people were evacuated from low-lying flooded areas to safety. | [More on P6](#)

Loss of lives saddening: PM Modi



PIB

Srinagar, Aug 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives due to a landslide on the route to the revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Temple. In a message shared on X today, the Prime Minister said: “The loss of lives due to a landslide on the route to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Temple is saddening. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. May the injured | [More on P6](#)

40 killed, 75 sheep perish as J&K battles nature’s fury

- Situation eases in Jammu, flood threat in Kashmir parts, Jhelum above danger mark in Sgr
- NDRF team airlifted to Jammu; Army launches Op HADR; MeT predicts dry weather



Yogesh/Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar/Jammu, Aug 27: Nearly 40 people lost their lives while 75 sheep perished across Jammu and Kashmir due to landslides and other incidents triggered by the heavy rainfall that continued for the third consecutive day on Wednesday.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), nearly 35 people have lost their lives in Katra in a massive landslide incident, triggered by the heavy rains near the Vaishno Devi shrine.

Similarly, two youth lost their lives after coming in contact with a live electric wire in Ganjiwara area of Anantnag town. The deceased have been identified as Irshad Ahmad Bhat (30), son of Gh Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Lower Munda, Qazigund, and Junaid Shafi Bhat (25), son of Mohd Shafi Bhat, a resident of Moominabad, Anantnag.

According to eyewitnesses, both were engaged in loading their truck when a low-tension electric wire suddenly snapped and fell on them, | [More on P6](#)

SDRF mounts massive flood rescue across Kashmir

- » Over 400 personnel, 60 boats deployed across valley
- » 40 boats in reserve; major rescues in Anantnag
- » Safe passage provided to 250 people in Sgr



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 27: In the wake of the worsening flood-like situation across Kashmir, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has intensified its operations and deployed manpower across vulnerable areas to ensure the safety of residents.

A senior official from the State Disaster Response Force

(SDRF) told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that more than 400 SDRF personnel and over 60 boats have been deployed throughout the Kashmir valley, while 40 boats are kept in reserve to meet any emergency.

“Teams are on the ground round-the-clock with full preparedness | [More on P6](#)

Jammu floods CM questions preparedness: ‘Couldn’t we take measures to save lives despite alerts?’

Time to shift those living in flood-prone areas’
Apprises PM Modi of prevailing situation in J&K

Announces Rs 6 lakh ex-gratia relief for NOKs of Katra incident

Directs advance placement of Rs 10 cr with DCs for relief, rehab, restoration



Yogesh

Jammu, Aug 27: “Couldn’t we take the measures to prevent the situation despite receiving weather alerts in advance?” Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday, expressing anguish over the loss of

lives in Katra due to floods. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured the Centre’s full support.

Speaking to the reporters here, the CM, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), after assessing the flood situation, said, “Couldn’t we | [More on P6](#)

Edu instts to remain closed today

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Aug 27: Amid flood alert, the government Wednesday decided to close all schools, colleges and universities of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in an order said, “In view of the inclement weather conditions and for the safety of students it is ordered that all government as well as private recognized schools in the Kashmir Division shall remain closed on August-28.” | [More on P6](#)

Over 5000 people evacuated from flooded parts of Jammu

Efforts on to restore essential services

PTI

Jammu, Aug 27: More than 5,000 people were evacuated from the banks of various flooded rivers and inundated low-lying areas in the Jammu region as rescue agencies and the administration continued to reach out to stranded people in flood-hit Jammu and Samba districts.

Most of the Jammu division, which has been inundated by flash floods triggered by heavy rains, continued to receive rain, although of less intensity.



Efforts to restore water supply, electricity and internet services that have been severely hit

are underway, but schools and colleges have been ordered shut. | [More on P6](#)

Srinagar-Jammu, other key highways closed for traffic

MeT predicts improvement, train ops resume in Jammu

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 27: The continuous rainfall, landslides and shooting stones have forced the closure of Srinagar-Jammu National Highway on Wednesday, while the weatherman here has predicted light to moderate rains till today.

As per the latest traffic plan, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) remains completely closed for vehicular movement.

The closure, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), is attributed to

multiple landslides and shooting stones, triggered by incessant rains along the entire stretch of the highway.

Also, the status of the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway will be reviewed on August 28, following a fresh assessment of road and weather conditions.

The Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road (NH-244) is also reported to be closed, restricting all forms of traffic.

Similarly, the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari (SSG) road is also shut due to a landslide near Bajri Nallah. | [More on P6](#)

KU postpones all exams for today



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 27: The University of Kashmir has postponed all the examinations scheduled for Thursday 28th of August, 2025 in view of inclement weather conditions.

Fresh dates for the conduct of postponed papers shall be communicated separately, the KU said in a press release issued here. | [More on P6](#)

For 3rd time in history, J&K to have partial role in VP election

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Aug 27: For the third time in history, Jammu & Kashmir will play only a partial role in the Vice-Presidential election, as all four of its Rajya Sabha seats currently remain vacant. The Vice-President of India is elected by an Electoral College comprising members of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Officials told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that all six Lok Sabha seats of undivided Jammu & Kashmir were lying vacant when the Vice-Presidential election was held



in 1992. The Lok Sabha election could not be held in 1991 in J&K due to militancy, and the erstwhile state remained without representation in the Lower House until 1996. The Union

Government had promulgated an ordinance to temporarily set aside the constitutional requirement to hold parliamentary polls in J&K in 1991.

According to officials, J&K had no representation in the Rajya Sabha when the 16th Vice-Presidential election was held in 2022. All four Rajya Sabha members had completed their terms in 2021, and their replacements could not be elected due to the absence of an Electoral College, i.e., elected MLAs.

A similar situation exists for the 17th Vice-Presidential election, for which MPs will vote on September 9. | [More on P6](#)

Operations Mahadev, Sindoor befitting reply to terror orchestrators: Amit Shah

Lauds J&K Police for assuming lead role in anti-terror manoeuvres

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Aug 27: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that Operations ‘Sindoor and Mahadev’ have conveyed a strong message to terror orchestrators attacks that India would take the “bull by its horns” and would deal with terrorists and their supporters with an iron fist.

Speaking at an event here organized to honour Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and CRPF personnel who



participated in ‘Operation Mahadev,’ Shah, according to

the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the

country’s response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack was decisive and effective.

Pertinently, the ‘Operation Sindoor’ was launched in the first week of May to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 people, mostly tourists dead.

The Indian armed forces struck deep inside Pakistan and POK, and destroyed nine terrorist base camps.

Shah said this operation brought a sense of reassurance among | [More on P6](#)

Div Com reviews flood preparedness

Visits Hari Niwas to inspect functioning of Emergency Operation Centre

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 27: In view of the inclement weather across Kashmir division, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg convened an urgent meeting to assess the readiness of departments & district administrations to respond to any emergency and potential threat of floods in low-lying areas.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Commissioner SMC, CEO ERA, and senior officials from various key departments including ULB, FCS&CA, Education, IMD, Radio Kashmir, Door-darshan, I&FC, KPDCL, MED, UEED, R&B, BSNL, SDRF, NDRF, SRTC, PHE, BEACON and others.

At the outset, Div Com took a detailed district-wise assessment of the flood situation, including the mapping of vulnerable areas and operational status of district-level control rooms. He reviewed the availability of essential supplies, readiness of manpower and machinery, deployment of resource personnel, and evacuation contingency plans.

Garg emphasized the importance of activating communication channels to ensure real-time information dissemination to



both officials and the public. He directed Deputy Commissioners to update contact lists of district and tehsil-level committee members and to formulate backup communication plans in case of telecommunication breakdown.

Div Com also instructed departments to update

logistics and resource data on the official portal and ensure all relevant information is accessible via a centralized dashboard.

To strengthen preparedness, he called for immediate clearance of debris from roads affected by landslides, facilitating the movement of emergency services and

supplies.

Commissioner of SMC informed the meeting that 49 mobile dewatering pumps had been deployed in waterlogged areas across the city.

Officials from the Meteorological department informed the gathering that there is currently no imminent flood threat, and the weather is expected to improve later in the evening.

Div Com reiterated that all departments must remain on high alert and work in close coordination to ensure public safety and a prompt response to any emerging situation.

Later, Div Com visited Hari Niwas to inspect the operation and functioning of UT level Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) where he checked the consolidated data of the centre and distress calls received from the general public. He also assessed the timely response provided to address the issues.

Meanwhile, he has appealed to the public to reach out to the UT level EOC at 0194-2502254, 0194-2950767/ 1070 for any assistance. Div Com was accompanied by DIG Police, DC Srinagar, Commissioner SMC and other officers of I&FC and line departments.

Jatin chairs NCORD meeting

Directs vigorous enforcement against drug menace

KT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 27: To assess and reinforce the district's anti-narcotics efforts, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Wednesday chaired the monthly meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) at the V.C. Room of DC office Ganderbal.

At the outset, DC took a department-wise review of progress on enforcement, awareness, treatment, and rehabilitation. Officers from concerned departments viz. Health, Education, Revenue, Agriculture, Excise and Social Welfare presented updates against the Action Taken Report on directives issued in the previous NCORD meeting.

The functioning of the Drug De-addiction Centre was reviewed meticulously and the Chief Medical Officer was directed to explore the possibility of making IPD facilities available at the Centre.

While reviewing the status of computer billing and installation of CCTV cameras



by medical shops, the District Drug Inspector informed that 97 percent shops have switched to computer billing systems and 100 percent CCTV camera installation is also ensured.

DC directed for active enforcement to achieve 100% computer billing within the next 1 month.

Status of NDPS cases was also reviewed and Police and Prosecution departments were directed to ensure timely investigations, charge sheeting and trial proceedings in all NDPS cases.

Excise department was

asked to intensify wild cannabis destruction drives across the district. Chief Education Officer (CEO) was directed to conduct drug de-addiction awareness campaigns during morning assemblies, particularly in high schools.

Emphasizing the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach, DC called for focusing on prevention, surveillance, and community engagement to effectively combat the drug menace.

Under the ongoing Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, DC directed Block

Development Officers and the Social Welfare department to organize regular awareness drives targeting vulnerable groups of society.

The meeting was attended by the SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Ahmad Poswal; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihagi; Deputy Director Prosecution, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers, District Drug Inspector, and representatives from the, Excise Department, Intelligence Bureau, and other concerned departments.

Highlight genuine public issues: Rana to legislators



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 27: Legislators Saifullah Mir, Javaid Iqbal Choudhary, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, Fayaz Ahmad Mir and Ifrikhar Ahmed Wednesday called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, the legislators held detailed discussion with the Minister on a range of pressing

issues concerning public welfare and development in their respective constituencies.

