

Cloudburst, landslides kill 11 in Reasi, Ramban; over 100 dead in Jammu in 15 days

- One missing, rescue on in Rajgarh
- CM Omar directs for strict vigilance
- Union MoS, LG Sinha assure help
- MeT issues yellow, orange alert till Sept 2

Sajid Raina/
Umairsar Gull Ganie

Reasi/Ramban, Aug 30: Tragedy struck Jammu region once again within just four days, as 11 people lost their lives on Saturday in separate incidents of landslides and a cloudburst in the twin districts of Reasi and Ramban, pushing the death toll to over 100 in just 15 days."

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the back-to-back incidents of landslides and flash floods triggered by the cloudbursts in Kishtwar, Kathua, Katra, Reasi and Ramban have so far claimed the lives of almost 100 people in the past 15 days while several others are still missing and rescue operation is still going on.



As many as 64 people died in Kishtwar incident while Katra landslide claimed the lives of 35 people three days ago.

Today's twin incidents were the fifth major incidents in Jammu region in the last fortnight triggered by the heavy rainfall. Notably, J&K is presently

witnessing intermittent rains for the last over one week, which also led to the flood-like situation across both the regions as the water level in all the major rivers and streams crossed the alert mark.

In yet another incident, a family of [More on P6](#)

'Early warning systems, structural planning crucial to reduce damage'

Sajid Raina

As natural disasters grip Jammu and Kashmir, claiming more than 150 lives this month, meteorologists say the impact of cloudbursts can be reduced through high-resolution weather monitoring, strengthened early warning systems, advanced forecasting models, sustainable land management, regulated construction, and community preparedness. The government, researchers and other experts say structural engineering for hill construction and public [More on P6](#)

J&K's tourism sector to get economic lifeline

Banks expected to announce loan restructuring package next week

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Aug 30: In a significant step, banks operating in Jammu & Kashmir are set to announce a package for revival of the tourism trade, which was affected by the Pahalgam terror attack and the subsequent Indo-Pak conflict.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the package, which involves the restructuring of loans, is expected to be announced next week.

"We are likely to communicate the plan for the rehabilitation and revival of businesses affected by the terror attack and the subsequent Indo-Pak conflict to banks on Monday or Tuesday," an official, wishing not to be named, said, adding that a three-member committee comprising representatives from J&K Bank, State Bank of India, and Punjab National Bank was tasked to work out parameters of the package.

He said the package would primarily comprise relief in

loan repayments for those associated with the tourism trade. "It will cover the impacted population i.e., those associated with tourism trade," he said.

As already reported by KNO, the Union Territory Level Bankers Committee (UTLBC), in its meeting held on June 21, 2025, passed three resolutions for the revival and rehabilitation of affected businesses.

The UTLBC resolved that the J&K government shall declare the incidents of the Pahalgam terror attack and the Indo-Pak conflict as disturbances across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and issue a notification to this effect.

Another resolution called for a rehabilitation plan to revive businesses impacted by the terror incident and subsequent conflict, to be invoked under Chapter VII (Riots and Disturbances) of the RBI Master Direction FIDD.CO.FSD. BC No.9/05.10.001/2018-19 dated October 17, 2018. The committee [More on P6](#)

Amit Shah arriving Jammu tomorrow

To conduct aerial surveys of flood-hit areas, review relief efforts



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 30: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Jammu on Monday to review ongoing rescue and relief operations and assess the damage caused by recent cloudbursts and floods, particularly in Katra, where landslides along the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage route have caused several deaths.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that during his two-day visit, Shah is scheduled to conduct an aerial survey of flood-affected areas in Jammu and hold meetings with officials and affected families.

His itinerary includes stops in Jammu city, Katra, and Kishtwar to gain first-hand information on the ground [More on P6](#)

65% voter turnout in J&K elections reflects faith in democracy: Union MoS Athawale

Praises Kashmir's beauty, economy; hails leadership of PM Modi, LG Sinha

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 30: Terming 65 percent voter turnout in the last year's J&K Assembly elections as a sign of people's faith in democracy, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale, on Saturday said the region is witnessing development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Speaking at the International Buddha Peace Awards and Bharat Ratna Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Awards, function at SKICC here, Athawale according to the news agency—Kashmir News



Observer (KNO), described Kashmir as "beautiful with an amazing climate," adding that visitors from across the world enjoy their stay here.

Referring to India's economy, he said the country has now become the fourth largest economy in the world, with a GDP growth rate [More on P6](#)

LG urges youth to uphold values of peace, harmony, nation-building

Felicitates Int'l Buddha Peace, Dr B R Ambedkar awardees

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 30: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday felicitated the Awardees of International Buddha Peace Awards and Bharat Ratna Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Awards, organised by Buddhanjali Research Foundation, at Srinagar. The event was also graced by Ramdas Athawale, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the award winners and lauded their significant contributions to the society. "The contribution of each one of the Awardees is an inspiration for all. They are



embodiment of courage, harmony, peace, selfless-service, nationalism and they represent the idea of India," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to reaffirm their commitment to the noble values and ideals of Mahatma Buddha and Dr

Bhim Rao Ambedkar, and make their valuable contribution to nation-building, while serving the humanity with dedication and devotion and spreading the values of peace and harmony.

"The greatest art of living is one that includes the welfare of others. We [More on P6](#)

PM Modi gifts Kashmiri Pashmina shawl in Papier-mâché box to Japan's first lady

KNO

Srinagar, Aug 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday presented a hand-crafted Kashmiri Pashmina shawl to Japan's first lady during his visit to the East Asian country.

According to a statement, issued to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the shawl, made from the fine wool of the Changthangi goat from Ladakh, is renowned globally for its lightness, warmth, and softness.

"Handwoven by skilled



Kashmiri artisans, it carries a centuries-old tradition once cherished by royalty. Featuring an ivory base adorned with delicate floral and paisley motifs in rust, pink, [More on P6](#)

Less than 50 precision strikes forced Pak to seek ceasefire: IAF Vice-Chief

'Clarity of objectives enabled conflict elimination in 4 days'

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Aug 30: Vice-Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari on Saturday said that the Indian Air Force (IAF) fired fewer than 50 precision weapons during 'Operation Sindoor,' a decisive campaign that forced Pakistan to request for a ceasefire after four days of intense hostilities.

Speaking at the Defence Summit organised by national



television channel, Tiwari, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) described the operation as a significant accomplishment, noting that the [More on P6](#)

CM for swift restoration of Sgr-Jmu NH, other roads

'Ensure supply of essentials to cut-off areas'

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 30: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review the restoration works on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and other major roads damaged by the recent incessant rains.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Home, Principal



Secretary Public Works (R&B), Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, several Deputy Commissioners, and senior officers from BRO, NHIDCL, NHAI, J&K Police and other concerned departments.

The Chief Minister directed

authorities to ensure swift restoration of road connectivity, smooth traffic movement and uninterrupted supply of essentials, particularly to the Kashmir Valley and remote areas of Jammu division. He emphasized the need [More on P6](#)

Post-flood health alert: Experts urge caution with water, food safety in J&K

Food items exposed to flood water pose risk of water-borne diseases, say doctors

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Aug 30 (KNO): In the aftermath of recent floods that struck several areas of Jammu and Kashmir, health experts have urged people to exercise extreme caution while using food and water supplies. They said contaminated sources pose a grave risk of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and hepatitis A and E.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), officials said the foremost priority should be access

to safe water. They stressed that only clean water should be used for drinking, cooking, and brushing teeth.

Sealed and packaged bottled water from a reliable source is the safest option, they added. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag, Dr Khalid Parvez said that in the absence of bottled water, residents should boil water for at least 10 minutes before use, and chlorine tablets or household-grade unscented liquid bleach can be used for disinfection by following recommended instructions.

"If water appears muddy or

turbid, it should first be filtered through a clean cloth before boiling or treating," he said, adding that to avoid recontamination, safe water should be stored in clean, covered containers.

Dr Khalid added that hands or unclean objects should never be dipped into stored drinking water; instead, use a ladle or small vessel and drinking water must always be kept separate from water used for washing or cleaning.

Experts warn that food items exposed to floodwater are unsafe and must be discarded immediately.

They said [More on P6](#)

DGP reviews flood-hit areas, security along Kathua border



KT News Desk

Kathua, Aug 30: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat visited forward locations along the Kathua border to take stock of the security situation and assess the impact

of recent floods. He was accompanied by DIG JKS Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma and SSP Kathua, Shobhit Saxena.

During his visit, the DGP received a detailed briefing from BSF officers regarding the ground [More on P6](#)

MBBS admission scam

Crime Branch raids six location in Kashmir

KNO

Srinagar, Aug 30: The Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) has conducted searches at six locations in connection with an FIR registered against four accused of involvement in an MBBS admission-related scam in Bangladesh.

A statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the case began after a complaint alleging money was taken on the pretext of securing MBBS admissions in Bangladesh.

The probe revealed that the collected funds were not



deposited with any medical institution. The investigation has confirmed elements of cheating and conspiracy, it said, adding that a case has been registered under Sections 420 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code. The individuals named in the case are including Peerzada Aabid, S/o Peerzada Mohammad [More on P6](#)

Govt restoring flood-hit water supply infra: Rana

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, AUGUST 30: In a proactive effort to restore essential services in flood-affected areas of Jammu, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, chaired a high-level review meeting with key officials, legislators and district heads.

The primary focus of the meeting was to assess and expedite the restoration of disrupted water supply services in the wake of the recent floods. The meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson Bharat Bhushan, legislators Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Arvind Gupta, Sham Lal Sharma, Dr. Narinder Singh, along with senior officers including Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Chief Engineers of I&FC, Jal Shakti, and UEED Jammu, as well as Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers.

During the session, the Minister was briefed on the ongoing restoration efforts, the progress made so far, challenges faced, and the measures being implemented to speed up relief operations and restore normal water supply.

Rana emphasized the urgency of restoring the water supply infrastructure, particularly in flood-impacted areas, ensuring that residents have access to clean drinking water.

The Minister directed the immediate deployment of water tankers to areas where the water supply had been severely disrupted. He also recommended utilizing private water tankers on an interim basis to augment the existing fleet of tankers and



ensure an uninterrupted water supply. Additionally, he proposed the use of fire tenders for areas where tankers could not reach, ensuring a continuous supply of water to the affected communities.

To streamline the restoration efforts, Minister Rana directed the nomination of a dedicated nodal officer to coordinate between departments and ensure the timely completion of restoration work.

Furthermore, he instructed the Chief Engineer to oversee the distribution of restoration tasks and rationalize manpower to speed up the restoration process.

The legislators who attended the meeting voiced their constituency-specific challenges, urging a faster pace of restoration. They highlighted areas where water supply had been severely hampered and called for immediate action.

In response, the Minister assured the legislators that their concerns

were a priority for the government. He also reassured them that a range of measures were already underway to address the issues and expedite the restoration process.

Rana was informed that restoration work on the Water Supply Scheme in Shitlee is currently progressing in double shifts and will be fully restored within five days.

Additionally, the Power Development Department (PDD) has been instructed to immediately restore the dedicated feeder lines identified by the Jal Shakti Department, which is crucial for the restoration of water supply in the affected regions.

The Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), in collaboration with the Flood Control Department, has been tasked with working alongside the concerned MLA to develop a comprehensive master plan for the construction of nallas (drains) and restoration of flood-damaged infrastructure.

Div Com flags-off Gangbal Yatra from Naranag



KT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 30: The annual Gangbal Yatra commenced Saturday with great religious fervor after being ceremoniously flagged-off by the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, from Naranag Temple, Ganderbal.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal, besides other civil and police officials were present on the occasion.

A group of pilgrims from the Kashmiri Pandit community began their spiritual journey from the historic Naranag temple following the revered Charri Puja.