Matters related to water supply, forest conservation, ecological sustainability and tribal welfare were prominently raised.

They emphasized the need for timely redressal of grievances and expedited implementation of key infrastructure and environmental projects.

Minister gave a patient hearing

to all issues put forth and assured appropriate and time-bound action on each point, and urged the legislators to continue highlighting genuine public issues and collaborate with the administration to ensure delivery of essential services at the grassroots level. He emphasized that sustained communication between elected representatives and the government is vital for achieving meaningful progress and addressing the needs of the people effectively.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail Id: amitabhman.721013@jk.gov.in

Sub: - Extension in bidding time for Short Term e-NIT No. 17 OF 2025-26, Dated: 19-08-2025 for below mentioned works:-

Part 1:

Installation of 10 cusec and 7 cusec pumping units allied mechanical works at intake channel of LIS Lethpora Stage-1st.

Part 2:

Providing and fitting of 50 sqmm XLPE insulated, 1100 V single core aluminium cable for drought pumps at LIS Lethpora stage-1.

Part 3:

Mechanical repairs and replacements to 20 cusec VT Pump Unit-1 at LIS Noorbagh.

Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: - 2025_IFC_284481_1, 2025_IFC_284481_2, 2025_IFC_284481_3

EXTENSION NOTICE 1

Due to poor response to above mentioned e-NIT for the subject works, the critical dates are extended as under:-

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date | 01/09/2025 at 1400 hrs |
| Date and time of Bid opening | 02/09/2025 at 1230 hrs |

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No. MIDS/Ts/2335-41
Dated:- 25-08-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar

DIPK-5559/25
DATED: 27-08-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR KASHMIR HORTICULTURE (P&M) RAJBAGH SRINAGAR.

Ph. No. 0194-2311325 Fax No.2310007

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-Nit AUC Notice 58 OF 2025-26 Dated:23-08-2025
Canteen facility at F&V MarketKulgam for the year 2025-26

For and on behalf of Agriculture Produce Market Committee Fruit & Vegetable Market Kulgam sealed offers affixed with Twenty rupees stamp and accompanied with CDR/ FDR of Rs. 15300 addressed to the Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee Fruit & Vegetable Market Kulgam are invited from the interested parties for outsourcing of canteen housed in the administrative block of Fruit & Vegetable Market Kulgam with following specifications

The offers are invited from interested parties for the year 2025-26 from 01-09-2025 up to 31-03-2026.
The tender documents can be can be downloaded from <http://jketenders.gov.in>.

| Name of work | Minimum Reserve Bid | Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR | Cost of Tender Document | Period of Contract |
|--|---------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Outsourcing of canteen housed in the administrative block of Fruit & Vegetable Market Kulgam | Rs.1,53,000/- | Rs. 15,300/-(in favour of Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee Kulgam | Rs.500/- (non-Refundable) in favour of Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee Kulgam(in the shape of DD) | 01-09-2025 To 31-03-2025 |

Critical Dates Table.

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Publishing Date | 23-08-2025 |
| 2 | Document Download/Sale Date | 23-08-2025 |
| 3 | Bid Submission start Date | 23-08-2025 |
| 4 | Bid Submission Closing Date | 29-08-2025 (Up to 4:00 PM) |
| 5 | Bid Submission Opening Date | 30-08-2025 (At 11:00 AM) at Deputy Director (K) office Rajbagh Srinagar |

The committee will comprise of the following members:-

- Deputy Director Horticulture (P&M) Kashmir : Chairperson
- Accounts Officer Horticulture (P&M) J&K : Member
- Member-Secretary MAC /Area Marketing Officer Kulgam : Member
- Assistant Grading and Marketing Officer Kulgam or Grading and Marketing Inspector : Member

The other terms & conditions are as under:-

The successful tenderer shall have to enter into an agreement with the Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee (MAC) Fruit & Vegetable Mandi Kulgam.

1. The minimum reserve bid is Rupees 153000 (One Lakh Fifty-Three Thousand) only.

2. The successful bidder has to undergo agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture Produce Market Committee Fruit & Vegetable Market Kulgam and deposit the entire bid amount at the time of the execution of the agreement.

3. The successful bidder shall have to utilize the existing accommodation / space as referred to the above for the purpose of running of canteen & shall not make any change in the existing accommodation or construct any structure in the compound of the Adm block.

4. The successful bidder has to arrange furniture & other kitchen utensils of his own.

5. The allottee shall be bound by all the labour laws being in force in the J&KUT

6. The allottee shall also be liable to pay tax of any kind chargeable under the income tax laws for time being in force in the J&K UT

7. The successful bidder has to bear the expenditure on account of water & electricity charges of his own.

8. In case of any dispute between the parties, the matter shall be referred to the Director Planning Marketing / Chairperson MAC Kulgam for arbitration and the decision of the Director shall be final and binding upon the parties.

The successful tenderer shall have to charge the customers for different eatables as per the following rates:-

| S.No | Name of the Item | Quantity | Rate |
|------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 01 | Tea Lipton/Namkeen | Per Cup | 10/- |
| 2 | Hot Coffee | Per Cup | 20/- |
| 3 | Lemon Tea | Per Cup | 10/- |
| 4 | Cake/Samosa | 1 Piece | 15/- |
| 5 | Kashmiri Roti/Shirmal | 1 Piece | 10/- |
| 6 | Butter Toast | 2 Piece | 20/- |
| 7 | Ommellite (2 Eggs) | Per Plate | 30/- |
| 8 | Rice (Basmati) | Per Plate | 40/- |
| 9 | CholaPuri | Per Plate | 50/- |
| 10 | Mutton Kanti | Per Plate of 100 gms | 80/- |
| 11 | Mutton Rista /Goshtaba | Per plate of 2 Pieces | 120/- |
| 12 | Chicken Biryani | Full Plate | 120/- |

No: - 39-IV/MAC/DDK/HPM/2025/1253-57
Dated:- 23-08-2025

DIPK-5562/25
DATED: 27-08-2025

Sd/-
Deputy Director (K),
Horticulture (P&M),
Srinagar

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process:-

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "downloads" option as well as from "bidder Manual Kit" on website www.jketenders.gov.inacquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- The DSC and all other qualification documents shall be in the same name otherwise tender shall be rejected.
- Note:-Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with COLOR option with an optical scanner, pdfs created using cell phones will not be accepted.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender documents in shape of Demand Draft in favour of Member Secretary MAC, Kulgamand Earnest money/bid security in shape of CDR/FDR, if applicable pledged to Member Secretary MAC, Kulgammust be uploaded with documents of the bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in Bid offer contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The Bid offer downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- Price escalation and Taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include Price escalation and all taxes up to completion of work, unless otherwise specified.PTO 4 Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

Flood Alert Situation

Health Minister reviews preparedness, healthcare facilities at GMC Anantnag

KT NEWS DESK

Anantnag, Aug 27: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday visited Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag and held a comprehensive review of the emergency preparedness and healthcare facilities in light of the incessant rains in South Kashmir.

During the visit, the Minister conducted a detailed round of key wards including the Emergency, OTs, and Intensive Care Units, and personally inspected flood preparedness measures such as water drainage, power backup systems, and availability of emergency supplies.

She directed the hospital authorities to create dedicated emergency counters for flood-related patients, enhance sanitation drives to prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases and ensure proper shelter facilities for attendants accompanying patients.

The Minister also instructed that special focus be given to maternal and child health care during emergencies, noting that vulnerable groups require additional support.

During her visit, the Minister



interacted with doctors, and paramedical staff. She also reviewed the availability of essential medicines, blood supplies, ambulances, and critical care infrastructure to ensure the hospital remains fully equipped to handle any surge in emergency cases.

The Minister emphasized on the importance of a robust emergency response system, including round-the-clock duty rosters, coordination with district administration, and rapid deployment of mobile medical

teams to flood-affected zones.

“Our priority is to ensure that every patient receives timely treatment. Adequate medicines, power backup, safe drinking water and efficient referral linkages are non-negotiable in such situations. Our government is committed to strengthen healthcare institutions across J&K so that people receive quality healthcare services”, she stated.

The Health Minister appreciated the efforts of the medical staff who have been working

tirelessly under difficult conditions and assured them of every possible support from the government. She also urged citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with health advisories being issued from time to time.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Coordination New GMCs, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Anantnag, HoDs of various specialties, doctors and other concerned officers also accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Floodwaters enter Kursu Rajbagh

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Aug 27: Panic spread across Kursu Rajbagh in Srinagar on Wednesday as floodwaters from the swollen Jhelum river breached residential pockets, submerging lanes, bylanes, and courtyards before entering several homes.

The situation prompted the deployment of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Srinagar Police, who rushed boats and personnel to assist residents.

Eyewitnesses said that water levels surged sharply during the day, leaving families anxious and forcing many to move essential belongings upstairs.

“The lanes and bylanes are already under water. It has now entered our courtyards and some houses. People are frightened and on edge,” said Ghulam Ahmad, a resident of Rajbagh. He said the water started entering the area at around 10 or 11 a.m.

Another local said the most vulnerable are suffering the most. “Children and the



Pics: Jahangir Shah (KNO KTD)

elderly are the worst affected. Everyone here fears a repeat of the 2014 floods,” he said.

Locals also accused the authorities of being slow to respond. “Despite repeated requests, no visible preventive measures were taken before the water entered our area,” a group of residents said.

By afternoon, SDRF and police teams arrived with boats, helping people from inundated spots and providing immediate relief. SDRF officials said teams were actively assisting residents. “We have deployed personnel with boats in Rajbagh and nearby areas. Our men are rescuing

stranded families and moving them to safety. More reinforcements are on standby,” one official said.

Officials from the Irrigation and Flood Control Department stated they were maintaining a strict vigil at vulnerable embankments. “The situation is being monitored round-the-clock. People should remain cautious and adhere to advisories,” an official said.

As evening set in, anxious residents watched water levels closely, while joint efforts by the SDRF, police, and flood control officials continued to prevent any major breach—(KNO)

Satish Sharma directs to ensure adequate relief measures

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Aug 27: undertook a comprehensive review meeting to assess post-flood situation across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, attended by senior officers from various departments, focused on assessing the relief efforts undertaken so far and planning for future eventualities.

During the meeting, the Minister directed the officers to take proactive measures to mitigate the suffering of the flood affected people.

While asking the officers



to work in synergetic manner, the Minister called for maintaining close coordination between the departments to ensure fool proof mechanism is

put in place for proper distribution of relief and rehabilitation of the affected people. He said that the government is committed to ensure relief measures

percolate to the people and no one is left behind.

The Minister also took stock of the vehicles used in the evacuation of passengers during the recent floods and stressed the importance of mobilizing resources effectively to respond to such situations.

Directing the officers to remain alert on the ground, the Minister emphasized that the administration's prompt response is crucial in minimizing the impact of such disasters on the people. He instructed the officers to work tirelessly to ensure that the affected populations receive the necessary

support and relief.

The Minister, during the meeting, was informed that Transport Department has provided all the required number of vehicles to the rescuing agencies and District Administrations to safely evacuate the flood affected people. He directed the department to meet future requirement of vehicles as and when required.

Satish Sharma further directed the Oil Companies to ensure adequate supply of petroleum products including LPG is made available in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rajbagh turns into flood-time spectacle

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Aug 27: In Srinagar's Rajbagh, the swollen Jhelum has become more than just a waterway under stress—it has turned into a gathering point.

As the river swelled and water began entering lanes and bylanes on Wednesday in the residential areas of Rajbagh, visitors poured in from different parts of the city, drawn by a mix of worry and wonder.

Dozens leaned over the embankments where water had started entering residential areas, phones raised for photos, while others simply stood still, listening to the rush of water.

Narrow lanes of Kursu Rajbagh were already submerged, forcing locals to wade across.

“Every year we hear flood alarms, but watching the Jhelum this close makes

it real,” said Bilal Ahmad, a resident from Bemina who traveled to Rajbagh with friends. “It's both frightening and fascinating.”

A young man standing near a shop, his shoes barely above the water, said the water level was rising and people were worried. “If it increases further, it will completely enter the houses. For now, it has already reached the lanes and bylanes,” he said.

Curiosity may bring people to Rajbagh, but residents speak of living with fear. A woman from Kursu Rajbagh, carrying her child through ankle-deep water, said, “We don't know if the river will stop or take more of our homes.”

Notably, for Srinagar's residents, Rajbagh has turned into a spectacle—a live stage where the Jhelum's rise is measured not just in feet and inches, but in the anxious eyes fixed upon it—(KNO)

Airtel announces emergency connectivity support

SAJID RAINA

New Delhi, Aug 27: Bharti Airtel has announced a series of emergency support measures for customers in Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh, where telecom services have been severely affected due to ongoing extreme weather and heavy rainfall.

The spokesperson, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that continuous rain and challenging

weather conditions have disrupted connectivity across these regions, making it difficult for users to access essential communication services.

To support affected customers, Airtel has extended relief in the form of temporary service benefits.

Prepaid users whose plans are expiring this week will receive an automatic three-day extension that includes unlimited voice calls and 1GB of data per day, even if they are unable to recharge.

This initiative is aimed at ensuring that users remain connected despite local disruptions.

Postpaid and broadband customers will also benefit from a three-day grace period on their bill payments. This step is intended to provide customers with uninterrupted service during this period, allowing them time to manage payments once the situation stabilizes, the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, Airtel has enabled

Intra-Circle Roaming (ICR) in Jammu, Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh. This will allow customers to access other available networks in the region, helping to maintain connectivity where Airtel's own network may be temporarily impacted.

The company has deployed teams on the ground who are working to restore full network services at the earliest.

In its statement, Airtel reaffirmed its commitment to supporting its customers

and ensuring they stay connected during difficult times.

“Airtel stands with the people of these regions and remains committed to keeping them connected,” said an Airtel spokesperson.

The company also urged customers to stay informed through its official communication channels for further updates.

Notably, a massive communication blackout has paralyzed daily life across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

Flood water draws crowd of onlookers

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Aug 27: As flood alarms ring across Kashmir, the Jhelum and other water bodies have drawn their own crowd of onlookers. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in Srinagar's Rajbagh and other popular Jhelum shores, people stood along the embankments on Wednesday, eyes fixed on the river as it pushed past the flood mark.

Among hundreds of people across Srinagar city, in Rajbagh stood a young boy, with a phone pressed to his ear, answering a call. He said: “Bhaiya bol, mei Rajbagh mei hu. Pani dekhne aaya. (Yes, brother, I am in Rajbagh, watching the water of Jhelum).”

The boy's words echoed a mood felt across the city, part concern and part curiosity. Many clicked pictures, while others simply watched in silence as the river swirled below.

Meanwhile, officials of the



Pics: Jahangir Shah (KNO KTD)

Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) department stressed there was “no need to panic”, adding that emergency wings

were on alert and monitoring the situation.

But for Srinagar's residents gathered at the Jhelum's

edge, the rising water was more than numbers in a bulletin; it was a sight that demanded to be seen—(KNO)

Rana grieves loss of lives near Mata Vaishno Devi

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Aug 27: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives due to a landslide triggered by heavy rains near the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of profound grief and prayed for the swift recovery of all those injured.

“The tragic incident of the death of several devotees in a landslide near the Mata Vaishno Devi Temple route is extremely painful. May the departed souls rest in peace,” he said, mourning the tragic incident.

He said that the Omar



Abdullah government is taking all the necessary measures to assist all those affected. He further said that the administration is continuously monitoring the situation arising in various parts of Jammu Division due to heavy rain and

officers have been instructed to remain on high alert to meet any eventuality.

He further called upon the people to follow advisories issued by the government from time to time and take all essential precautions.

EDITORIAL

J&K's Deluge Demands Action, Not Excuses

The tragic loss of 31 lives in Jammu and Kashmir's devastating floods and landslides is a stark indictment of systemic failure and neglected preparedness. While torrential rains triggered the crisis, it was the absence of preventive measures, timely infrastructure upgrades, and robust disaster management that turned it into a catastrophe. As pilgrims lie buried under landslides, homes are swept away, and highways collapse, the

authorities must answer: Why were lessons from the 2014 floods not learned? The scale of devastation, with bridges washed away, rivers breaching danger marks, and communities cut off, reveals a terrifying truth: J&K remains dangerously vulnerable to climate-induced disasters. Despite advance meteorological warnings, the response relied on reactive measures like school closures and pilgrim suspensions rather than addressing core vulnerabilities:

choked flood channels, illegal encroachments on riverbanks, and inadequate drainage systems. The fact that the Tawi River surged four feet above its 2014 flood level underscores the utter lack of progress in flood mitigation over the past decade. The government must now prioritise a three-fold approach: The first is immediate relief. The authorities must expedite rescue operations, provide adequate compensation to affected families, and ensure

medical aid and shelter for the displaced. The second is rehabilitation. The government should rebuild infrastructure with climate-resilient designs, restore connectivity, and support livelihoods shattered by the deluge. The third is prevention. It needs to implement long-pending measures like dredging rivers, clearing encroachments, and installing early-warning systems. A transparent, time-bound action plan must be published and monitored

publicly. This tragedy must serve as a turning point. The J&K administration and the Central government must move beyond rhetoric and invest in sustainable flood management. Climate change will intensify such events, and without urgent action, more lives will be lost. The people of J&K deserve not just sympathy but security, a promise that their safety will never again be compromised by bureaucratic apathy. The time for accountability is now.

MGNREGA: Empowering Rural India Through Sustainable Livelihoods And Infrastructure Development

A comprehensive overview of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act's achievements, ongoing initiatives, and future prospects in building resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable rural communities.

Press Information Bureau

The Government of India envisions a dignified village life, where the people of Bharat's rural communities can access growth and opportunity within their own ecosystems. This vision is being realized through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, a flagship programme aimed at enhancing livelihood security by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members are willing to undertake unskilled manual work.

In Assam, during 2020, farmers faced severe challenges in carrying out agricultural activities due to lack of irrigation water, which significantly affected crop yields. Responding to the needs of the local community, a distributor canal was constructed under the MGNREGA scheme.

The brick-lined canal, built using registered skilled and semi-skilled labour, helped channel rainwater effectively. Upon completion, it provided adequate irrigation to nearby fields, improved livelihoods, and generated a total of 1,134 man-days of local employment.

With a focus on social inclusion, the scheme actively supports SCs, STs, women-headed households, and other vulnerable groups. This scheme emphasizes sustainable development and environmental conservation by encouraging projects that promote ecological restoration and strengthen rural infrastructure. Through initiatives such as water conservation, afforestation, and soil health improvement, MGNREGA is laying the foundation for a greener, more resilient rural India.

In FY 2013-14, the budget allocation for MGNREGA was Rs 33,000 crore.

On the other hand for FY 2025-26 (BE), the government has retained a high allocation of Rs86,000 crore—the highest since the scheme's inception.

In order to upgrade the skill base of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS workers, the Government of India launched "Project UNNATI" in December 2019. The project aims to enhance the livelihood opportunities of these workers by equipping them with skills that enable a transition from partial employment to full employment, either through self-employment or wage employment. Project UNNATI targets the skill development of 2 lakh MGNREGS workers, thereby promoting sustainable income generation and economic self-reliance. The total achievement till 31st March 2025 was 90,894 candidates.