The devotees, escorted by SDRF teams, police personnel, officials from health and other departments set out on the 15-km trek to the sacred Gangbal Lake, nestled at an altitude of around 14,500 feet

in the Harmukh mountain range. Speaking on the occasion, Div Com commended all stakeholders for their coordinated efforts in ensuring seamless arrangements for the Yatra. He extended his best wishes to the pilgrims and the supporting teams accompanying them.

The sacred rituals will be performed on the banks of Gangbal Lake, after which the pilgrims will return the next day.

On the occasion, the organizers and devotees expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the district administration, police authorities, and the local community of Naranag for their invaluable cooperation and support, which have been instrumental in the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, SDPO Kangan, Tehsildar Kangan, and other concerned officers were also present during the flag-off ceremony.

Milad arrangements finalised at Anantnag

KT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF Hamid chaired a meeting of officers to review and finalize the arrangements for the smooth observance of Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) in the district, on Saturday.

DC stressed upon the officers for providing all the requisite facilities to the devotees visiting Khiram Dargah Shareef, Kabamarg, Reshmool, Aishmuqam, Seer Hamdan and other shrines and mosques during the auspicious Milad days.

He directed the concerned departments for ensuring adequate supply of water and essential commodities along with uninterrupted electricity during the holy days. Instructions were also issued regarding seamless transport management, medicare and sanitation facilities besides proper security and deployment of fire and emergency tenders especially around the shrines and mosques.

Underscoring the need for close coordination and synergy among line departments, DC further directed that special market checking drives be conducted by the designated teams in their jurisdiction during the holy days.

Among others, the meeting was attended by SSP Amritpal Singh; SDMS, ACR, CMO, Ex. Engineers of PDD & Jal Shakti, Tehsildar Anantnag, ARTO, CAHO, AC Food Safety, AD FCS&CA, DSHO, CEO MCA & EOs of MCs, AD Fisheries, Representative of Waqf Board and other concerned officers.

J&K Judicial Academy organizes training prog

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 30: Under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of the Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy organized a one-day training programme on "Cyber Laws & Appreciation and Handling of Digital Evidence" for the Judicial Officers of Kashmir Province and the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The inaugural proceedings were conducted by Sonia Gupta, Director Judicial Academy, who emphasized that the programme aimed to equip Judicial Officers with updated knowledge and practical insights on the emerging and evolving domain of cyber laws and the effective handling of digital evidence in Judicial proceedings.

The technical sessions were led by Dr. Nisheeth Dixit, an eminent cyber expert from Delhi, who highlighted the growing importance of judicial awareness in the digital era, where cybercrime and electronic evidence increasingly shape litigation. He elaborated on

recent developments in case law influencing judicial interpretation of digital evidence and discussed the legal framework governing cyber offenses. Dr. Dixit explained procedures for authentication, preservation, and admissibility of electronic records and addressed the challenges faced in handling and evaluating digital evidence.

A key highlight of the session was the discussion on landmark case laws, including Sanjaysinh Ramrao Chavan vs. Dattatray Gulabrao Phalke [MANU/SC/0040/2015], where the Supreme Court ruled on the admissibility of recorded conversations.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BUDGAM

CORRIGENDUM CUM ADDENDUM

Whereas, this office received applications from landowners of villages tabulated below the said applications were forwarded to Tehsildar Budgam for verification, who verified the said applications through field agency and after proper verification, left out case in respect of the land belonging to the applicants were prepared and submitted to this office for further action.

Whereas, the cases were submitted to Project Director NHAI (PIU) Srinagar for verification and authentication, Project Director NHAI (PIU) Srinagar authenticated the cases in token of correctness/acceptance vide No. PD/SGR/14039/o1/2016/Ring Road/791 Dated: 07.08.2025 and No. PD/SGR/14039/431/2016/Ring Road/792 Dated: 07.08.2025. Keeping in view of the above, partial modification to the notification issued under section 4(1) of Land Acquisition Act Svt 1990 by this Collectorate vide No. DCB/LAS/o16/F33o/2505-12 Dated: - 26.08.2017 & DCB/LAS/4316/F-330/2513-20 Dated:- 26.08.2017 in respect of the village Pallar and Ichgam is being made respectively.

Therefore, read following details in respect of survey number and measurements of land coming under the alignment of semi ring road at village Pallar and Ichgam Tehsil Budgam respectively.

S.No. of the Notification	Notification U/S 4 (1) of LAA Svt 1990	Village	Survey No.	Previous Measurement				Correct measurement			
				K	M	Sir	Sft	K	M	Sir	Sft
76, 84	DCB/LAS/016/F-330/2505-12 Dated: - 26.08.2017	Pallar	1067 Min	6	9	o	85	8	5	0	152
94			1281 Min	o	0	0	o	1	0	0	0
73	DCB/LAS/016/F-330/2513-20 Dated: - 26.08.2017	Ichgam	480	4	14	0	216	4	16	o	216
90			485 M	1	9	0	246	2	7	0	246

Any person/persons having any objection regarding the details mentioned above can submit his/her objection in the office of undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notification.

Collector Land Acquisition, Budgam

No.DCB/LAS/2025-26/663-68
Dated: 21.08.2025

DIPK-5697/25
DATED: 30-08-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

R&B DIVISION GUREZ

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

(REW) E-NIT No. 03/2025-26/EE/R&B/Grz/3126-38/E-tendering/Dated:-27-08-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Construction of crate bund from Jhula bridge Wanpora towards habitation side of Badwan (phase-1) Panchayat Badwan	3.97	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	15 days	7940	PRI Grants	DEE	District Development Commissioner
2	Construction of tile path from main road to onwards at ward no 03 at chorwan Panchayat Shahpora Bala	1.48	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	10 days	2960	PRI Grants	DEE/ OTHER	District Development Commissioner
3	constriction of tile path with steps/stairs at Kachal Mohalla near House of Ab Rashid teroo and others at chorwan Panchayat Shahpora Bala	1.50	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	10 days	3000	PRI Grants	DEE/ OTHER	District Development Commissioner
4	Construction of tile path at ward no. 06 and 07 at chorwan Panchayat Shahpora Bala	1.50	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	10 days	3000	PRI Grants	DEE/ OTHER	District Development Commissioner
5	Fencing of Panchayat ghar-wanpora along with iron gate Panchayat wanpora	3.32	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	15 days	6640	PRI Grants	DEE	District Development Commissioner
6	Construction of CC Path near House of Ab Majeed Lone S/O Asadullah Lone and others along with culvert near Land of Ab Aziz and others Panchayat Shahpora Bala	3.92	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	15 days	7840	PRI Grants	DEE	District Development Commissioner
7	Construction of tile path near House of M. Iqbal lone to House of Abdul Gaffar lone at Lone Mohalla W. No. 05 wanpora Panchayat wanpora	2.00	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	10 days	4000	PRI Grants	DEE/ OTHER	District Development Commissioner
8	Construction Tile Path from main road to Masjid Sharief old Basti Khopri& Nai Basti Khopri panchayat Dawar B	1.21	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	10 days	2420	PRI Grants	DEE/ OTHER	District Development Commissioner
9	Construction of Road from House of Yaseen Shah to culvert onwards along with foot culvert at Fakirpora Panchayat Khandiyal	3.42	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	15 days	6840	PRI Grants	DEE	District Development Commissioner
10	construction of Tile Path near House of Mohd Amin Lone, Mohd Sikander Lone and from House of Bakhtawar Akhoon to House of Khursheed Akhoon Panchayat Markoot	2.65	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	15 days	5300	PRI Grants	DEE/ OTHER	District Development Commissioner
11	Construction of CC Drain near House of Hamid Akhoon to Gh Hussain Wani at Markoot Panchayat Markoot	1.45	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	10 days	2900	DDC Grants	DEE/ OTHER	District Development Commissioner
12	Construction of 2 number of gates Eidgah and Grave yard at wnapura Gurez Panchayat Wanpora	0.80	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	10 days	1600	DDC Grants	DEE/ OTHER	District Development Commissioner
13	Constuction of Tile Path with Drain near House of Mohd Hussain Munwar Hajam and others at wanpora Panchayat Wanpora	3.99	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	15 days	7980	DDC Grants	DEE	District Development Commissioner

Position of AAA:- (Accorded)

Position of TS:- (Accorded)

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	27-08-2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 29-08-2025 (10:00 AM) To 04-09-2025 (04:00PM)
3	Bid Submission Start Date	From 29-08-2025 (10:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 04-09-2025 (04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	05-09-2025 (10:00 AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Gurez

DIPK-5680/25
DATED: 30-08-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Gurez

Blaze damages 26 residential houses in Gurez village

CM Omar speaks to MLA Khan, assures relief and rehabilitation for victims

SAJID RAINA

Bandipora, Aug 30: A major fire broke out in Kashpat village of Tulail in Gurez area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday, damaging at least 26 residential houses, officials said. Locals said that the fire started from a residential house and quickly spread to adjoining buildings due to the wooden construction in the area. The flames engulfed several houses before efforts were launched to control the situation.

Soon after the incident, residents, assisted by the Army, police, and Fire and Emergency Services, started joint operations to douse the blaze. An official said the fire was eventually brought under control after several hours of effort.

The Indian Army's Quick Reaction Team was among the first responders, launching immediate firefighting operations to prevent the fire from spreading further.

An Army officer said that their medical teams also treated 45 civilians for minor injuries, while 4-5 people with fractures were stabilised



on the spot. Station House Officer (SHO) Tulail was also injured while dousing the flames. He was shifted to Sub-District Hospital Dawar for treatment, where his condition was stated to be stable. Officials confirmed that no casualties have been reported so far, though the property damage is extensive. The remote village comprises mostly wooden structures and log houses.

The houses that were fully damaged in the fire belong to Jameel Ahmed Khan S/O Anwar Khan, Mohd. Munawar Khan S/O Khayim Khan, Mohd. Yaseen Khan S/O Khayim Khan, Kalandar Khan S/O Mohd. Sultan Khan, Mohideen Khan S/O Ahmad Khan, Mohd.

Yousuf Khan S/O Akbar Khan, Ahad Khan S/O Mohd. Akbar Khan, Muzamil Khan S/O Mohd. Akbar Khan, Niyaz Khan S/O Akbar Khan, Zahoor Khan S/O Mohd. Akbar Khan, Mohd. Ismayil Khan S/O Mohd. Afzal Khan, Mohd. Munawar Khan S/O Dilbar Khan, Javed Ahmad Khan S/O Munawar Khan, Laal Khan S/O Sarwar Khan, Mohd. Yousuf Khan S/O Sarwar Khan, Yonus Khan S/O Laal Khan, Habibullah Khan S/O Mohammad Khan, Rashed Khan S/O Gh. Mohideen Khan, Mohd. Yousuf Khan S/O Akbar Khan, Zahoor Ahmad Khan S/O Munawar Khan, Gulam Khan S/O Gul Khan, Ali Khan S/O Gul Khan, Liyakat

Khan S/O Samandar Khan, and Mohd. Samandar Khan S/O Sikandar Khan.

In addition, the houses that suffered partial damage include those of Riyaz Khan S/O Mohd. Afzal Khan, Iqbal Khan S/O Bak-tawar Khan, Gh. Qadir Khan S/O Kasim Khan, Quyoom Khan S/O Gh. Mohd. Khan, along with Bashir Khan S/O Quyoom Khan and Zakir Hussain Khan S/O Quyoom Khan, as well as Sultan Khan S/O Anwar Khan.

The locals appealed to the administration to extend support to the affected families, saying the area is remote and residents largely depend on limited sources of income.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the fire incident at Kashpat in Tulail. He spoke to MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan over the phone and assured him that the government would extend all possible support to the affected families.

The CM said necessary relief measures would be taken to provide immediate assistance and ensure rehabilitation of those who lost their homes—(KNO)

Dr. Farooq, CM Omar express anguish

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, 30 Aug: The J&K National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday expressed profound sorrow and concern over the devastating fire that engulfed Kashpat village in Tulail Tehsil of Gurez Valley.