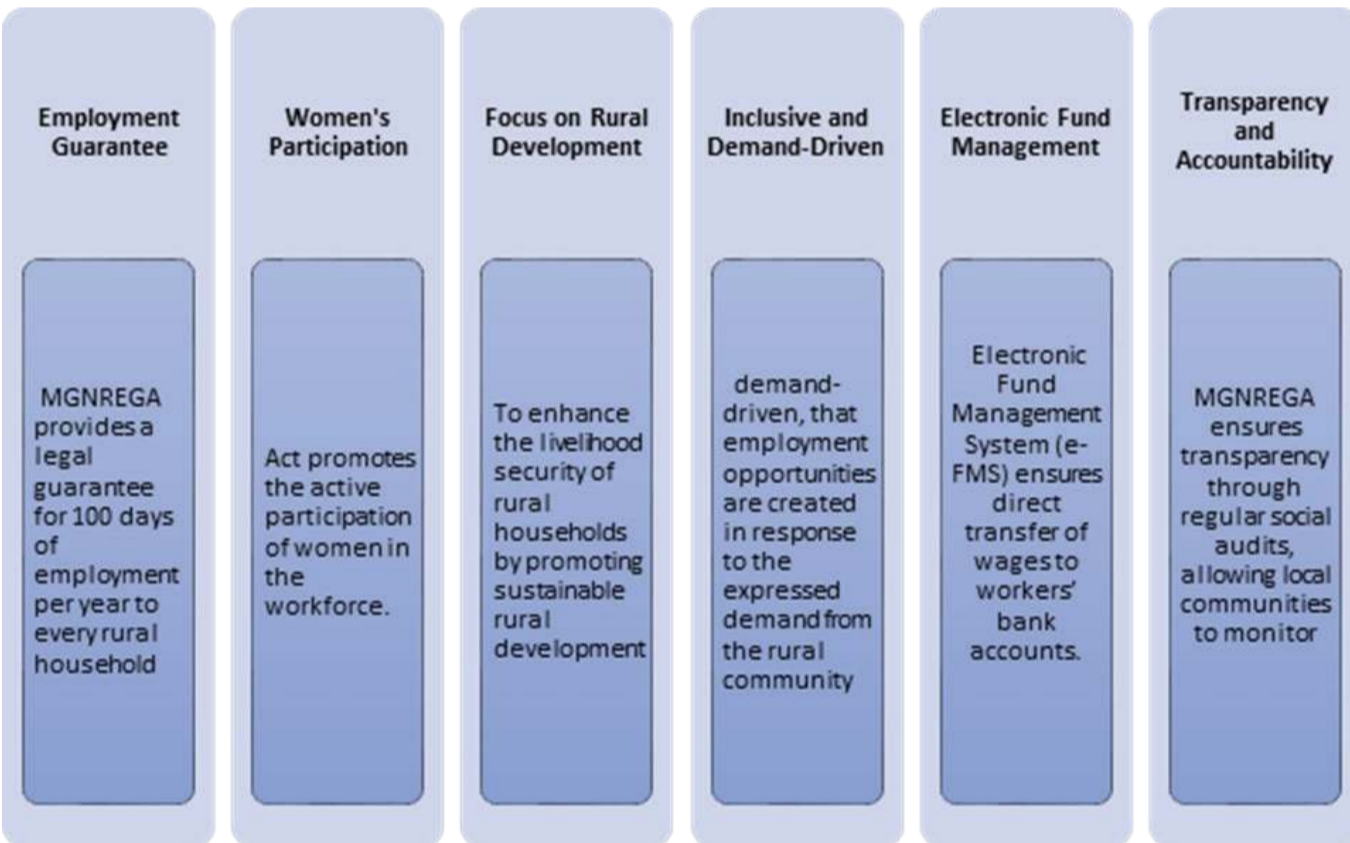
Objectives under MGNREGA

Providing at least one hundred days of unskilled manual work in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability
Strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor

Proactively ensuring social inclusion; and
Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

Women Participation under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

The participation of women under MGNREGA has consistently remained above 50% over the past five financial years. It has shown a steady upward trend, rising from



48% in FY 2013-14 to 58.15% in FY 2024-25 with 440.7 lakh women participating in the scheme during FY 2024-25. This underscores MGNREGA's critical role in promoting women's empowerment and economic inclusion in rural areas.

Funds released, Households and Person days Generated under MGNREGS

In the Current FY 2025-26, as on 23.07.2025, an amount of Rs 45,783 crore has been released under the scheme out of which Rs.37,912 crore is for payment of wages. In FY 2024-25, a total of 15.99 crore households were registered under MGNREGA, generating 290.60 crore person-days of employment.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is a demand-driven wage employment programme that acts as a fallback option when no better employment opportunities are available. The Government of India remains committed to providing adequate employment to all willing and eligible rural households under the scheme as per demand.

During the ongoing financial year 2025-26, 99.79% of rural households that demanded work under MGNREGS were successfully offered employment, reflecting the scheme's strong responsiveness.

Cancellation of Fake Job cards under MGNREGS

Job card verification is a continuous exercise under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, conducted by States and Union Territories using Aadhaar as a tool for de-duplication. Job cards may be cancelled or deleted after proper verification in cases of fake or duplicate entries, households unwilling to work, families that have permanently migrated, or where the sole job cardholder has expired. The number of job cards deleted under MGNREGA in the FY 2024-25 is 58,826.

Comparative Achievement under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

The comparative achievement under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA can be summarized as follows:

In the financial year 2013-14, women's participation was at 48%, which increased to 58.15% as of March 27, 2025. Regarding Aadhaar seeding in NREGS, there were 76 lakh workers in January 2014, which grew to 13.45 crore by 2025. For workers on the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS), there was no such provision in 2013-14, but by 2025, 13.05 crore active workers were registered on the system.

Geo-tagging of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS assets was not in place in 2013-14; however, more than 6.26 crore assets have already been geo-tagged and are available in the public domain as of 2025.

The percentage of wages paid through the e-FMS (e-Payments) system was only 37% in 2013-14, which increased significantly to 99.94% by 2025. Lastly, the creation of individual assets saw growth from 17.6% in 2013-14 to 57.05% in 2025.

Steps undertaken to improve Effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of MGNREGA

Mission AmritSarovar: launched in FY 2022 aimed to construct or rejuvenate 50,000 water bodies across India to enhance water conservation. Surpassing its target, over 68,000 AmritSarovars were developed, reflecting a successful "whole of government" approach.

Social Audit: The social audits of all Gram Panchayats must be conducted at least twice a year to ensure transparency, accountability, and community participation in the scheme's implementation.

Aadhaar Based Payment System: It has been adopted under the programme to enhance transparency and minimize leakages in wage payments. Through this system, over 99.6% of wage payments are electronically credited directly into workers' bank accounts, ensuring timely and accountable

disbursement of funds. Against the total of 12.08 crore active workers, Aadhaar of 12.03 crore active workers have been seeded so far.

Secure – Software for Estimate Calculation for using Rural Rates for Employment: Application is being used for estimate the calculation of works to be undertaken under the scheme.

Yuktadhara portal: It was developed in collaboration with ISRO-NRSC for simplified geospatial planning. It helps integrate local needs with satellite-based data for more effective and targeted development.

GIS-based planning: It is used as a ridge-to-valley approach which is implemented through remote sensing across all Gram Panchayats.

JALDOOT App: Enables Gram Rojgar Sahayaks (GRS) to measure and record the water level of selected wells twice a year—pre-monsoon and post-monsoon—to support groundwater monitoring and resource planning.

JANMANREGA app: aids in proactive disclosure of information to its citizens as well as a feedback mechanism about the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App: Captures real-time attendance of workers along with geotagged photographs to ensure transparency at worksites.

GeoMGNREGA: Enables geo-tagging of assets created under the scheme, improving monitoring, planning, and accountability. "During" and "After" stages of the asset creation. So far, a total of 6.36 crore assets have been geotagged.

Recent Developments under MGNREGA

Around 97.81% of fund transfer orders (FTOs) are being generated on time by the states/UTs ensuring timely wage payment by March 2025.

More than 86.98 lakh assets have been created by March 2025, reflecting the scheme's role in strengthening rural infrastructure.

About 97% of active workers have been

Key Takeaways

Rs 86,000 crore allocated for MGNREGA in FY 2025-26 - the highest since the scheme's inception.

In the Current FY 2025-26, an amount of Rs 45,783 crore has been released under the scheme

290.60 crore person-days generated in FY 2024-25.

With 440.7 lakh women participating in the scheme, participation of women reached to 58.15% by FY 2024-25.

linked with Aadhaar Payment Bridge system by March 2025.

The Ministry has introduced good governance reforms like job card verification, adoption of 7 simplified registers, stronger social and internal audits, and proactive inclusion of landless labourers. Citizen Information Boards have been deployed to enhance transparency.

Convergence with 13 Ministries supports infrastructure like Anganwadi centres, GP buildings, and border road connectivity in collaboration with BRO and others.

Approximately by March 2025, 44.14% of total expenditure has been incurred on Agri and allied activities which indicates focus on agriculture in the rural areas.

Measures taken by Central Government to increase awareness

Launching Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns, such as wall paintings and community outreach, to widely disseminate the provisions of the Act.

Expanding the scope and coverage of the demand registration system, ensuring that no genuine demand for work goes unregistered.

Facilitating participatory planning, with job plans prepared and approved in the Gram Sabha, promoting transparency and local ownership.

Organizing 'Rozgar Diwas' at the village level to raise awareness about entitlements under MGNREGA, ensure work demand registration, and address grievances.

Conclusion

MGNREGA continues to be a cornerstone of rural employment and development in India. With record budgetary support, increasing women's participation, and the integration of technology for transparency and accountability, the scheme not only provides livelihoods but also strengthens rural infrastructure and natural resource management. Its evolving framework reflects a strong commitment to inclusive and sustainable rural growth.

Going forward, continuous focus on timely fund flow, effective grievance redressal, and integration with other rural development programs will be crucial to maximize impact. Strengthening social audits, ensuring job card authenticity, and furthering skill development through initiatives like Project UNNATI can enhance both implementation efficiency and long-term livelihood outcomes for rural households.

Wheels Of Change: India's Electric Leap For Green Mobility

From groundbreaking EV launches to ambitious policies and infrastructure, India is steering towards sustainable mobility, aiming for cleaner air, reduced emissions, and global leadership in green transport

Press Information Bureau

What is the hallmark of a thriving city? Quieter streets, cleaner air, with vehicles passing by silently? Well, this is not a scene from the future but a journey that's already underway across India. Green mobility has well and truly moved beyond being a buzzword, thanks to India's wholehearted commitment towards a cleaner, low-emission, and energy-efficient mode of transport.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic milestone in India's green mobility journey by inaugurating Suzuki's first global strategic Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV), the "e VITARA," at the Hansalpur plant in Ahmedabad today. This marks an important step leading to export of Made-in-India BEVs to over 100 countries. The Prime Minister also inaugurated localized production of hybrid battery electrodes at the TDS Lithium-Ion Battery plant, a joint venture of Toshiba, Denso and Suzuki, ensuring that more than 80 percent of battery value is manufactured within India, helping in achieving the shared goal of "Make in India, Make for the World". These landmark developments not only position India as a major player in the global EV supply chain but also mark a decisive leap towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat and clean energy innovation.

India's electric vehicle market is charging ahead at full speed, with FY 2024-25 posting record-breaking numbers. Electric two-wheeler (e-2W) sales hit 11.49 lakh units, up 21% from the previous year's 9.48 lakh. These figures signal a rapidly accelerating shift towards cleaner, more sustainable mobility on Indian roads.

This shift isn't just about vehicles but also vision. It's about building a transport ecosystem that aligns with our environmental goals, supports economic growth, and improves everyday life. With bold policies, public-private collaboration, and a rising tide of innovation, India is on the road to a cleaner, greener, and more resilient mobility future.

Charged with Advantages

Electric vehicles (EVs) are transforming the way we travel by offering a cleaner, smarter, and more efficient alternative to traditional fuel-based transport. As India pushes towards sustainable mobility, switching to an electric vehicle is becoming a practical and future-ready choice.

The Government's Roadmap for Clean Mobility

India's green mobility story is not built on a single track but on a network of bold initiatives driving change. India's journey toward green mobility is being powered by a series of forward-looking government schemes that are paving the way for a future where every ride is a step towards a healthier planet.