As per reports, at least twenty structures, including homes and vital resources, were destroyed in the blaze, leaving many families in urgent need of assistance.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, in his statement, shared his deep anguish over the immense loss suffered by the residents of Kashpat village. "It is heart-wrenching to learn of the terrible tragedy that has befallen the people of Gurez. The destruction of homes, agricultural resources, and essential infrastructure has left our people already facing numerous challenges in a state of distress," he said.

He urged immediate action from the authorities to ensure relief for the affected families. Dr. Abdullah called on the administration to deploy necessary resources for swift rehabilitation and provide timely relief measures, including compensation for the damages and temporary shelter for the displaced.

CM Omar Abdullah, expressing his solidarity with the affected families, said, "This



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tragic incident has left many in Gurez devastated, and our hearts go out to all those who have lost their homes and livelihoods. In these challenging times the government is taking steps to ensure immediate relief and support. I am confident that with the collective efforts of the government and people, Gurez will overcome this crisis. We stand with the people of Gurez, and together, we will rebuild what has been

lost." Senior party leader and MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmed Khan Gurezi has also expressed shock over the devastating blaze. He said CM Omar Abdullah has promised him that every possible help will be provided to victims. Meanwhile he has directed the officials concerned to visit the spot, ascertain the losses and provide immediate compensation to the victims.

'80% essential services restored in Doda'

PEERZADA UMMER

Srinagar, Aug 30: Nearly 80 per cent services, including road access, electricity, and communication networks, have been restored in Doda district where cloudbursts and landslides wreaked havoc earlier this week.

An official said, "The administration is continuously working to restore connectivity in the affected areas. Teams have been mobilized across Doda to assess damage and repair essential infrastructure."

"Efforts are ongoing around the clock, and we are pleased to report that nearly 80 percent of services, including road access, electricity, and communication networks, have already been restored. The government remains committed to ensuring full restoration and providing relief to all impacted families," he added.

According to reports received by KNO the worst-affected areas in Gandoh Doda include Kaharah,

Charawa, Kharangal, and several other localities.

Pertinently, a cloudburst struck Tanta Wanipora earlier this week, claiming several lives. Among the deceased were Noor Mohammad and Mohammad Iqbal from Wanipora.

In a separate incident, Rubina Begum, wife of Imtiaz Ahmad, was swept away by powerful floodwaters. Several other residents have sustained injuries at various locations throughout the region.

Residents informed KNO that a youth sports stadium, constructed by the Department of Rural Development in 2022-23, suffered severe damage. "The stadium's walls, built close to the Neeru tributary of the Chenab River, were swept away by strong floodwaters. Once the region's largest and only sports facility, hosting a variety of local competitions, the stadium now lies in ruins," residents

said. In Kaharah Charawa, a tourism building and several homes collapsed and were completely destroyed. In Wanipora, ten residential houses remained under constant threat due to unstable conditions. The bridge at Thathri, already in a weakened state, and its accompanying roadside culverts were damaged.

Locals reported that torrential rains and flash floods have devastated water channels, footbridges, wooden temporary structures, standing crops, and orchards, further deepening the crisis.

Meanwhile, in Bhaderwah, lightning strikes hit three different locations last evening, sending terrifying and loud sounds across the area and creating an atmosphere of fear and panic.

The sudden onset of floodwaters following these strikes led to inundation of several homes. The power supply was also cut off until Saturday afternoon, locals said—(KNO)

CM Omar applauds growth of HDFC Bank

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Aug 30: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday evening, addressed the annual function of HDFC Bank at SKICC, where he lauded the institution's growth, resilience and long-term commitment to Jammu & Kashmir.

Highlighting J&K's tourism legacy, Omar Abdullah recalled the historic description of Kashmir as "heaven on earth" inscribed on the walls of the Red Fort centuries ago.

He remarked that while many regions now market themselves with catchy slogans, Jammu & Kashmir has always stood as the original symbol of natural beauty and tourism promotion.

He urged visitors to explore beyond Srinagar, assuring that their experiences would encourage them to return with families and friends.

Emphasizing the importance of sustainable tourism, the Chief Minister said, "Our success will not be measured by bringing you here once, but



by ensuring you return. Repeat visits are the true measure of our tourism efforts."

He noted that HDFC Bank has become an important partner in Jammu and Kashmir's economic progress. With 124 branches and a wide network of ATMs across urban as well as remote areas, the bank has extended its services to deposits, lending, priority sector financing and customer-driven initiatives,

reflecting its deep-rooted commitment to the people of J&K.

The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to HDFC Bank for choosing Jammu and Kashmir for its prestigious annual function, remarking that such events reinforce the growing partnership of J&K with the banking sector.

"HDFC Bank's presence here today is not just a celebration of financial success, but a

reaffirmation of faith in Jammu and Kashmir's potential and its future," Omar Abdullah said.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, legislators Farooq Ahmad Shah and Tanvir Sadiq, along with senior managers, representatives, officials of HDFC Bank and delegates who had come from different parts of the country, were also present on the occasion.

Diamond Jubilee observed in Boniyar

KNO

Srinagar, Aug 30: The Diamond Jubilee of the Battle of Haji Pir was solemnly observed in Boniyar, Baramulla district, marking 60 years since one of the most decisive victories of the 1965 Indo-Pak War.

As per a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the event honoured the extraordinary bravery and indomitable spirit of Indian soldiers who scaled steep ridges under enemy fire to secure the strategically significant Haji Pir Pass. The day commenced with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Pir Panjal War Memorial, Boniyar. The solemn tribute was led by Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava UYSM, AVSM, SM, General Officer Commanding, Chinar Corps, joined by the General Officer Commanding, Dagger Division, and proud veterans of the Battle of Haji Pir.

As the buglers sounded the 'Last Post' and the tricolour soared proudly in the mountain breeze, all indls present at the event bowed their heads in reverence. Veterans stood shoulder to shoulder with serving soldiers, exemplifying the enduring bond of camaraderie, sacrifice, and service.

The commemoration culminated in a vibrant and heartfelt cultural programme at the Army Goodwill School, Boniyar. The event opened with a powerful musical performance by the legendary Indian Army Brass Band. Their stirring patriotic melodies echoed through the valley, rekindling the spirit of 1965.

The spotlight then shifted to the students of the school, whose inspiring songs and dance performance paid tribute to the valour of the Indian Armed Forces.

Highway blockade stalling 'Valley's backbone'

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Aug 30: After days of complete suspension, authorities on Saturday allowed partial movement of essential vehicles on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, even as hundreds of fruit-laden trucks remain stranded, raising fears of massive losses to Kashmir's horticulture sector.

Speaking to reporters, SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil said restoration works were underway at multiple spots affected by landslides in the Udhampur-Ramban stretch. "We are on it to ensure traffic flows smoothly. However, commuters must wait for clearance from the control room before planning their travel," he advised.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, who reviewed the situation at Bali Nallah, said heavy rains had delayed repair work at several locations. "The restoration works resumed after a brief disruption. From this evening, vehicular movement of essential heavy motor vehicles shall be allowed," she said.

Despite the limited relief, fruit growers remain alarmed. Chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers cum Dealers Union, Bashir Ahmad Basheer, said over 700-800 trucks carrying Bagogosha pears, Galamast

and Red Ghala apples are still stranded. "Fruit mandis are packed with consignments losing shelf life. Orchards are full of harvested fruit that cannot be dispatched. Unless fruit trucks are allowed priority passage, growers will suffer irreparable damage," he warned.

At Sopore Fruit Mandi, considered Asia's second largest, President Fayaz Ahmad Malik said trade has come to a near standstill. "From over 100 trucks daily, we are down to barely 20. Perishable items like Bagogosha cannot survive these delays. The horticulture sector is staring at losses of crores if the highway is not fully restored soon," he said.

"Growers have been asked to halt dispatches," he added.

The highway has remained closed for four straight days due to heavy rains and landslides in the Udhampur-Ramban sector. More than 2,000 vehicles, including trucks and passenger carriers are stranded across Lakhampur, Jammu, Udhampur, Nagrota and Qazigund.

Meanwhile, growers and traders have appealed to the government for priority clearance of fruit-laden trucks, warning that continued delay could cripple Kashmir's apple economy, which sustains thousands of families across the valley—(KNO)

Rains, winds damage apple orchards

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Pulwama Aug 30: Heavy rains accompanied by hailstorm and strong winds wreaked havoc in several areas of South Kashmir during the intervening night of Friday-Saturday, leaving apple orchards extensively damaged and thousands of growers in despair.

The untimely downpour struck at around 3 am, flattening orchards, uprooting trees, and causing premature fruit fall at a time when farmers were preparing for the crucial harvest season.

The areas which were hit include adjoining areas of Trenz in South Kashmir's Pulwama district and Lassipora hamlet in South Kashmir's Pulwama district and for them the night was nothing short of a nightmare.

"Our entire year's hard work was destroyed within minutes," said Abdul Rashid, an orchardist from Shopian, pointing to his orchard floor littered with half-ripened apples. "We were expecting a good harvest this year. But after last night's storm, a large portion of my crop is lying on the ground and is no longer market-worthy. The little that remains on the trees is bruised and will fetch a fraction of the normal price."

In neighboring Pulwama, the story is no different. Mushtaq Ahmad, another grower, expressed anguish over what he called "government neglect."

"Whenever we suffer losses worth crores, the government announces relief, but in the end, we receive a few thousand rupees. That is like rubbing salt on our wounds. We cannot survive on token compensation. We need genuine financial assistance and most importantly, a crop insurance scheme that protects us from such disasters," he said. (KNO)

Karra visits Children's Hospital Bemina

KNO

Srinagar, Aug 30: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President and MLA Central-Shalteng, Tariq Hameed Karra Saturday visited the Children's Hospital Bemina on Saturday to assess facilities, meet patients and review the hospital's infrastructure and services.

The visit was aimed at reviewing the medical facilities, interacting with patients and their families, and taking stock of the infrastructure and services provided by the hospital.

During the visit, the JKPC president was accompanied by senior health officials & hospital administration. He inspected various departments, including the emergency ward, neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), and outpatient services, and took note of patient care standards, equipment availability, and staff requirements.

He was accompanied by the Medical Superintendent, CMO, RMO, and other senior doctors—(KNO)

SAD DEMISE

With immense pain, grief and sorrow, We inform the sad demise of Mst. Mughli W/O Late Ghulam Nabi Sofi R/O Shalimar Srinagar who passed away on 29th August 2025 (Friday). May Almighty Allah grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul. The Congregational Fateha Khawani prayer will be held on 1st September 2025 (Monday) at their graveyard Char-e-Boni SKUAST Road Shalimar Srinagar at 10:30 AM.

BEREAVED FAMILY

**Fayaz Ahmad Sofi (Son)
7889423868**

Ladies are requested not to bring any

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana: Empowering Mothers, Shaping Generations

Press Information Bureau

Under-nutrition remains a pervasive issue for many women in India, with every third woman being undernourished and every second woman suffering from anaemia. This nutritional deficit often leads to an undernourished mother giving birth to a low birth weight baby, a condition that begins in-utero and whose largely irreversible effects can extend throughout the life cycle. Exacerbating these health challenges, economic and social distress compels many women to continue working right up to the advanced stages of pregnancy and to prematurely resume work after childbirth. This sustained labour prevents their bodies from fully recovering and impedes their ability to exclusively breastfeed their infants during the crucial first six months.

In response to these critical challenges, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a maternity benefit programme, was launched on the 1st January 2017. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and forms a key component of the Government of India's 'Mission Shakti' for women's empowerment.

Sushasan, Garib Kalyan Ke 11 Saal

Under the 'Samarthya' sub-scheme, PMMVY focuses on economic empowerment and holistic development of women. It provides financial support to pregnant and lactating mothers under the National Food Security Act, 2013, to improve their health and nutrition and compensate for wage loss. In April 2022, PMMVY 2.0 extended maternity benefits for the second living child, if a girl, and to promote positive attitudes towards girls and improve the Sex Ratio at Birth. Mission Shakti guidelines support PMMVY 2.0 implementation across national, state, and district levels.