National Electric Mobility Mission Plan and FAME-I

India's electric mobility journey received a major push from the government with the launch of a clear policy: the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020. This plan was brought into effect to accelerate the adoption and production of electric vehicles (EVs), laying the foundation for a cleaner, greener transport future. As part of this mission, the FAME India Scheme (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) was implemented from 2015 till 2019 to encourage the adoption



of electric and hybrid vehicles. FAME-I not only focused on increasing EV uptake but also on building essential charging infrastructure. Around 520 charging stations were approved under the scheme with a total allocation of 43 crore to support this infrastructure.

| Category | Number of EVs Supported |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| e-2 Wheelers | 1,51,648 |
| e-3 Wheelers | 786 |
| e-4 Wheelers | 1,02,446 |
| Electric Buses | 425 |
| Total | 2,55,305 |

FAME II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) – Phase II

Building on the momentum of the previous phase, FAME-II shifted the gears, injecting bold investments for the transition to electric mobility. Launched in April 2019, FAME India Phase-II came with a budget of 11,500 crore. The scheme focuses on increasing EV adoption, expanding the e-bus network, and strengthening the charging infrastructure.

EVs Supported under FAME-II as of June 2025

| Category | Number of EVs Supported |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| e-2 Wheelers | 14,35,065 |
| e-3 Wheelers | 1,65,029 |
| e-4 Wheelers | 22,644 |
| e-Buses | 5,165 (6,862 sanctioned) |
| Total | 16,29,600 |

To back this, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) approved 800 crore in March 2023 for three oil companies—Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) to set up 7,432 public charging stations (PCS) at their fuel outlets across India. In March 2024, an additional 73.50 crore was sanctioned to upgrade 980 charging stations, with 400 more sanctioned through Expressions of Interest in various states.

A total of 912.50 crore has been sanctioned for the installation of 9,332 EV PCS, out of which 8,885 EV PCS have been installed, as on 30th June, 2025, marking a major step towards empowering the nation's electric mobility infrastructure.

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry in India (PLI-Auto)

The PLI scheme is fueling India's ambition to become a global hub for advanced automotive technologies, putting homegrown innovation in the driver's seat. Launched in September 2021, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the automobile and auto component industry brings a budget of 25,938 crore to boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technologies (AAT). As of March 2025, the scheme has attracted 29,576 crore in cumulative investment and created 44,987 (nos.) jobs. Major players like Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have stepped up with significant EV production investments. A key mandate is that companies must ensure at least 50% domestic value addition (DVA) to qualify for incentives.

PLI Scheme for National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage

Batteries are the heartbeat of electric mobility, and with the ACC PLI scheme, India is set to power its future from within, reducing imports and building cutting-edge energy storage capabilities at home. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage, launched in 2021, aims to supercharge India's battery manufacturing capacity for 50 GWh of ACC batteries with an investment of 18,100 crore. As of February 2025, 40 GWh has been awarded under which, within two years, the beneficiaries must achieve a minimum investment of 225 crore per GWh of committed capacity and ensure at least 25% domestic value addition (DVA), scaling up to 60% within five years. This initiative is key to strengthening India's electric mobility and energy storage ecosystem.

PM E-Drive

Though trucks make up only 3% of all vehicles on the road, they're heavy hitters when it comes to pollution, pumping out 34% of total CO₂ emissions and a staggering 53% of Particulate Matter (PM) emissions like dust, soot, and smoke. Buses, too, account for less than 1% of the fleet, but their environmental footprint is far from small, contributing roughly 15% of all CO₂ emissions. The PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM-E DRIVE), approved in September 2024 and implemented until March 2028, is a

focused push to curb such emissions, tackling one of the most pressing challenges in urban air quality. It is a comprehensive 10,900 crore initiative to accelerate electric mobility in India. As of July 2025, the scheme is incentivizing consumers by providing subsidies. 24.79 lakh e-two-wheelers (with 1,772 crore subsidy), 3.15 lakh e-three-wheelers (907 crore subsidy), 5,643 e-trucks (500 crore), the government's first direct incentive plan for electric trucks), e-ambulances (500 crore subsidy) have benefitted from the Scheme. The Scheme has further supported 14,028 electric buses with 4,391 crore in funding as of July, 2025.

Additionally, 2,000 crore is allocated for establishing EV public charging stations across highways and urban areas, while 780 crore is set aside for upgrading EV testing infrastructure. These measures aim to remove barriers to EV adoption, strengthen India's electric vehicle ecosystem, support domestic manufacturing, and reduce pollution, aligning with the country's commitment to sustainable, green mobility.

Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI)

India's goal to become a global hub for electric car manufacturing has been brought into motion with the SPMEPCI, notified in March 2024. Applicants must commit to an investment of at least 4,150 crore, achieve 25% domestic value addition (DVA) within three years and ramp up to 50% DVA by the end of five years. The application portal for SPMEPCI has been launched on 24th June 2025 and it's open until 21st October 2025. To draw global automakers to invest, the scheme grants approved applicants a five-year window to import Completely Built-in Units (CBUs) of electric four-wheelers (e-4W) valued at a minimum CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) of USD 35,000 at a significantly reduced customs duty of 15%, starting from their application approval date. The scheme blends incentives with localization to drive clean-mobility growth along with the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.

PM-eBus Sewa Scheme

Taking a giant leap towards cleaner urban travel, the PM eBus Sewa scheme is set to reshape public transport by putting thousands of electric buses on India's roads, bringing comfort, connectivity, and sustainability to every ride. The Government launched this scheme in August 2023 to boost public transport in cities. With a budget of 20,000 crore for deploying 10,000 electric buses under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the scheme focuses on making urban travel cleaner and more efficient. Eligible cities include those with a population between 3 and 40 lakh, as well as State and UT capitals with fewer than 3 lakh residents as per Census 2011. As of August 2025, 7,293 electric buses have been approved across 14 States and 4 Union Territories. To support this expansion, 1,062.74 crore has been sanctioned for depot and power infrastructure in 12 states and 3 UTs, with 475.44 crore already disbursed to 9 states/UTs for creating key facilities.

PM e-Bus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) Scheme

Keeping the electric wheels rolling, the PM-eBus Sewa-PSM Scheme, a 3,435.33 crore initiative approved in

October 2024, aims to support deployment over 38,000 electric buses across India between FY 2024-25 and FY 2028-29, with operations supported for up to 12 years from their date of deployment. The scheme aims to act as a financial safety shield for e-bus operators, offering a payment security mechanism in case of default by Public Transport Authorities (PTAs). The PM e-Bus Sewa scheme continues to drive India's urban mobility into the future by enabling scalable electric bus deployment and addressing operational risks through payment security.

India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI)

In a major step towards shaping India's clean transport future, NITI Aayog unveiled the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) in August 2025, a pioneering tool designed to track, measure, and compare how States and Union Territories are progressing on their electric mobility ambitions. This first-of-its-kind framework not only benchmarks achievements but also provides a clear picture of where each region stands on the road to an electrified, sustainable transport ecosystem. The IEMI score is calculated by assessing performance across 16 indicators under three core themes — Transport Electrification Progress, Charging infrastructure readiness, and EV Research and Innovation Status. A higher score signals a stronger, more advanced electric mobility landscape. Based on these results, regions are ranked as frontrunners with thriving ecosystems, performers steadily progressing, and aspirants that need targeted support to accelerate their journey. Delhi, Maharashtra and Chandigarh are leading as 'Frontrunners' in the recent IEMI score.

Milestones Made, Track to Tomorrow

India has been making significant progress in the transition to green energy and electrification. With a clear vision and decisive targets, the roadmap ahead charts a course for cleaner air, stronger infrastructure, and a future-ready transit network.

The Government of India has set a vision to achieve 30% EV penetration by 2030, aligning with the global EV30@30 initiative.

As of February 2025, a total of 56.75 lakh electric vehicles have been registered in India out of 389.77 million registered vehicles.

India has set its sights on an ambitious green horizon, aiming to slash projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes by 2030.

In a decisive step towards a low-emission future, India aims to cut the economy's carbon intensity to below 45% by 2030 and ultimately transform into a net-zero nation by 2070.

Conclusion

Green mobility in India is no longer just an aspiration, it's a movement reshaping how the nation moves, breathes, and grows. India's green mobility drive is rewriting the story of transportation, replacing the roar of engines with the quiet hum of innovation. From sleek electric buses gliding through city streets to highways lined with charging points, the nation is building a network where speed meets sustainability. It's not just about getting from point A to point B, but about creating a future where every mile travelled leaves a lighter footprint and a lasting legacy of cleaner air, healthier cities, and a planet that can keep pace with our ambitions.

Recycle To Survive

It would be naïve to ignore the factors at play. Globally, recycling is at cross purposes with the powerful medical device industry that thrives on the 'use and throw' paradigm

O.P. Yadava

In January, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation banned the import of pre-owned and refurbished medical devices into India.

Even though governments are unable to provide the bare minimum of medical products and devices to their populations, formal and informal efforts on the part of individuals and organisations to send expired, recycled and reconditioned devices as donations have been entirely stopped. The putative reason for the CDSCO's recent ban was the fear of infections from recycled devices in response to an anecdotal mishap that was widely reported and blown out of proportion.

Data, however, tell a different story. In 2024, an international randomised trial of 298 patients — 'My Heart Your Heart' — conducted by researchers from the University of Michigan found that reconditioned



pacemakers "provide a noninferior, more affordable alternative to new implants with respect to infection risk." Unfortunately, the World Health Organization and human rights organisations have issued statements pointing to the moral and the ethical grounds against recycling.

However, they do not give sufficient weight to the consequences of this approach. With no hope whatsoever of any government-funded costly devices, like pacemakers, such a policy direction robs the socio-economically disadvantaged communities of the hope of recovery and care.

Until and unless we can assure universal access to unused products and devices at affordable prices, a ban on recycling can unwittingly become a death sentence.

In the developed world, reticence to recycling is understandable given the wide availability of devices and the prohibitive cost of human labour necessary for recycling that pushes up prices. Fear of medico-legal litigations and resultant punitive compensations have further deterred the practice in those countries. However, in India, the cost of labour and, thus, recycling is relatively low. If the safety concern, especially the infection potential of these devices, is addressed through proper guidelines and specifications issued by regulatory bodies and professional associations, the medico-legal risks can also be carefully managed. The environmental imperatives weigh in favour of recycling commonly used medical hardware as well.

It would be naïve, however, to

ignore the factors at play. Globally, recycling is at cross purposes with the powerful medical device industry that thrives on the 'use and throw' paradigm. Endemic corruption in regulatory bodies also means that corporate lobbies find political accomplices at the cost of unsuspecting patients. In the European context, the infamous Implant Files report by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists found that top European Union politicians and officials across 36 countries were won over by misleading claims from implant industry lobby groups. In India, the CDSCO ban was unsurprisingly supported by medical manufacturers. We must also be wary of the argument that a regulated import regime would turn India into a dumping ground of 'unsafe' medical equipment. In a market as large and underserved as India, regulated imports will be unsafe not for patients but for

corporate bottom lines.