Objectives

To provide cash incentive for partial compensation for the wage loss so that the woman can take adequate rest before and

Key Implementation Points to Remember



The **first instalment** of **₹3,000** is given on registration of pregnancy & at least one (Ante - Natal Check) ANC with in 6 months from Last Menstrual Period (LMP) date.



The **second instalment** of **₹2,000** is given after childbirth is registered and the child receives all due vaccines till the age of **14 weeks**.



The PMMVY is implemented via a web-based MIS software (**PMMVYsoft MIS**), with Anganwadi Centres (AWC) and ASHA workers as focal points for beneficiary registration.



Key Features

- Government maternity benefit scheme under Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Part of Mission Shakti for women's empowerment
- Supports pregnant & lactating women, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Rs 5,000 for first child; Rs 6,000 for second girl child (PMMVY 2.0)
- Linked to Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) benefits for institutional delivery (~Rs 6,000 total)
- Promotes healthcare, nutrition, and positive behaviour change towards girl child

village using the newly developed PMMVY Software (PMMVYSoft), launched in March 2023. This digital platform enables seamless tracking and evaluation of scheme delivery through multiple reforms designed to enhance transparency, efficiency, and beneficiary coverage.

1. Real-Time Authentication and Verification:

The system incorporates Aadhaar-based authentication via UIDAI and verification by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) to ensure direct benefit transfers (DBT) into Aadhaar-seeded bank or post office accounts, enabling real-time tracking of fund disbursement.

Biometric verification using facial recognition on the PMMVY portal ensures accurate identity confirmation at registration, preventing duplication and fraud.

The portal mandates verification of key criteria such as Aadhaar authentication and DBT-enabled accounts upfront, accelerating processing times and minimizing delays.

2. Digital Reporting and Field-Level Access:

The fully paperless PMMVY portal and mobile app allow field workers, starting from the Anganwadi level, to report beneficiary data and service delivery status promptly and accurately from the beneficiaries' doorstep.

Beneficiaries and officials can search and track application approval and payment status in real time, promoting transparency and accountability.

3. Transparency:

A toll-free, multilingual helpline (14408) supports ongoing queries and complaints, contributing to continuous feedback and program evaluation.

Applicants and beneficiaries receive automated SMS updates at critical stages of the process (registration, rejection, payment) in 12 different languages, ensuring transparent communication and enhancing user engagement.

An integrated grievance lodging and status module enables stakeholders to report and monitor grievances effectively, with direct routing to implementing authorities for quicker resolution.

4. Training and Awareness:

To ensure smooth implementation, state-level training programs have been conducted for officials and field functionaries.

YouTube video tutorials have been developed and disseminated to provide step-by-step guidance on PMMVY portal usage.

Comprehensive IEC materials have been created and distributed to raise awareness about the scheme, system functionalities etc.

Conclusion

The PMMVY uses a well-structured system with multiple levels of governance, digital tracking, direct money transfers, and community reviews to ensure transparency and effective delivery. By promoting health check-ups, good nutrition, and financial awareness, the scheme helps women take control of their lives and supports the goal of women-led development.

A Human-Centric AI Blueprint For The Future Workforce

The future of work isn't a question of humans versus machines. It's about how we work better together. Humans bring intuition, empathy, and critical judgment. AI brings speed, scale, and pattern recognition. Together, they drive breakthroughs.

Ruba Yousef Al-Hassan

We are no longer on the precipice of the artificial intelligence era — we're in it. Tools like ChatGPT, autonomous vehicles and predictive analytics are accelerating transformation daily — often faster than we can predict. And no one fully knows how far the changes will go or how flawed they may be.

But what we do know from history is this: Organizations like Amazon — which pioneered AI-driven logistics — or Tesla — which blends human oversight with machine precision — are the ones that achieve the most by harnessing the power of people and technology together.

In the recent Emerging Trends Report in Talent Management (2024-2040), published by the Future Foresight team at the Department of Government Enablement, we identified 16 major shifts reshaping the workplace. AI emerged as the underlying force behind most of them.

The report draws on extensive research conducted by DGE — including the analysis of over 1,000 global trend signals — and asks two fundamental questions: How will these forces reshape the way we work? And how do we future-proof the Abu Dhabi Government in light of these changes?

One insight stood above the rest: AI is no longer just a tool. It's a thinking partner — and we need to start treating it like one.

A relevant parallel is the smartphone. Just over a decade ago, we couldn't have imagined how integral it would become to how we live, work and connect. It didn't replace human intelligence — it expanded it. Today, AI is becoming just as central: not a substitute for human talent, but a tool that multiplies our capacity to learn, create and lead.

This affects all of us — as workers, parents, and leaders. Every organization, public or private, is only as strong as its people. We must evolve the workforce not in spite of AI, but because of it.

These trends and this report help us



understand how the future will feel. Not just what it will look like. And that's why I believe that investing in human capital and prioritizing collaboration between workers and machines is the key to moving beyond the "versus" narrative.

Establishing clear ethical frameworks, such as transparency in AI decision-making and measures to prevent algorithmic bias, will ensure technology empowers rather than displaces.

A blended workforce is one where humans have the skills to thrive alongside machines. It's one where technology helps,

not hinders, the implementation of values such as lifelong learning, critical thinking and personal well-being. And it's one where companies offer continuous access to education, reskilling and upskilling programs.

Done right, organizations will be able to unlock the full benefits of AI — from savings and efficiencies to robust cybersecurity — by giving employees more space to focus on high-value, meaningful work.

And it's already making a tangible difference in workplaces today. At DGE, for example, we spotted a trend about using AI to set quick and personalized performance

objectives. We acted quickly, built the AI-driven platform, tested it at DGE and are actively rolling out across Abu Dhabi Government at large.

Just one year later, it's live in 38 government entities, supporting more than 15,000 civil servants. Results speak for themselves: 73 percent reported improved quality of objectives through AI-generated suggestions and 72 percent gave positive feedback, with 81 percent noting ease of use.

Humans bring intuition, empathy, and critical judgment. AI brings speed, scale, and pattern recognition. Together, they

drive breakthroughs.

By automating repetitive tasks, humans are free to dedicate their time and resources to handling sensitive, strategic or significant problems. For example, in healthcare, AI-powered diagnostic tools can analyze medical scans with incredible speed, allowing doctors to focus on delivering personalized care.

In finance, algorithms flag potential fraud while human analysts develop strategies to prevent it. And in customer service, chatbots handle routine queries, enabling teams to solve more complex, emotionally charged problems. By leveraging the speed at which machines can process, analyze and report data, humans can make more informed decisions using deeper insights.

And just as the internet generated jobs we couldn't previously imagine, so too will this new era. This new era is already ushering in roles we hadn't imagined just a few years ago — from chief AI officers and AI ethicists to algorithm auditors and AI literacy trainers — as organizations adapt to the shift.

As we integrate AI into our daily operations, it's critical to establish ethical frameworks that guide its use, such as the UAE's AI Principles and Ethics framework, which outlines eight pillars designed to uphold human values and ensure fair, safe outcomes for all. This kind of leadership ensures that technology serves society's best interests, fostering trust and collaboration.

Because without clear guardrails, we risk letting fear shape the narrative, dividing rather than uniting. But by choosing to integrate and prosper, we can build a future where AI helps humans do what they do best — and more of it.

The time to act is now. Let's embrace the partnership and shape what comes next, together.

Ruba Yousef Al-Hassan is director general of strategic affairs and future foresight at the Department of Government Enablement, Abu Dhabi

Source: Arab News

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

TAD disburses Rs 2.53 Cr scholarship to ST Students

Rana directs clearance of pendency by Sept 05



KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 30: The Jammu & Kashmir Tribal Affairs Department (TAD) has disbursed 2.53 crore in scholarships to ST-2 students under its scholarship scheme, marking a significant step in supporting the educational pursuits of Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in J&K.

In line with ensuring timely disbursement, Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, has instructed that all outstanding scholarship payments be processed and cleared by September 5th, 2025. He has also directed the Director of Tribal Affairs to submit a non-pendency certificate by the specified date.

Rana had earlier emphasized the importance of the timely disbursement of both Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships to ST students. These scholarships are part

of the Government's initiative to aid the educational advancement of ST students across J&K, he said.

Minister stressed that no eligible student should be deprived of their rightful scholarship due to procedural delays.

This step also aligns with the Government's recent directives to streamline the scholarship disbursement process.

Rana reaffirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of ST students, particularly those facing financial barriers.

"This initiative is part of our continuous efforts to ensure that every eligible ST student receives the financial support they need to continue their education and secure a brighter future," he stated.

He emphasized that all guidelines must be followed meticulously to guarantee a smooth, transparent disbursement.

DC Kupwara inspects LRD Centres

Reviews arrangement, construction work at Ziyarat Muqam Shahwali



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, AUGUST 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasahab Suse Saturday visited the Land Records Digitization Centres at Tehsil Kupwara and Drugmulla to assess the progress of digitization of Jamabandis and Massavis.

During the visit, DC interacted with the revenue staff, took feedback, and emphasized the importance of maintaining quality in the digitization process. He directed the concerned officers to complete the task within the timelines prescribed by the Government.

At the digitization centre established in Higher Secondary

School Drugmulla, DC also interacted with students.

Later, DC visited Ziyarat Zeti-Shah-Wali at Moqam Drugmulla to review the arrangements being made by line departments in connection with the forthcoming Eid-i-Milad. He directed the officers to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply, proper cleanliness, and sanitation around the shrine, so that devotees may not face any inconvenience.

DC also inspected the ongoing construction works at the shrine. DC was accompanied by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildar Kupwara, Tehsildar Drugmulla, and other officers.

Cabinet Ministers grieved over Ramban, Reasi incidents

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 30: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of lives in Reasi and Ramban districts due to natural calamities in which several precious lives have been lost.

The Minister said that it is heart wrenching that several precious lives have been lost in the cloudburst incident in Ramban and landslide incident in Reasi district. She added that these tragedies have caused unbearable sufferings to the affected families and my heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved families and their relatives.

The Minister further said that the district administrations, particularly health department and disaster management authorities, in both districts have been mobilised to provide immediate relief to the affected families.

Minister Sakeena further appealed to the general public that in view of inclement weather advisories people should remain cautious and alert, avoid landslide prone areas and strictly adhere to safety advisories for their well-being.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, has expressed deep grief and anguish over the tragic loss of lives in Ramban and Reasi districts due to the recent natural calamities.

In his condolence message, the Minister said that the cloudburst in Ramban and landslide in Reasi have caused irreparable loss and immense

suffering to the affected families. "It is deeply painful that many precious lives have been lost in these unfortunate incidents. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray for strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss," he said.

Sharma further said that the district administrations along with disaster management and health authorities have been directed to ensure all possible assistance, relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected families on priority.

Appealing to the people to remain alert in view of the adverse weather advisories, the Minister urged citizens to stay away from vulnerable and landslide-prone areas, and to strictly follow safety instructions issued by the administration for their own wellbeing.

Minister for Rural Development Department, Javed Ahmad Dar has expressed deep grief over the loss of lives in Reasi and Ramban districts due to cloudbursts and landslide incidents.

Extending heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families, Javed Dar prayed for the departed souls and wished a speedy recovery for the injured.

The Minister assured that the Omar Abdullah government stands firmly with the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, providing every possible assistance to those affected.

The administration has been mobilized to provide immediate relief and assistance to all affected families. The J&K government remains committed to ensuring timely relief and rehabilitation for affected families.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of lives in the cloudburst and landslide incidents that struck Reasi and Ramban districts.

The natural calamities have claimed many lives, leaving families devastated and communities reeling under shock.

In his heartfelt message, the Minister said, "Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of lives in Reasi and Ramban following the devastating cloudbursts and landslides. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of profound grief."

Rana acknowledged the scale of the tragedy and the emotional toll it has taken on the affected families.

He further appreciated the prompt response of the rescue teams, including disaster management authorities, police and district administration, who have been working relentlessly to provide relief, conduct search operations and extend medical and logistical support in the affected areas.

The Minister assured that the government is monitoring the situation closely and is committed to provide necessary assistance for relief and rehabilitation.

He emphasized that all departments under his charge will coordinate efforts to restore normalcy at the earliest.

Rana also appealed to the public to stay vigilant in vulnerable areas and follow safety advisories issued by the administration.

DC Budgam visits Craft Village Kanihama

Reviews developmental works, interacts with artisans

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, AUGUST 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today paid an extensive visit to the Craft Village Kanihama, renowned for its centuries-old tradition of Kani shawl weaving, where he reviewed the implementation of various developmental works and interacted with artisans to assess welfare measures and scheme implementation.

During the visit, DC held detailed deliberations with artisans and officials from various departments on the activities being carried out under multiple schemes aimed at supporting and promoting handicrafts.

He emphasized the importance of extending maximum benefits of welfare and promotional schemes to artisans in order to safeguard, revive and promote the traditional craft heritage of the district.

Dr Bilal also sensitized stakeholders about the health issues faced by artisans due to prolonged working hours and underscored the need for creating awareness and facilitating access to health services for the artisan community.

On the occasion, DC witnessed live demonstrations of Kani shawl weaving and traditional spinning on the charka, lauding the extraordinary skill and dedication of the artisans.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to preserving and promoting this age-old craft which holds immense cultural and economic value.

DC was also briefed about the wide range of developmental



works undertaken at Kanihama Craft Village including installation of advertising boards for shops, improvement of the public park near Jamia Masjid Kanihama, upgradation of inner link roads at Hajam Mohalla and New Colony Road, construction of a Chowkidar quarter, drainage works with steel grill fencing around the park near the CFC building, and overall beautification of the site.

Further interventions include face-lifting of the Common Facility Centre (CFC) building, construction of dedicated weavers' sheds, and development of public amenities worth over Rs. 3 crore, aimed at providing better infrastructure and facilities for artisans and visitors.

"Kanihama Craft Village is not merely an infrastructure initiative, but a holistic mission to safeguard our centuries-old heritage, empower artisans with dignity of work, and position Kashmiri handicrafts on the global stage," DC said.

He said that the vision of district administration is to transform Kanihama into a vibrant hub of handicrafts, culture, and tourism, where tradition meets opportunity.

DC said, this model village will not only preserve the legacy of crafts like Kani Shawl weaving but also provide artisans with sustainable livelihoods, enhanced market linkages, and global outreach.

He said that this craft village will stand as a living testimony to Kashmir's rich cultural identity while opening new income avenues and branding Budgam as a centre of craft excellence.

Dr Bilal assured artisans of continued institutional support, urging them to actively avail government schemes designed for their welfare and upliftment.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by CPO, SDM Beerwah, ACD, representatives from handicraft/handloom, BDO and other concerned officials.

Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W)

Div Com reviews arrangements for celebrations



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 30: In view of the forthcoming religious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W), Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg Saturday convened a meeting of officers to ensure elaborate arrangements at prominent religious places including major mosques & shrines.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir division, Commissioner SMC, SSPs, SSP Traffic Rural, senior officers of all the civil departments including KPDCI, PHE, FCS&CA, PWD, Food Safety, Legal Metrology, LCMA, Wakf Board, Health department, Police and religious leaders of various Shrines.

Div Com reviewed the availability of basic civil amenities at major shrines across Kashmir division including Hazratbal shrine, Jenab Sahib Soura, Aasar-i-Sharief Kalashpora, Aham-i-Sharief Bandipora, Kabamarg Anantnag, Pethmakhama Budgam, Dargah e Aaliya, Baramulla and at all other mosques and shrines where large numbers of devotees gather for night prayers.

On the occasion, Div Com took a detailed review of arrangements for the congregational & night prayers at Hazratbal shrine, where over one lakh devotees are expected to observe Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W)

Div Com directed CE KPDCI to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity at Hazratbal Shrine with a backup plan for DG set so that the shrine management may not face any inconvenience. Besides, he instructed postponement of any scheduled power shutdown on the occasion of Milad.

Further, he instructed PHE for the installation of an adequate number of drinking water posts with a standby plan of water tankers in the proximity

of the shrine.

Regarding hassle-free transportation of devotees to & from Hazratbal shrine, Div Com directed SSCL, RTC & ARTO for the deployment of enough buses and e-autos for transportation of people till late night of the Eid Milad-un-Nabi & Friday following. Also, he enjoined Traffic Police Srinagar for framing route plans for the visitors of different districts for smooth transportation.

Meanwhile, SSP Rural was directed to ensure deployment of traffic personnel on the routes leading to shrines and share deployment orders with concerned Deputy Commissioners.

While laying strong emphasis on the installation of tents in the premises of prominent places, Garg directed Wakf officers to make advance arrangements for tents at all the designated locations before September 04.

Garg directed Commissioner SMC for carrying out a comprehensive sanitation and cleanliness drive at Hazratbal Shrine.

Moreover, he instructed for the constitution of joint market checking teams to ensure food hygiene & quality in the market and near religious places and emphasized on deterrent action against erring traders for violation of quality parameters and over-charging.

Similarly, the Health department was directed to make arrangements for medical camp and deployment of staff with rosters while Fire & Emergency was directed to station fire tenders at the critical junctions to respond swiftly to any exigency.

Meanwhile, Imams present in the meeting expressed satisfaction for overall arrangements put in place to facilitate devotees.

Also, Deputy Commissioners briefed the meeting regarding the arrangements made in their respective districts.

Mission YUVA

DLIC Gbl approves 83 youth entrepreneurship cases



KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 30: A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held Saturday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, in the V.C Room of the DC office here.

During the meeting, the committee held a threadbare discussion on the applications received under the scheme, which had been verified by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU).

Following a rigorous scrutiny, the DLIC approved 83 youth entrepreneurship cases for financial assistance and

institutional support under the Mission YUVA framework.

Speaking on the occasion, DC underscored the importance of quality and sustainability in ventures supported under Mission YUVA and emphasized to encourage youth to establish enterprises that are innovative, resilient, and capable of creating employment avenues for others so that the true objectives of Mission YUVA are realized.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; GM DIC, Assistant Director Employment, Nodal Officer, JKEDI and other concerned officials.

JK-REGP/ PMEGP : DLTCF approves 51 applications at Budgam

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, AUGUST 30: A meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) was Saturday convened at Budgam under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat.

The meeting was attended

by the General Manager, DIC Budgam; Lead District Manager Budgam; Executive Officer J&K KVIB Budgam; Principal ITI Budgam; Director RSETI Budgam; and representatives from State Bank of India and J&K State Co-operative Bank Budgam.

During the meeting, the committee held threadbare discussions and examined loan applications sponsored through the J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) for the establishment of micro and small

enterprises in the district.

Out of a total of 57 applications placed before the committee, 51 projects were recommended and approved for bank financing.

The approved projects cover a variety of sectors, including manufacturing, services, and agro-based industries. Once established, these ventures are expected to create direct employment opportunities for around 410 youth in rural and semi-urban areas of Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, DC

emphasized that the JKREGP and PMEGP schemes are crucial in providing vital financial assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs, enabling them to establish their own business units.

He said, "By approving these projects, we are promoting self-reliance, rural industrialization, and sustainable employment generation in Budgam. Youth should take maximum advantage of such schemes to become job providers rather than job seekers."

DC issued directions to all

concerned officers and bankers present to ensure time-bound processing of the approved cases, hassle-free loan sanctioning, and prompt subsidy disbursement to the beneficiaries.

He also directed the KVIB to handhold entrepreneurs at every stage from project formulation to execution so that approved units are established on ground without delay.

Representatives of banks were directed to ensure full cooperation in early sanction and disbursement of loan assistance to the beneficiaries.

KNO IMPACT

Govt assigns additional charge to Principals amid crisis in Degree Colleges

Employees hopeful of getting pending salaries, demand appointment of regular heads

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Aug 30: Two days after the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reported that over 45 government degree colleges in J&K are functioning without regular principals and nearly a dozen remain completely headless, the administration on Saturday issued an order assigning additional charge of several colleges to principals of other institutions.

According to the directive, principals of established colleges have been tasked with leading additional institutions “in the interest of

administration” until further orders. The list covers both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, with senior faculty from reputed colleges such as Amar Singh College Srinagar, GDC Anantnag, Baramulla, and Kishtwar entrusted with additional responsibilities,” reads an order a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

The order also clarifies that in some cases—including GDC Kokernag, Uri, Bijbehara, and Dudu-Basantgarh—the new arrangement will take effect after the retirement

of incumbent principals in August 2025.

Pertinently, the vacuum in leadership had stalled developmental works and delayed salary disbursements for the last three months, leaving employees in distress.

“This vacuum in leadership had hit academic planning, admissions, examinations, and most importantly developmental works. In the absence of principals, key files remain unattended and approvals are delayed,” an official from the Higher Education Department had earlier told KNO.

Newly established colleges,

particularly those set up in 2019 to expand higher education access in rural belts, were the worst hit. At Government Degree College Frisal in Kulgam, for instance, the absence of a principal has paralyzed administration and halted the utilization of developmental funds.

While this latest order is seen as a temporary relief to administrative paralysis, stakeholders insist that only permanent appointments can restore stability and ensure that J&K’s higher education sector meets its academic and developmental goals. (KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Cloudburst, landslides

seven died after a landslide, triggered by heavy rainfall, struck a residential house in Bhadder village of Mahore tehsil in Reasi district.

Officials said the incident occurred early this morning when a massive landslide hit the house, located on a steep slope, burying the structure under debris. The house was occupied by multiple family members at the time of the incident.

“Seven people were trapped under the debris. Rescue teams, including personnel from the police, SDRF and local administration were dispatched immediately and all the bodies were recovered,” an official told KNO.

Meanwhile, the district administration appealed to residents living in hilly and landslide-prone areas to remain alert and avoid staying in vulnerable structures during periods of heavy rain.

An official said in another incident four people died after a cloudburst struck Rajgarh tehsil of Ramban district, while one person remains missing and according to the officials, the rescue operation was launched immediately to trace the missing person.

He said the rescue teams have recovered four bodies from the affected area and efforts are ongoing to trace the remaining missing person.

“The cloudburst triggered flash floods, damaging property and affecting normal life in the region. One person is still unaccounted for,” the official said.

LG ANGUISHED OVER LOSS OF LIVES
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed anguish over the loss of lives caused by recent landslides and cloudburst incidents in Reasi and Ramban districts, which left 11 people dead and one missing.

In a post on X, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the LG said that he has been in touch with senior officials to assess the situation and assured that all possible assistance is being provided to those affected.

UNION MOS SPEAKS TO DC RAMBAN
Meanwhile, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, in a post on X, said he had spoken to Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Aiyaz Khan, regarding the incident.

“A cloudburst in the Rajgarh area has resulted in the unfortunate loss of four lives. One person is still missing, and search operations are underway. Fortunately, there are no injuries reported. Rescue efforts are in progress, and all possible assistance is being provided. I am in constant touch with the district administration,” he said.

CM OMAR ASKS TO REMAIN VIGILANT, SAFEGUARD LIVES

Moreover, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed condolences over the incident. In a post on X, his office stated: “The Chief Minister has expressed deep anguish over the loss of lives due to the landslide in Rajgarh, Ramban. He has directed the administration to carry out immediate rescue and relief operations.”

According to the post by the Office of Chief Minister, J&K, “Chief Minister expressed deep sorrow over the tragic landslide in Reasi’s Bhadder village that claimed the lives of seven family members.”