A scientifically driven policy that regulates recycling is the need of the hour. We would be well-advised to devise innovative ways of recycling to clearly enunciate what kind of products can be recycled and reused and to issue recommendations and guidelines for protocolised recycling of medical devices and so-called 'disposables', with penal provisions for unscrupulous actors and regulatory oversight to ensure that financial benefits accrue to patients as much as to hospitals. This would also require us to revisit the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 and a reversal of the CDSCO ban. Alongside, we need to raise awareness amongst patients to counter social taboos against the usage of reconditioned devices.

O.P. Yadava is CEO, National Heart Institute, New Delhi, and Director, All India Heart Foundation

Source: The Telegraph India

Inclement weather: DC Sgr, Commissioner SMC tour city areas

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb on Wednesday evening conducted a comprehensive tour of various City areas to assess the preparedness measures put in place in view of the prevailing weather conditions.

During the tour, the DC and Commissioner SMC inspected key locations prone to waterlogging, vulnerable areas



& key installations including Flood Control Room at Ram Munshi Bagh, dewatering pump

station at Lal Mandi, Kursu Rajbagh locality, Padshahi Bagh, Panthachowk, Khonmoh and



other vulnerable areas.

The DC and SMC Commissioner took first hand

appraisal of the ongoing mitigation efforts and readiness of preventive and protective

measures at vulnerable spots to prevent any flood like situation.

Instructions were passed on to departments to maintain full operational preparedness & close coordination to put ensure effective & multi sectoral systems of response. Emphasizing the importance of preventive action, directions were given to all concerned departments to stay updated & on alert to tackle any situation.

Stress was laid on ensuring that the necessary mitigation strategies including both Human Resources & machinery are effectively & optimally

mobilised and kept in ready mode.

They also interacted with the local residents and urged the public to stay informed through official updates and report any important information to the designated helpline numbers.

The Deputy Commissioner also informed the public that all the administrative wings are on alert and are closely monitoring the situation and there is no need or cause for any panic.

Senior Officers of all line Departments accompanied the DC & Comm SMC during the visit.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG directs officials

The officials told LG Sinha that Army, NDRF and SDRF are working in coordination with the Divisional Commissioner's office and are ensuring that there is adequate supply of relief materials and all possible assistance is being given to those affected.

The Lieutenant Governor also prayed for the safety and well-being of everyone affected by the natural calamity in various parts of Jammu Division, and those brave emergency responders and citizens actively helping in the relief efforts.

Earlier in the day LG Sinha met the devotees injured in an unfortunate landslide incident near Ardhkuwari at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine who are undergoing treatment at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Katra and enquired about their health.

Team of senior doctors briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the health condition of the injured and the medical procedures being followed. The Lieutenant Governor directed the doctors and Hospital Administration for ensuring the best possible treatment for the speedy recovery of the injured. It was informed that 13 people are presently under-going treatment at SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Katra and their condition is stable.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to emergency responders, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board employees and citizens for their exemplary interventions which saved many lives.

Interacting with the media persons, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Yatra was suspended yesterday due to bad weather. Cloudburst occurred and devotees at Ardhkuwari were caught in it. It was a heart-wrenching natural calamity, in which we have lost precious lives. We are providing all possible assistance to bereaved families."

The Lieutenant Governor also announced ex-gratia relief to the families of the deceased. He said the Shrine Board and the administration are extending all the necessary assistance to the affected families.

The Shrine Board's policy provides for an ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of any individual who dies in an unfortunate incident. An additional Rs 4 lakh will be provided from SDRF.

The Lieutenant Governor also briefed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on the flood situation and the ongoing relief and rescue operations in various Districts of Jammu Kashmir.

He directed the officials for maximum readiness and presence of staff at their posts to respond to emergency situations. (KNO)

Loss of lives

recover at the earliest. The administration is assisting all those affected. My prayers for everyone's safety and well-being."

40 killed, 75 sheep

resulting in their on-spot death. In another incident, at least 75 sheep perished due to severe weather conditions in the Shankerpora area of Door, Anantnag. The sudden loss has left the affected shepherd family devastated, as their livelihood has been severely impacted.

Soon after receiving information, senior officials from various departments visited the spot, who assured the family that their case will be taken up with higher authorities.

The distressed family has appealed to the government for immediate compensation and relief, stressing that the tragedy has pushed them into a financial crisis.

Officials confirmed that a detailed report of the losses is being prepared for further action.

SITUATION IMPROVES IN JAMMU

With the improvement in the weather conditions, the flood threat in Jammu has slightly reduced while in Kashmir, the water level has crossed the danger mark in river Jhelum and other streams on Wednesday, prompting the authorities to take immediate measures including strengthening the river embankments further.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu witnessed the highest-ever water level in the rivers here after the intermittent but heavy rainfall for the past couple of days. Many bridges, as well as the roads were closed as a precautionary measure.

However, all these roads and bridges in Jammu city were reopened for vehicular movement except the one in Baghwati Nagar, which suffered a huge damage due to the recent flood-like situation.

124 NDRF PERSONNEL AIRLIFTED TO JAMMU Amid the critical situation, sources said that a total of 124 personnel and a 22-ton load of NDRF were airlifted from Hindan to Jammu with the IAF using transport aircraft C-130 and IL-76.

"Six Mi-17 and one Chinook have also been pressed into relief operations," they said, adding that at least 90 persons have been rescued from various flooded locations till 05:00 PM

today.

"Relief material like drinking water and food packets is being airdropped to cut-off locations. Operations are going on in close coordination with local authorities and NDMA. IAF stands ready and resolute in providing succour and support to the affected population," the official sources said.

Flood Relief in Jammu & Pathankot Region The Indian Army has deployed 13 flood relief and rescue columns in HADR operations in response to the massive floods in Jammu and Pathankot regions. Demonstrating swift and coordinated effort, the columns are tirelessly working in inclement weather conditions to save lives.

The dedicated efforts of the HADR columns in coordination with civil administration have resulted in the successful evacuation of 635 citizens, including 12 BSF and 22 CRPF personnel.

The Army remains committed to provide all necessary assistance and support to ensure the safety of all citizens in this time of crisis.

FLOOD THREAT LOOMS IN KASHMIR

While the situation eases in Jammu, the valley is at the brink of floods once again, resembling the 2014-like situation when the basic services including the cellular services were not accessible.

Similarly, Kashmir Valley had no access to the call and internet services as according to the officials, the heavy rainfall and cloudbursts had resulted in the disconnection of the services. The services were restored this afternoon, but were shortly snapped again and restored in the evening.

Besides, the selling of river Jhelum created panic across Kashmir with people fearing a decade ago situation once again. The water level has increased and crossed the danger mark in river Jhelum across the Valley.

As per the details, Jhelum was flowing above flood declaration mark at Sangam. It was 23.35ft in the area where the danger mark is 25 ft according to the officials. However, the water level was receding at Sangam when the report was last filed

At Ram Munshi Bagh here, the river Jhelum was flowing above the danger mark (21.07ft). The danger mark is, however, 21 ft and the level was persistently increasing at 08:00 PM.

Similarly in Asham, the water level was increasing and was flowing at 11.58 ft, which was below flood declaration mark.

Meanwhile, the rise in water level in different streams has, however, caused damage at multiple places including at Pahalgam's selfie point.

The water has also entered into the residential houses at multiple places including at Kursu Rajbagh, Soura and other places.

DRY WEATHER EXPECTED FOR NEXT 3 DAYS

As the light rains continued across Jammu and Kashmir parts today, Director, Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a forecast of mainly dry weather conditions for the next three days.

"Partly to generally cloudy weather is expected with mainly dry weather at multiple places during the next 3 hours," Director MeT said.

In its advisory, the MeT has said that there is a possibility of landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at few vulnerable places.

The people have been advised to stay away from water bodies, river embankments, Nallas, Streams and loose structures.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES CLOSED

The government has decided to close all the educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow (Thursday).

Health and Education Minister, Sakeena Itoo said that the schools and colleges across Jammu and Kashmir shall remain closed on Thursday.

The decision, according to the Minister, has been taken due to the inclement weather conditions. (KNO)

SDRF mounts massive

to tackle any eventuality," the official said.

Regarding the rescue operations in Anantnag, the official said that on August 26, SDRF Anantnag carried out a major rescue at Trail Srigufwara Bijbehara, where 11 civilians trapped in the swollen tributary of River Lidder were evacuated safely.

He added that on August 27, multiple operations were carried out. In Karshangam Ashmuqam, 22 nomads trapped in heavy water flow were rescued. At Sofigund (Qoimoi jurisdiction), a house submerged in floods, six family members were rescued and shifted to safety.

He further said that at Dangarpora Anantnag, six families stranded in inundated houses were rescued, and at Court Complex Anantnag, the Sessions Judge and staff were evacuated after the premises and roads were submerged.

He added that at the Mehndi Kadal-Lal Chowk route, SDRF provided safe passage to 250 persons, including elderly and ailing residents, enabling them to reach their destinations.

About statewide preparedness, the officials said SDRF Kashmir has deployed district and sub-district level units, Water Quick Response

Teams (QRTs), motor boats, manual boats, and other rescue equipment.

"On the directions of the Divisional Administration, 20 SDRF Rescue Teams were earmarked with boats and equipment. Of these, eight teams were deputed to the most affected areas, including Rajbagh, Bemina, Pantha Chowk, Kral Khud, Chanapora, and Mehjoor Nagar," the official said.

They said that additionally, one team each at Dal Lake, Zero Bridge (Jhelum), Nigeen, and Hazratbal has been kept in full readiness with boats and allied gear.

Speaking about the operations, a senior SDRF official told KNO their men are working with both urgency and compassion. "The mission is clear—every single life matters, and no effort will be spared to rescue those in danger," he said.

About the deployment of SDRF manpower, the official told KNO that the SDRF 1st Battalion, Srinagar, has deployed teams across all districts and sub-divisions of Kashmir: Khanabal Anantnag – 41 personnel; at Qazigund – 16; at Kulgam – 22; at Shopian – 27; at Pulwama – 36; at Awantipora – 9; at Budgam – 26; at Ganderbal – 16; at Mansbal Lake Ganderbal (Water QRT) – 7; at Police Station Gund – 8; at Baramulla – 25; at Uri (Civil Defence) – 7; at Bandipora – 19; at Kupwara – 34; and at Sopore – 13.

They also shared that at Zero Bridge Jhelum (Water QRT) – 12 personnel; at Dal Lake Nehru Park (Water QRT) – 12; at RCDCS Srinagar – 18; at Nigeen Lake (Water QRT) – 7; at Hazratbal (Water QRT) – 7; at SDRF Campus Bemina Srinagar – 22; at EOC Humhama – 3; and at ICC – 2. Over 17 rescue teams are on standby at Battalion HQs Srinagar – 85 personnel.