Taking note of the continuous heavy rains, he appealed to people to remain alert, avoid vulnerable areas, and strictly adhere to safety advisories. He has directed the district administration and disaster management authorities to remain on the ground, ensure round-the-clock monitoring, carry out timely evacuation of residents from risk-prone zones, and provide immediate relief and all possible assistance to the affected families.

He instructed the concerned departments to remain vigilant, coordinate closely, and take every precautionary measure to safeguard lives during the ongoing inclement weather.

WEATHER FORECAST

In the meantime, the weatherman has issued yellow and orange warnings for the next three days, saying that there is a forecast of light to moderate rain till September 02.

Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director Meteorological department (MeT), told KNO that one or two spells of light to moderate rain is expected at scattered to fairly widespread places with possibility of heavy to very heavy rain over Jammu, Kathua & Samba and moderate to heavy rain and thundershower and intense showers at Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri, Ramban, Doda & Kishtwar till September 02.

He said during the period, a few places of South Kashmir and central Kashmir may also experience light rain with brief intense

showers with thunder and lightning.

From September 03 to September 08, he said that generally hot & humid weather is expected with brief spell of rain and thundershower at a few places.

ADVISORY ISSUED

The MeT in its advisory has stated that there is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rain, thundershower and intense showers at few places of Jammu division during 30th late night to 2nd September.

“There is a possibility of cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, mudslides, shooting stones etc at few vulnerable places,” it reads and advised people to stay away from water bodies, Nallas, river embankments, loose structures etc.

All concerned are advised to stay alert & updated, the advisory reads. (KNO)

‘Early warning

awareness campaigns are needed to ensure a timely response to sudden rainfall events

This August, more than 25 cloudbursts and nine landslides have been recorded in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in 150 deaths, over 300 injuries, and many missing persons.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the study, ‘Assessment and Review of Hydrometeorological Aspects for Cloudburst and Flash Flood Events in the Third Pole Region (Indian Himalaya)’, examines the growing vulnerability of Himalayan states, including Jammu and Kashmir, to extreme weather events.

The region’s fragile mountains, steep slopes, and variable climate make it prone to cloudbursts, flash floods, and rainfall-induced landslides. Past events, such as the 2010 Leh cloudburst and 2014 Udhampur floods, caused significant fatalities and property damage.

The study identifies several contributing factors. Climate change increases atmospheric moisture and rainfall intensity, while the interaction of monsoon currents with western disturbances triggers sudden downpours. Orographic lifting due to high mountains amplifies rainfall, and unplanned construction, deforestation, and land-use changes destabilise slopes. Limited meteorological data and sparse weather stations further restrict prediction and early warning capabilities.

To reduce risks, the study notes that advanced forecasting models such as WRF (Weather Research and Forecasting model) and HYSPLIT (Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory model) are used to predict and analyse cloudbursts in the region. The WRF model simulates weather patterns at high resolution, helping forecast rainfall, cloud formation, winds, and temperature over specific areas.

HYSPLIT tracks the movement of air parcels and moisture, showing how winds carry moisture toward the Himalayas, which can trigger sudden heavy rainfall. Together, these models provide meteorologists with detailed information on where and how intense a cloudburst might be, supporting early warning and disaster preparedness.

It also calls for sustainable land management, regulated urban growth, and integration of scientific research into policy. Without these measures, Jammu and Kashmir could see an increasing frequency and intensity of cloudbursts and related disasters in the future.

“The active monsoon, moisture carried by easterly winds, and interaction with western disturbances trigger cloudbursts,” said Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the Meteorological Department (MeT).

He said that rising temperatures and increased moisture flow towards the Himalayas increase the likelihood of such events. The MeT forecasts heavy rainfall and potential cloudbursts in Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur, and the Chenab Valley until September 3.

Meteorologist Sonam Lotus said the Western Himalayas, including Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, are prone to flash floods and landslides during the southwest monsoon, which lasts from mid-June to mid-September.

He added that early warning systems are critical but cannot fully prevent loss, and public awareness remains central to minimising casualties.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said that India has early-warning systems for heavy rainfall and flash floods, but there is no precise ‘cloudburst alarm’ for individual villages.

The India Meteorological Department’s Doppler radars, satellite nowcasts, and the

South Asia Flash Flood Guidance System can identify dangerous cells 30–180 minutes in advance and issue district- or block-level alerts.

On minimising damage, Arif said that while a cloudburst cannot be prevented, its impact can be reduced.

“Measures include mapping high-risk gullies above settlements, building and maintaining overflow channels and debris barriers, installing dense networks of rain gauges and river sensors linked to automatic sirens, enforcing no-build zones on fans and streambeds, and conducting drills for five-minute evacuations to higher ground, particularly at night and along pilgrim routes. In areas with extreme risk, relocation may be necessary,” he said.

These steps, Arif said, can help reduce casualties during sudden rainfall events. (KNO)

Tourism sector

further resolved to form a panel comprising members from three major banks to finalize the parameters of the proposed rehabilitation and revival plan.

Amit Shah arriving

situation, the official added.

Accompanied by a team from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Amit Shah will focus on relief, rehabilitation, and restoration efforts in the affected areas.

On September 1, the Home Minister will travel to Katra and is likely to visit Narayana Hospital to meet victims injured in the recent Mata Vaishno Devi landslide.

Sources indicate that the Home Minister may announce decisions related to the restoration of connectivity, rehabilitation efforts, and other matters to support affected communities. (KNO)

65% voter turnout

of 7.8 percent. “Some people say India’s economy is dead, but I tell them that our economy is developing rapidly and is in a strong position,” he added.

He said, that development plans are being made for Jammu and Kashmir and praised the LG-led administration for ensuring justice and welfare.

Athawale also pointed to the recent 65 percent voter turnout in the Assembly elections, calling it a sign of people’s faith in democracy. “Omar is my friend and he has become Chief Minister. He should also pay attention to the people,” he said.

Recalling incidents in Pahalgam, Athawale condemned attacks on tourists. “Kashmir is truly beautiful, its climate is wonderful, and the world comes here to find joy.”

He said, under the leadership of PM Modi, India is moving forward on the path of progress. I am proud that our GDP is strong at 7.8 percent.

The Minister also said that slogans of “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” echo in Kashmir today and credited LG Sinha’s leadership for delivering justice to all.

Paying tribute to Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Athawale said, “We all respect Baba Saheb Ambedkar. His contribution to writing the Constitution was extraordinary.”

The Union Minister also took a swipe at Congress, saying, “They betrayed me, but Prime Minister Modi gave me an opportunity. Today, I am a minister because of the chance given by PM Modi and with people’s support, I will continue to serve in the future.” (KNO)

LG urges youth

have to give the message to the society that social values, such as selfless service, can only be preserved by adhering to the path of morality.

It is also our collective responsibility to inspire the society to be proud of its rich cultural heritage,” he added.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an aspiring India is moving towards becoming a Viksit Bharat. “Along with self-reliance, a new self-confidence has also been awakened in our country and we remain focused on our goal of a developed India. India is the hope for the world and it can show humanity the path to a prosperous and happy future,” he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the citizens who have lost their lives in the recent natural calamities in Jammu Kashmir. He reiterated the commitment of the Government of India and UT Administration for the rehabilitation of the affected families.

He also said that the upliftment and respect of everyone from weaker and deprived

NKR Police Hqrs organizes financial protocols workshop of MHA

KNO

Srinagar, Aug 30: The Range Police Headquarters, Baramulla organized a one-day “Awareness-cum-Training Workshop on Financial Implementation Protocols,” held at the Dak Bungalow, Baramulla under the aegis of the financial unit of MHA. The event, chaired by Shakeel Maqbool-ICAS (Internal Financial Advisor, J&K Home), featured his resource team delivering in-depth instructions to participants.

The workshop was graced by the presence of senior police Officers, including DIG North Kashmir Range Maqsood-ul-Zaman (IPS), and SSP District Baramulla Gurinderpal Singh (IPS). Their support underscored the significance of

financial governance and compliance across department operations, a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Attendees included all Drawing & Disbursing Officers (DDOs) representing a wide range of Home Department units across the North Kashmir Range. Participants came from District offices, Armed Battalions, Police Training Centres, Prosecution Department, Jail administration, as well as the Fire & Emergency Services. These DDOs were joined by their staff, including GeM Operators, Assistants and Contingency Clerks, highlighting the workshop’s inclusive and functional approach.

The session offered practical training on core elements of departmental financial

management. Participants gained clarity on standardized billing procedures, understood proper payment protocols, and explored approaches to audit the expenditures of their respective units. The interactive format allowed for detailed discussions that reinforced the importance of accuracy and transparency in every stage viz from billing to disbursement to financial audit.

By focusing on these foundational processes, the workshop aimed to strengthen financial compliance, sharpen audit readiness, and promote efficient resource management across various arms of the Home Department. The workshop reaffirmed the department’s commitment to nurturing financial accountability and enhancing internal governance at all levels of operations.

sections of the society is our aim and it is our commitment to ensure youth and women are empowered to move forward on the path of development.

Ms Neelam Sonker, former Member of Parliament; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Kailash Masoom, Chairman, Buddhhanjali Research Foundation; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama; Dr G.V.Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Dasbabu Jayswal, Yuvraj Kumar, Film Actor, senior officials, and people from different walks of life were present at the felicitation ceremony.

Top terror facilitator

Indian territory undetected.

For years, intelligence agencies had been tracking ‘Samandar Chacha’, considered one of the most elusive and dangerous operatives due to his familiarity with mountain trails and weather patterns that allowed infiltration even during high-alert periods.

His name was a fixture in every infiltration attempt along the Gurez route, long considered a vulnerable corridor due to its rugged terrain and snow-covered passes.

Security forces confirmed his identity through documents recovered during the operation. The second infiltrator’s identity is yet to be verified.

Security agencies describe Khan’s death as a major blow to the cross-border terror infrastructure, particularly its logistical and guidance networks.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, Northern Army Commander, praised the Chinar Corps for their swift response and precise execution of the operation.

He lauded the troops for their professionalism and commitment in maintaining peace and security in the region.

The Indian Army reiterated its firm resolve to keep Jammu and Kashmir free from terrorism and continue its operations with determination and strategic precision. (KNO)

PM Modi gifts Kashmiri

and red, the shawl reflects the classic elegance of Kashmiri craftsmanship,” reads the statement.

It reads the shawl was placed inside a hand-painted Papier-mâché box decorated with intricate floral and bird designs, further symbolising Kashmir’s artistry and cultural richness.

It adds the shawl and box represent Kashmir’s artistry, heritage and timeless elegance.

Less than 50

IAF’s careful selection of targets and precision strikes ensured both effectiveness and restraint. “From the list of options presented, we had a large number of target sets. And finally, we boiled down to nine. The key takeaway is that in less than 50 weapons, we were able to achieve conflict elimination,” he said.

He said that while it is easy to initiate conflict, ending it requires clarity of objectives and careful execution. “This was a crucial factor to consider when activating and deploying our forces, ensuring they were prepared for anything that might happen,” he added.

Pertinently, ‘Operation Sindoor’ was launched on May 7, to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead. In the opening phase, Indian armed forces struck nine terror facilities across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The precision strikes killed over 100 militants, including 10 relatives of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and four of his close aides.

Air Marshal Tiwari credited India’s Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) for playing a central role in both offensive and defensive operations. The system, he said, enabled India to absorb Pakistan’s initial response and deliver a “hard-hitting reply” that pushed Islamabad to seek de-escalation.

He said New Delhi’s instructions to the armed forces followed three principles: actions had to be clearly punitive, deter future attacks, and allow the military full freedom while preparing for possible escalation.

The four-day conflict, involving air strikes, artillery, and missiles, ended on May 10 when Pakistan agreed to ceasefire talks. (KNO)

CM for swift restoration

for close inter-departmental coordination and timely updates to respond promptly to public needs.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo briefed the meeting about the condition of NH-44, describing

its restoration as the top priority since it is the lifeline connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country. He stressed the importance of facilitating movement of perishable commodities like fruit from the Valley and highlighted the grim situation in areas such as Kishtwar and Udhampur, which are facing outages of power, drinking water, road connectivity and mobile networks.

He further underlined the need for temporary restoration of highways such as Dhar-Mahanpur, Ramban–Gool, and Reasi–Mahore to reconnect affected districts.

The Chief Minister enquired about the stock position of ration, fuel and medicines in cut-off places like Bani, Kishtwar, Reasi and Udhampur. He directed officers to replenish supplies through alternate routes – including via Anantnag for Kishtwar and through Bhaderwah for Bani – until full restoration of roads is achieved.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu informed the meeting about the ongoing restoration works on NH-44, resumption of supplies into the Valley, and special trains being run to facilitate passengers and tourists. He assured that there is no shortage of ration, fuel or other essentials in Jammu and efforts are being made to keep cut-off areas adequately stocked.

Similarly, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir informed that the Valley has sufficient supplies of fuel and ration.

The Chief Minister also directed that all roads under BRO, NHAI, NHIDCL and other agencies that remain disconnected be monitored closely, with status reports shared with his office twice daily – morning and evening.

CBK conducts raids

Nayeem, R/o Bijbehara, A/P Azad Basti, Natipora, Srinagar, Syed Wasim, S/o Syed Bashir Ahmad, R/o Kareemabad, Pulwama, A/P Azad Basti, Natipora, Srinagar, Syed Suhail Aijaz, S/o Syed Aijaz Qadri, R/o Takiya Magam, Kokernag, A/P Muslimabad, Opp. N.R. Colony, Bemina, Srinagar and Zaigam Khan, S/o Gulzar Khan, R/o Bemina

Preliminary findings indicate that Peerzada Aabid is the proprietor of Europe Consultancy Centre, while Syed Wasim, Syed Suhail Aijaz, and Zaigam Khan are associated with Overseas Consultancy.

The investigation is ongoing. (KNO)

DGP reviews

situation. He also interacted with the deployed personnel and reviewed the ongoing relief and restoration measures in the flood-affected areas.

A police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the DGP inspected important sites, including the Sahar Khad bridge and the Lakhampur–Madhopur bridge, which have sustained major damage due to heavy rains.

He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure safety, connectivity, and timely assistance to the affected population.

Later, Prabhat chaired a meeting with BSF, CRPF, and J&K Police officers, instructing them to maintain strict surveillance in border areas while extending full support to local administration in relief operations. (KNO)

Post-flood health

that fruits and vegetables should be thoroughly washed with safe water before consumption, and people must wash their hands with soap and safe water before preparing or eating food, while utensils should be cleaned with safe water before use.

Open wells and surface water sources are at high risk of contamination after floods and submerged wells should not be used until they are properly cleaned, disinfected, and tested, according to health experts.

People have been advised to depend on alternative safe water sources until proper clearance is given. Doctors have urged people to remain vigilant for symptoms of water-borne diseases, and warning signs include diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, or jaundice.

“Anyone showing these symptoms should be taken to medical care immediately. For those suffering from diarrhoea, ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution) should be given promptly to prevent dehydration and clean, safe water saves lives. Following these precautions can prevent the spread of deadly diseases after floods,” doctors said.

Medical experts have called for strictly adhering to these health and hygiene guidelines, saying this will help avoid a secondary crisis of preventable diseases. (KNO)

Govt working overtime to cushion export sectors against US tariff: CEA Nageswaran

PTI

Kolkata, Aug 30: Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) Anantha Nageswaran on Saturday said the central government, along with various stakeholders, are actively working overtime to cushion export sectors in view of the recent imposition of an additional 25 per cent tariff by the United States.

The US has imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering America from August 27.

Nageswaran highlighted that crises, whether minor or major, often act as catalysts, providing focus and purpose for all segments of society—including the government, private sector, and households—to undertake necessary actions that might otherwise have been delayed. Since the tariffs took effect, "Conversations



have been happening in the last three to four days", involving various exporting and representative bodies, private sector export promotion agencies, and the ministry, he said.

Nageswaran, speaking virtually at ICC organised event, said that the ministries and the Ministry of Finance are "working overtime" to formulate a strategy. The primary goal of this response, he said, is to provide both a "time

cushion" and a "financial cushion" for the affected export sectors and units.

This support aims to help them "weather the present storm and also emerge from it stronger".

While acknowledging these developments, the CEA added, he was not in a position to disclose further details on the government's plan.

Despite the challenges posed by the tariffs, Nageswaran also highlighted

"silver linings" in the broader economic landscape.

He referred to the first-quarter GDP numbers for the current financial year, recently released by the Ministry of Statistics. The real GDP growth rate (GDP at constant prices) increased by 7.8 per cent year-on-year, compared to the first quarter of the previous financial year (2024-25), with the lower GDP deflator playing a role in boosting the figure.

Furthermore, he noted that the nominal GDP growth (GDP at current prices) rose by 8.8 per cent from a year ago.

This nominal growth was particularly gratifying, as some private sector economists had feared it would only reach around 8 to 8.2 per cent, making its near 9 per cent performance an "important thing to note".

PM Modi concludes Japan visit, heads to China for SCO summit

PTI

Tokyo, Aug 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday left for China to attend the SCO summit after wrapping up a two-day visit to Japan.

During his visit, India and Japan firmed up 13 key agreements and declarations and announced the launch of several transformative initiatives.

"This visit to Japan will be remembered for the productive outcomes which will benefit the people of our nations. I thank PM Ishiba, the Japanese people and the Government for their warmth," the prime minister said in an X post. The new measures to further expand the India-Japan special strategic and global partnership were unveiled following summit talks between Prime Minister Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba.

Japan set an investment target of 10 trillion yen (approximately Rs 60,000 crores) in India over a decade and the two sides sealed a raft of big-ticket pacts, including a framework for defence ties and a 10-year roadmap to largely boost economic partnership.

Other agreements signed include an economic security architecture to promote supply chain resilience in strategic sectors such as semiconductors, clean



energy, telecom, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals and new and emerging technologies.

The prime minister, who landed in Tokyo on Friday, said India-Japan cooperation is crucial for global peace and stability, and both sides have laid a strong foundation for a "new and golden chapter" in the partnership.

The 10-year roadmap focuses on significantly expanding overall economic ties. It comprised several key pillars for boosting engagement that included economic security, mobility, ecological

sustainability, technology and innovation, health, people-to-people exchanges and engagements between Indian states and Japanese prefectures.

The two sides also signed an implementing arrangement for the Chandrayaan-5 mission, a joint exploration of the polar region of the moon by the space agencies of the two countries.

On Saturday, Modi met governors of 16 Japanese prefectures in Tokyo and called for strengthening state-prefecture cooperation under the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

India can't afford to rely on foreign supplies in defence sector: Rajnath



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 30: India's defence architecture should not be dependent on any uncertain "foreign interference", and it should be based on its own capabilities, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.

He said the government plans to provide complete aerial security to all important installations across the country under the proposed Sudarshan Chakra air defence system within the next 10 years.

In an address at a Defence Summit, Mr. Singh said the air defence shield will comprise both defensive and offensive elements to deal with any enemy threats.

"As we saw during Operation Sindoor, the importance of air defence capability in today's wars has increased to a great extent. In such a scenario, the Sudarshan Chakra mission will certainly prove to be a game changer," he said.

In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the ambitious air defence project. The announcement came days after Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir

reportedly hinted at targeting Indian assets along the border in case of any future military confrontation between the two countries.

Mr. Singh said the shifting geopolitics has also made it clear that external dependency in the field of defence is no longer an option. "In the current situation, self-reliance is essential for both our economy and our security," he said.

"Today, the defence sector is not only the foundation of national security but has also become a pillar in strengthening our economy and securing its future," the Defence Minister said.

"It is not just about the safety of people, the protection of land, or the defence of borders, but it is also becoming a responsible sector for the protection and security of our entire economy," he said.

The Defence Minister, at the same time, said self-reliance and indigenisation should not be seen as "protectionism".

"In the defence sector, self-reliance is not an issue of protectionism at all; rather, it is an issue of sovereignty. It is an issue of national autonomy. It is an issue of self-confidence," he said.

GST Council must advance cooperative federalism: Congress

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 30: Opposition-ruled states have extended their support to cut the number of GST rate slabs and the rates for mass consumption items, while demanding a mechanism to ensure the benefits get passed on to consumers, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Saturday.

He also said the Congress hopes that next week's GST Council meeting would not be just a "headline-grabbing exercise so typical of the (Narendra) Modi government".

According to Ramesh, the eight opposition-ruled states have also demanded compensation to all states for a period of five years, with 2024-25 as the base year, since their revenues are bound to be adversely impacted by the rate cuts.

They have demanded additional levies on 'sin' and luxury goods over and above the proposed 40 per cent be fully transferred to states, he said.

"Eight Opposition-ruled states -- Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal -- have extended their support to the reduction in the number of GST rate slabs and a reduction in the rates themselves for items of mass consumption," the Congress leader said on X.

He said these states have also called for a mechanism that ensures that the benefits of the rate cuts get passed on to consumers.

They have also demanded compensation to all states for a period of five years with 2024-25 as the base year, since their revenues are bound to be adversely impacted



by the rate cuts, Ramesh said.

The eight opposition-ruled states have also called for additional levies on 'sin' and luxury goods over and above the proposed 40% be fully transferred to states, he said, adding the Centre gets close to 17-18% of its revenue from various cesses that are not shared with the states.

The Congress leader stressed that these demands are perfectly legitimate and are bolstered by recent papers published by the Union Finance Ministry's own National Institute of Public Finance & Policy (NIPFP).

According to him, the Congress has for long been demanding a GST 2.0 that not only reduces rate slabs and cuts rates but also brings about drastic simplification of procedures and compliance requirements, especially for MSMEs.

Ramesh further said the Congress has also been stressing the

essentiality of ensuring that the interests of all states are fully protected.

"It hopes that the GST Council meeting scheduled for next week will not be merely a headline-grabbing exercise so typical of the (Narendra) Modi government, but will also advance the cause of genuine cooperative federalism in letter and spirit," he added.

The high-powered GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet on September 3-4 to discuss moving to a two-slab taxation. The two-day meeting will be held in New Delhi.

The council, comprising finance ministers of all states and Union Territories, besides that of the Centre, will deliberate on the recommendations made by the three GoMs on rate rationalisation, compensation cess and health and life insurance.

Non-payment of dues to employee for seeking another job against principles of natural justice: HC

PTI

Kolkata, Aug 30: Holding that looking for another job, even if with a rival company with better perks and facilities, is a basic right and does not constitute moral turpitude, the Calcutta High Court has held that non-payment of an employee's dues on such ground by a company was against the principles of natural justice.

Setting aside the order and punishment of the disciplinary authority of the company, which claims to be the sole manufacturer of a particular type of insulator film in India, Justice Shampa Dutt (Paul) directed it to pay his gratuity dues of Rs 1.37 lakh along with simple interest at the rate of 8 per cent per annum.

"Looking for another job, even if with a rival company (though, not proved in this case) with better perks and facilities is a basic right and does not constitute moral turpitude as it is not contrary to honesty, modesty or good morals," Justice Dutt observed in the judgment passed on Thursday.

The court held that the petitioner company could not prove that any damage



or loss to, or destruction of, property belonging to the employer was due to any act of the respondent which was riotous, disorderly or involved moral turpitude.

The conduct of the enquiry authority is clearly an abuse of power and totally against the principles of natural justice, there being no independent, specific findings of the disciplinary authority against the petitioner," Justice Dutt said, observing, "No reasoning nor the principles of natural justice was followed.

The petition before the high court was moved against orders passed by the Controlling Authority and the Appellate Authority, which had directed payment of the gratuity dues to Sudip Samanta, who worked as a technician in the company.