Additionally, authorities said SDRF rescue teams are kept under the direct supervision of respective Deputy Commissioners to ensure a coordinated response and immediate relief operations in case of emergencies.

"Rescue teams are on high alert. Our primary focus is to save lives, shift stranded families, and ensure that relief reaches the most vulnerable sections at the earliest," the senior official said.

Meanwhile, the Srinagar Commandant of SDRF, SSP Maroor, speaking about the rescue operations, said, "The greatest victory in a disaster is not in saving possessions, but in saving every single soul."

He added, "It is our duty, and with your co-operation, we will not fail." (KNO)

CM questions preparedness

take elaborate measures to prevent the situation despite receiving the flood alert in advance. We will look into it later why the people were not taken to a safe place."

He expressed anguish over the loss of lives in Katra and said that nearly 29 to 30 people died in the incident.

Omar said the low-lying areas have witnessed major damage.

He assured that the measures will be taken on priority for the people living illegally in the flood-prone areas. "We can't rebuild their houses again and again, but they will be shifted to safer places," he added.

The Chief Minister visited Jammu early this morning to assess the flood situation triggered by incessant rainfall for the last couple of days, causing extensive damage to properties at multiple places.

Omar said the people living near the rivers will also be shifted to safer places as they have been facing damage frequently due to the inclement weather conditions.

Meanwhile, CM Abdullah said he talked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the phone and apprised him about the prevailing situation.

The Prime Minister has assured complete support from the central government, he said.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister announced Rs 6 lakh ex-gratia (Rs 4 lakh from SDRF & Rs 2 lakh from CM's Relief Fund) for the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the landslide at Mata Vaishno Devi & other flood-related incidents in the past two days in J&K.

Office of Chief Minister, J&K, in a post said, "Chief Minister has announced Rs 6 lakh ex-gratia (Rs 4 lakh from SDRF & Rs 2 lakh from CM's Relief Fund) for the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the landslide at Mata Vaishno Devi & other flood-related incidents in past two days in J&K. Rs 1 lakh will be given to the severely injured & Rs 50,000 to those with minor injuries."

"Additionally, the Chief Minister has directed the Advance placement of Rs 10 crore with each Deputy Commissioner to meet the immediate requirements of relief, rehabilitation and restoration," the post added. (KNO)

Div Com Kmr

public to remain vigilant, follow official advisories, and avoid venturing close to rivers, streams, and other water bodies during this period of heightened vulnerability.

Edu instts to remain

In the meantime, Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) said that in view of the incessant rains, landslides in hilly areas, weather alerts across the division, and in order to ensure the safety of students and staff, all government and private schools in the Jammu division shall continue to remain closed on 28th August 2025.

Meaning, Director Colleges, J&K said, "Due to the bad weather conditions and continuous downpour leading to flood like situation across the Jammu and Kashmir, it is ordered that all Government Degree Colleges and GCETs in the UT of J&K shall remain closed on August-28.

The University of Kashmir (KU) has also postponed all examinations that were scheduled to be held on August-27.

The varsity said it will notify fresh dates for the postponed examinations.

Earlier, Health and Education Minister, Sakeena Itoo told the KNO that the schools and colleges across Jammu and Kashmir shall remain closed on Thursday.

The decision, according to the Minister, has been taken due to the inclement weather conditions.

Pertinently, the heavy rainfall has triggered flood-like situation across Jammu and Kashmir with the water level in rivers Jhelum and other streams flowing above the flood declaration mark in Kashmir and above danger mark in Jammu division. (KNO)

Over 5000 people

Jammu recorded 380 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours, making this the highest rainfall ever recorded in Jammu in a 24-hour period since 1910, when the observatory was established.

"More than 5,000 people were evacuated from low-lying flooded areas to safety. The Army, NDRF and SDRF are working in coordination with the Divisional Commissioner's office," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on X.

He added, "We are ensuring that there is an adequate supply of relief materials and all possible assistance is being given to those affected."

Sinha said he spoke to Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and other senior officials and took stock of the flood situation and rescue and relief operations.

The LG directed officials to ensure restoration of power, communication and water supply on priority in areas where flood water is receding.

Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Rakesh Minhas said on X that more than 3,500 persons were rescued in Jammu district alone on Tuesday.

"The district administration, police, Army, NDRF and SDRF are in non-stop relief operations. Restoration of roads, essential supplies and other services is being ensured on priority and war footing," he said.

Around 20 to 30 low-lying localities in Jammu and Samba are said to have been inundated by flash floods triggered by heavy rains continuing for the past 38 hours.

A large number of people from Peerkho, Gujjar Nagar, R S Pura, Nikki Tawi, Beli Charan, Gorkhanagar, Qasim Nagar, Rajiv Nagar, Sher-e-Kashmir University, Akhnour and Pargwal. Besides, most of the banks of the swollen Tawi river in Jammu district were evacuated, officials said.

Union minister Jitendra Singh, in a post on X, said Divisional Commissioner Kumar is in constant touch with him and is currently convening a meeting of officers from different departments.

The entire Jammu division, barring Poonch and Rajouri districts, is still receiving rain, though of lesser intensity, according to the divisional commissioner. The water levels of Tawi river has receded, but Chenab continues to flow close to the danger mark, the official said.

"The immediate priority is restoration of electricity, water supply and mobile services, for which authorities have been working continuously overnight. The SDRF, NDRF, paramilitary, Army and Air Force authorities are closely coordinating with the civil administration," a note by his office said.

Schools and colleges have been ordered to remain closed, and the general public has been advised to refrain from non-essential movement for their safety, it added.

The historic Madhopur bridge, among other structures, have been damaged due to the floods. "Movement of traffic on this bridge on the Jammu-Pathankot highway has been stopped since around 3 am this morning."

The Union minister appealed to the public to cooperate with the authorities without panic.

Singh said the prime minister is keeping tabs on the flood situation in the region.

The administration has also released helpline numbers for each district.

Srinagar-Jammu

The Mughal Road, which serves as a vital alternative route, has also been closed because of

the landslides and falling debris.

Given the widespread impact of adverse weather on road connectivity, the public is advised to confirm the status of roads before embarking on any journey.

"Travellers may contact the respective Traffic Control Units in Jammu, Srinagar, Ramban, Udhampur, Kishtwar and Kargil through the helpline numbers provided by the authorities," the J&K Traffic Police Headquarters said.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar has issued a fresh advisory for Jammu and Kashmir, warning of continued rainfall activity and possible weather-related disruptions across several parts of the region.

"Over the past 24 hours, extremely heavy rainfall has been recorded at several stations in the Jammu division, while south Kashmir also witnessed heavy showers, leading to waterlogging and potential hazards in vulnerable areas," the MeT said.

According to the latest forecast, the weather on August 27 will remain generally cloudy with intermittent light to moderate rainfall expected at many places, especially in Jammu Division and South & Central Kashmir.

However, brief dry spells with cloudy skies may be observed between rainfall intervals.

Moreover, the weather is expected to improve slightly on August 28 and 29, with the possibility of brief spells of rain or thunder-showers at isolated locations.

"However, a fresh spell of active weather is likely from August 30 to September 1, during which moderate to heavy rain and thunder-showers are expected in the Jammu division. The period from September 2 to 5 may again witness scattered showers or thunder activity across the region," the MeT said.

The MeT Centre has issued a public advisory, cautioning residents and travellers about the risks of landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones, particularly in the hilly and landslide-prone regions.

"People are strongly advised to avoid venturing near water bodies, rivers, Nallas, and unstable structures, as the risk of sudden flooding or collapse remains high," it added.

Meanwhile, train operations from Jammu resumed after being halted for a day due to intense rainfall across the region.

The downpour had led Northern Railway to cancel 22 trains and short-terminate 27 others on Tuesday, severely impacting travel to and from Jammu and Katra.

According to officials, six trains that were earlier cancelled or stopped mid-route are now back on schedule and set to depart for their destinations.

The restoration comes as weather conditions began to stabilise, allowing authorities to safely resume services.

Railway teams remain on alert, keeping a close watch on the situation to ensure passenger safety. (KNO)

For 3rd time in

All four Rajya Sabha seats are currently vacant, as the Election Commission of India has not notified the date for filling them—despite the existence of an Electoral College since October 8, 2024. (KNO)

Operations Mahadev,

the population. In July, Operation Mahadev was launched, which resulted in the elimination of three Pakistani terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack. Shah said the operation turned that reassurance into a wider sense of confidence.

He said forensic analysis conducted by the National Investigation Agency confirmed that the terrorists neutralised in Operation Mahadev were the same ones responsible for the April attack.

He added that the Pahalgam attack was aimed at destabilising the situation in Kashmir, especially at a time when the region was witnessing a rise in tourism activity.

Shah said such attacks were designed to derail efforts being made under what he referred to as the "Kashmir Mission."

He noted that the armed forces, central paramilitary units, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out these operations in close coordination.

Shah said the J&K Police have now become a leading component in counter-terror operations, working alongside the Army and other forces.

Referring to the political response to these operations, Shah said that leaders across party lines welcomed the actions and expressed support for the security personnel involved.

He said this broad support reflected a shared trust in the institutions tasked with maintaining national security.

Shah said that this trust in the country's security framework was essential for India to continue pursuing its long-term goals across different sectors, both domestically and internationally.

The felicitation ceremony was attended by personnel from multiple agencies who took part in the July operation. (KNO)

How US tariffs could wipe out India's gains from Russian oil imports

President Trump's decision to impose additional tariffs of up to 50% on Indian imports could slash exports by more than 40%, or nearly \$37 billion, this April-March fiscal year alone, according to New Delhi think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)

REUTERS: India saved billions of dollars by stepping up imports of discounted Russian oil in the wake of the war in Ukraine, but punitive tariffs imposed by the U.S. that came into effect on Wednesday will quickly undo the gains, with no easy solutions in sight.

Analysts estimate India has saved at least \$17 billion by increasing oil imports from Russia since early 2022. U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to impose additional tariffs of up to 50% on Indian imports could slash exports by more than 40%, or nearly \$37 billion, this April-March fiscal year alone, according to New Delhi think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).

The fallout from the tariffs will be lingering, and could be politically debilitating for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with thousands of jobs at risk in labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems, and jewellery. India's response in the coming weeks could reshape its decades-old partnership with Russia and recalibrate its increasingly complex ties with the U.S., a relationship Washington sees as vital to countering China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific, analysts said.

"India needs Russia for defence equipment for several more years, cheap oil when available, geopolitical support in the continental space and political backing on sensitive matters," said Happy-mon Jacob, the founder of Delhi's Council for Strategic and Defence Research. "That makes Russia an invaluable partner for India."

But he added: "Despite the difficulties between Delhi and Washington under Trump, the



United States continues to be India's most important strategic partner. India simply doesn't have the luxury of choosing one over the other, at least not yet."

Two Indian government sources said New Delhi wants to repair ties with Washington and is open to increasing purchases of U.S. energy but is reluctant to fully halt Russian oil imports. Discussions with the U.S. are ongoing, India's foreign secretary told reporters on Tuesday, with officials from both countries holding virtual talks on trade, energy security including nuclear cooperation, and critical minerals exploration.

Crude at \$200/BBL? Russian crude now accounts for nearly 40% of India's total oil purchases from nearly nothing before the war, and analysts say any immediate stoppage would not only signal capitulation under pressure but also be economically unfeasible. Indian purchases are

led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, which operates the world's largest refining complex in Modi's home state of Gujarat.

Global crude prices could more than triple to around \$200 a barrel if India, the world's third-largest oil consumer and importer, stops buying oil from Russia, according to internal Indian government estimates reviewed by Reuters. It would also lose the up to 7% discount Russian oil offers compared to global benchmarks. In an unusually sharp statement this month, India accused the U.S. of double standards in singling it out for Russian oil imports while itself continuing to buy Russian uranium hexafluoride, palladium and fertiliser. New Delhi says other countries that have stepped up purchases of Russian oil, like China, have not been penalised. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has accused India of profiteering

from its sharply increased purchases of Russian oil and called it unacceptable. He told CNBC in an interview last week that unlike India's surge in Russian oil imports after the start of the war in Ukraine, China's purchases had increased to 16% from 13%. India's foreign ministry has said its crude imports from Russia are "meant to ensure predictable and affordable energy costs to the Indian consumer. They are a necessity compelled by the global market situation."

New Delhi warns that halting Russian oil imports, which is currently around 2 million barrels per day, would disrupt its entire supply chain and send domestic fuel prices soaring. It has said the previous U.S. administration under Joe Biden had backed its purchases of Russian oil to keep global prices stable. Russia has said it expects India to keep buying oil from it.

Modi has not directly commented on the tariffs but has repeatedly pledged support for India's farmers - seen as a veiled response to Trump's demands to open up India's vast agricultural sector.

Farmers are a key voting bloc, and Modi faces a tough election in the rural state of Bihar later this year. He has also pledged major cuts in a goods and services tax by October to lift domestic demand.

Trilateral ties

In a flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at multipolarity, senior Indian officials have travelled to Russia in recent days, while Modi is set to visit China this month for the first time in over seven years. India-China relations began thawing about a year ago, following a deadly border clash in 2020. Modi is expected to meet both Chinese

President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit meeting starting on Sunday of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a regional security bloc. But the sources said India is still very cautious in its relations with China and not yet considering a trilateral summit between the three leaders, as hoped by Russia.

Other countries could take their cue from how India reacts to the U.S. tariffs, experts said.

"The key takeaway for other countries is that if India - an emerging major economic and military power - is under immense pressure from the U.S., they might have even less capacity to withstand American pressure," said Jacob, the analyst.

"Additionally, some might interpret the current dynamics as indicating that China could potentially serve as a counterbalance, especially given Trump's unpredictable and aggressive geopolitical moves." International relations experts say Trump's recent moves have plunged the U.S.-India relationship back to possibly its worst phase since the U.S. imposed sanctions on India for nuclear weapons tests in 1998. Besides trade, the row could affect other areas like work visas for Indian tech professionals and off-shoring of services.

And even if India is able to eventually get some of the tariffs reversed, several consequences will linger, especially in trade.

"Competitors like China, Vietnam, Mexico, Turkey, and even Pakistan, Nepal, Guatemala, and Kenya stand to gain, potentially locking India out of key markets even after tariffs are rolled back," said GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava, a former Indian trade official.

Dissonance over planned tri-services commands will be resolved with openness: CDS



PTI

Mhow, Aug 27: The "dissonance" in the military on setting up of tri-services commands will be addressed keeping in mind the best interest of the nation, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said on Wednesday after divergent views emerged on the theatreisation drive.

Gen Chauhan's remarks at the concluding session of the two-day Ran Samwad came after Air Chief Marshal Singh and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi spoke on the theatreisation move that made it clear that the two forces have divergent views on the plan.

In his comments at the conclave, the Chief of Air Staff on Tuesday said the armed forces shouldn't come under any pressure to roll out theatre commands.

The Navy Chief, on the other hand, said on Wednesday that his force is committed to synergise its command and control, communications and combat capability with the Army and the Air Force in line with the goal of theatreisation drive. "As a CDS, I actually set out to promote jointness among the three services. And today, I can say with some kind of pleasure and confidence that we can speak about our differences in a very conducive environment, and with openness to different views without temperatures being risen," Gen Chauhan said.

"There could be a difference among the three services, but yet we are able to listen to that point. I think that thing is very important," he said.

The government had announced the theatreisation plan in 2019 to ensure greater synergy among the three services. However, no visible forward movement has been made to implement it. The Chief of Defence Staff also referred to different views of the veterans on the theatreisation plan.

"They actually hold even a larger desire to protect turfs. I think it is a very good sign. So if you have sensed some kind of dissonance, let me assure you that we will resolve it in the best interest of the nation," Gen Chauhan said.

The Chief of Defence Staff said best efforts are underway to address the issues.

"There were some questions about integration levels and the need to progress things faster and take it to a higher level. Be assured that we are doing our best," he said.

The top military officer said that the plan for setting up integrated commands should have been attempted around 10 years back.

"We are slightly late, but we need to close that particular gap faster," he said.

Under the theatreisation model, the government seeks to integrate the capabilities of the army, air force and navy and optimally utilise their resources for wars and operations.

As per the theatreisation plan, each of the theatre commands will have units of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, and all of them will work as a single entity looking after security challenges in a specified geographical territory.

At present, the Army, Navy and the Air Force have separate commands.

Vitamin C deficiency can increase risk of stomach, oesophagus, lung cancers; check symptoms

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Aug 26: Vitamin C is an essential nutrient widely recognized for its role in protecting the body against oxidative stress and supporting immune health. According to a comprehensive umbrella review published in 2022 in Nutrients, low vitamin C intake or deficiency is linked to a notably higher risk of developing several cancers, including those of the stomach, oesophagus, and lungs. This review analysed multiple studies and concluded that higher dietary or supplemental vitamin C consistently correlates with a lower incidence of these cancers. In this article, we break down the research findings in simple terms to help readers understand how vitamin C impacts cancer risk and why maintaining adequate levels is important.

Vitamin C deficiency and oesophageal cancer risk

The oesophagus is the tube that connects your throat to your stomach. Research shows that people who consume more vitamin C have a lower chance of developing oesophageal cancer, which affects this vital passageway. A major study found that every 50 mg increase in daily vitamin C intake - roughly what you'd get from an orange - was linked to a 10-13% decrease in the risk of oesophageal cancer. This protection was seen across all main types of this cancer. Vitamin C's antioxidant effects help neutralize harmful molecules that can damage the delicate cells lining the oesophagus, preventing changes that can lead to cancer.

Vitamin C's role in stomach cancer prevention

Stomach cancer, sometimes called gastric cancer, has been connected to dietary factors and vitamin deficiencies. Several important studies, including large-scale population-based ones like the US Cancer Prevention Study II and research conducted in high-risk regions such as Linxian, China, have found that people with higher vitamin C intake have a lower risk of developing stomach cancer.

Vitamin C seems to help by acting as an antioxidant, reducing inflammation, and preventing the formation and growth of pre-cancerous lesions in the stomach



lining. Ensuring enough vitamin C may therefore slow down or even block processes that can lead to cancer in this organ.

The link between vitamin C and lung cancer

Lung cancer continues to be one of the most common and deadly cancers worldwide. A detailed analysis of 21 studies involving nearly 9,000 lung cancer patients found that higher intake of vitamin C was associated with a 17% lower risk of lung cancer overall. It also suggested that for every additional 100 mg of vitamin C eaten per day, the lung cancer risk drops by about 7%. This effect was especially prominent in men and people living in the United States. Vitamin C's antioxidant properties likely help protect lung tissue from oxidative damage caused by pollutants, smoking, and other environmental toxins, reducing the chance that cancerous changes will develop.

Symptoms of Vitamin C Deficiency

Vitamin C deficiency, also known as scurvy in severe cases, can manifest through several noticeable symptoms. Early signs include fatigue, weakness, and irritability. As deficiency progresses, individuals may experience gum problems such as swelling or bleeding, easy bruising, slow wound healing, and dry or rough skin. In more advanced cases, joint pain, anemia, and frequent infections may occur. Recognizing these symptoms early is important because prolonged deficiency can weaken the body's defenses and increase vulnerability to conditions such as cancer.

How vitamin C protects against cancer

At the cellular level, vitamin

C acts as a potent antioxidant. This means it helps to neutralize unstable molecules called free radicals, which can cause damage to DNA and other important molecules in cells—a key factor in cancer development. Vitamin C also supports the body's production of collagen, a protein that maintains the structure of tissues and helps prevent abnormal growths. Furthermore, it helps regulate the immune system and reduce chronic inflammation, which are essential for recognizing and removing cancerous or precancerous cells. These combined actions explain why vitamin C intake is linked to lower risks of several types of cancer in humans.

Scientific research, including the detailed analysis in the 2022 Nutrients review, highlights the important role that sufficient vitamin C intake plays in reducing the risk of cancers such as stomach, oesophageal, and lung cancer. For most people, consuming vitamin C through a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables provides ample protection. However, in populations at risk of deficiency, or in those with dietary restrictions, vitamin C supplementation may be advisable to help protect against these serious health conditions. If you have concerns about your vitamin C levels or cancer risk, consulting a healthcare professional for personalized guidance can be a good step toward prevention.

Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice. Always consult a qualified healthcare professional before making any changes to your health routine or treatment.

UN chief welcomes establishment of new AI governance mechanisms

IANs

United Nations, Aug 27: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warmly welcomed the UN General Assembly's decision to establish two new mechanisms within the United Nations to promote international cooperation on the governance of artificial intelligence (AI), his spokesman Stephan Dujarric said.

The establishment of the United Nations Independent

International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance marks a significant step forward in global efforts to harness the benefits of AI while addressing its risks, Dujarric said at a daily briefing on Tuesday, Xinhua news agency reported.

"This pathbreaking milestone underlines Member States' commitment to build on the Global Digital Compact adopted as part of the Pact for the Future in September 2024," he said.

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