Scientists build online tool to calculate effectiveness of blood pressure medications

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 30: Researchers have developed an online tool that can calculate the extent to which blood pressure medicines prescribed by a doctor will be effective, potentially allowing treatment to be tailored to suit a patient's needs.

The team, including researchers from The George Institute for Global Health in Australia and India, built the tool after reviewing and analysing data from nearly 500 previously published studies involving over a lakh participants.

Described in a paper in The Lancet journal, the 'Blood Pressure Treatment Efficacy Calculator' allows doctors to prescribe medicines based on the degree to which a patient's blood pressure needs to be lowered.

"This is really important because every 1 mmHg reduction in systolic blood pressure lowers



your risk of heart attack or stroke by two per cent," author Nelson Wang, a cardiologist and research fellow at The George Institute for

Global Health, Australia, said. "But with dozens of drugs, multiple doses per drug, and most patients needing two or

more drugs, there are literally thousands of possible options, and no easy way to work out how effective they are," he said.

Drugs are the most common way hypertension (high blood pressure) is treated, with a single medication typically lowering systolic blood pressure -- the top number in a reading -- by only eight to nine mmHg, while most patients need to lower by 15-30 mmHg to reach ideal targets, the researchers said.

Along with calculating how effective a prescription will be, the online tool also categorises a treatment as 'low', 'moderate' or 'high' intensity, based on the extent to which one's blood pressure is estimated to fall.

Trials that the researchers analysed involved adult participants who were randomly assigned to receive beta-blockers (which block brain chemicals such as adrenaline) and calcium channel blockers (which stop calcium

from entering the muscles of the heart and blood vessels), among other types of hypertension medications.

On average, a single drug at a standard dose was found to reduce systolic blood pressure by 8.7 mmHg, with a doubling of the dose lowering the value by an additional 1.5 mmHg.

A two-drug combination at standard dose was found to lower systolic blood pressure by about 15 mmHg, with each doubling of the dose of both the drugs bringing the value down by an additional 2.5 mmHg.

"A model was developed to calculate efficacy for any combination of antihypertensives and validated on external trials of dual and triple combination antihypertensives," the authors wrote.

As a next step, the calculator will be tested in clinical trials involving patients, the researchers said.

'Int'l study to find solutions for airport building height curbs'



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 30: Civil Aviation Minister K Ram-mohan Naidu on Saturday said an international study will commence soon to look at solutions to address issues related to height restrictions for buildings near upcoming airports.

Besides, the government is looking at ways to expand aero and non-aero services in and around airports.

India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets and the number of operational airports in the country

increased by 88 to 162 in the last 11 years.

Speaking at a real estate body's conference, Naidu highlighted the importance of developing real estate around upcoming airports.

The government aims to have 50 new airports in the next 5 years, Naidu said and added that the country has the potential to have over 350 airports.

He was speaking at the 17th National Convention of realtors' Naredco with the theme 'India Builds: Reimagining Growth through Real Estate and Infrastructure' in the national capital.

India-China trade relations; deficit widens to USD 99.2 bn: An explainer

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 30: The bilateral trade between India and China has been growing at a healthy rate, but the trade gap remains sharply tilted in Beijing's favour.

India has time and again flagged its concern over the ballooning trade deficit and the non-trade barriers faced by Indian goods in the Chinese market. On August 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it is important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the world economic order as he asserted that New Delhi is ready to advance bilateral ties from a strategic and long-term perspective based on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity.

A list of Q&As (questions and answers) to understand the trade-related issues between the two countries:

Q. What is bilateral trade between India and China?

During April-July 2025-26, India's exports rose by 19.97 per cent to USD



5.75 billion, while imports increased by 13.06 per cent to USD 40.65 billion. In 2024-25, India's exports stood at USD 14.25 billion, while imports were USD 113.5 billion.

Trade deficit (difference between imports and exports) rose from USD 1.1 billion in 2003-04 to USD 99.2 billion in 2024-25. China's trade deficit accounted for about 35 per cent of India's total trade imbalance (USD

283 billion) in the last fiscal. The gap was USD 85.1 billion in 2023-24.

Q. Why is the deficit with China a concern?

Because it is not only large, but also structural. What makes it more serious is that China now dominates India's import baskets across virtually every industrial category -- from pharmaceuticals and electronics to construction materials, renewable

energy, and consumer goods, according to think tank GTRI.

Q. For which key products China's share is over 75 per cent?

GTRI analysis states that in antibiotics like erythromycin, China supplies 97.7 per cent of India's needs; in electronics, it controls 96.8 per cent of silicon wafers and 86 per cent of flat panel displays; in renewable energy, 82.7 per cent of solar cells and 75.2 per cent of lithium-ion batteries come from China.

Even everyday products such as laptops (80.5 per cent share), embroidery machinery (91.4 per cent), and viscose yarn (98.9 per cent) are overwhelmingly Chinese-sourced.

Q. What is the risk of increasing dependence on China?

GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava says overwhelming dominance gives Beijing potential leverage against India, turning supply chains into a tool of pressure in times of political tension. The imbalance is deepening as India's exports to China continue to decline, reducing India's share in bilateral

trade to just 11.2 per cent today from 42.3 per cent two decades ago.

However, according to the commerce ministry, most of the goods imported from China are raw materials, intermediate products and capital goods like auto components, electronic parts, mobile phone parts, machinery and active pharma ingredients. These are used for making finished products, which are also exported.

India's dependence on imports in these categories is largely due to the gap in domestic supply and demand, the ministry said.

Q. What steps India has taken to cut its import dependence?

Introduction of production linked incentive schemes for over 14 sectors to boost domestic manufacturing; stricter quality standards and measures for quality controls, testing protocols, and mandatory certification to check substandard and poor-quality products in the market and protect consumers' interest.

The government encourages Indian

business establishments to explore alternative suppliers to diversify their supply chains and reduce dependency on single sources of supply.

It also monitors the surge in imports on a regular basis and takes appropriate action. Further, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is empowered to recommend trade remedial actions against unfair trade practices.

India has imposed anti-dumping duties on a number of Chinese goods and sectors such as chemicals to engineering items to protect domestic firms from cheap imports.

Q. What is the impact of rising trade deficit?

Pressure on foreign exchange reserves, dependence on external suppliers, cheaper imports can hurt local manufacturers; can lead to currency depreciation pushing cost of imported goods, fuelling inflation; and over-reliance on imports reduces incentives for building domestic capacity in key sectors, slowing long-term industrial growth.

North Korea's Kim consoles families of troops killed fighting for Russia: KCNA

AFP

Seoul, Aug 30: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with the families of soldiers killed fighting for Russia against Ukraine and offered condolences for their "unbearable pain," state media said Saturday.

Pyongyang has not confirmed the number of its soldiers that died fighting for Russia, though Seoul estimates around 600, with thousands more wounded. South Korean and Western intelligence agencies have said the North sent more than 10,000 soldiers to Russia in 2024 -- primarily to the Kursk region -- along with artillery shells, missiles and long-range rocket systems.

Kim delivered a speech to the families on Friday, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported, after meeting with only some of them last week at another public ceremony awarding honors to the soldiers. "I thought



a lot about other martyrs' families who were not present there. So, I had this meeting arranged as I wanted to meet and console the bereaved families of all the heroes and relieve them of their sorrow and anguish even a little," Kim said in his speech, according to KCNA. He pledged to erect a monument in the capital as well as a new street for the bereaved families, while the state would give full support to the troops' children.

"My heart breaks and aches more at the sight of

those little children," he said. "I, our state and our army will take full responsibility for them and train them admirably as staunch and courageous fighters like their fathers," he added.

North Korea only confirmed it had deployed troops to support Russia's war in Ukraine in April and admitted that its soldiers had been killed in combat.

At the ceremony last week, images released by KCNA showed an emotional Kim embracing a returned soldier who appeared overwhelmed, burying his face in the leader's chest.

Russia, China oppose 'discriminatory' sanctions in global trade, says Putin

BEIJING: Russia and China jointly oppose "discriminatory" sanctions in global trade that hinder the world's socio-economic development, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a written interview with China's official Xinhua news agency.

The two countries will continue to work to reduce mutual trade barriers, Putin said in the interview published on Saturday on the eve of a visit to Russia's biggest trading partner. Putin will be in China from Sunday to Wednesday, in a four-day visit that the Kremlin has called "unprecedented."

The Russian leader will first attend the two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in the northern port city of Tianjin. Putin will then travel to Beijing to hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and attend a massive Chinese military parade marking the end of World War Two after Japan's formal surrender.

"To sum up, economic cooperation, trade and industrial collaboration between our countries are advancing across multiple areas," Putin said.

"During my upcoming visit, we will certainly discuss further prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation and new steps to intensify it for the benefit of the peoples of Russia and China."

The visit to China -- Putin's first since May last year -- comes as he seeks to reverse a slowdown in bilateral trade while Russia's war in Ukraine rages on despite a recent summit with US President Donald Trump in Alaska.

US court rules Trump's reciprocal tariffs on most countries are 'illegal'

IANIS

WASHINGTON: In a possible reprieve for India, a federal appeals court has struck down the reciprocal tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, ruling he did not have the extensive powers to set them.

The court, however, left the tariffs in place till October 14 to give the Trump administration time to appeal to the Supreme Court. Soon after the decision was announced on Friday afternoon, Trump denounced it as "highly partisan" and vowed to appeal to the Supreme Court, where he said he would find "help".

"If allowed to stand, this Decision would literally destroy the United States of America", Trump wrote on Truth Social.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Kush Desai said, citing the temporary stay, "The President's tariffs remain in effect, and we look forward to ultimate victory on this matter".

The ruling applies mostly to the reciprocal tariffs imposed by invoking the International Economic Emergency Powers Act (IEEPA) and not to the others set under the national security provisions. The 25 per



cent reciprocal tariff that hit India will certainly be removed under the ruling if it survives the Supreme Court challenge. It was not explicit if the punitive 25 per cent tariff for buying Russian oil is covered by the court ruling because Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said it was to address "threats to the United States" by Russia.

The court ruling does not cover the duties imposed on steel, aluminium and copper under national security provisions, leaving open the possibility that the oil tariff may stand.

The Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, by a 7-4 ruling, upheld the ruling by the Court of International Trade

in May that had been stayed so Trump can appeal.

The ruling hinges on the Constitutional provision that gives Congress the power to impose tariffs, although it can delegate that power to the president.

"Tariffs are a core Congressional power", the appeals court's majority opinion said.

"The core Congressional power to impose taxes such as tariffs is vested exclusively in the legislative branch by the Constitution", the seven judges said.

As he waged his trade war, the Trump administration invoked the IEEPA, asserting that the trade deficits created an economic emergency that empowered him to set the tariffs.

Gill, Rohit to undergo fitness test ahead of Asia Cup in Dubai

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 30: India Test skipper and T20 vice-captain Shubman Gill reached the BCCI Centre of Excellence here for fitness assessment and preparations ahead of travelling to Dubai for the upcoming Asia Cup. The Indian squad members are scheduled to assemble at Dubai on September 4 ahead of their tournament opener on September 9 against the hosts United Arab Emirates.

Senior batter Rohit Sharma and pacer Mohammed Siraj too have checked into CoE for pre-season fitness assessment.

The process might take place by Sunday, and it will be interesting to see how Rohit, who has retired from T20Is and Tests, approaches the new season. The 38-year-old is likely to tour Down Under in October for an ODI series (19, 23, 25), but it remains to be seen whether Rohit will turn out for India A in three one-day matches against Australia A on September 30, October 3 and 5 at Kanpur.

In case of Gill, a bout of flu had forced him to skip the ongoing Duleep Trophy quarterfinal against East Zone, where he was named as the North Zone captain. Gill was recovering from the illness at his Chandigarh home before flying out to Bengaluru. It's possible that Gill may fly out of Bengaluru to Dubai as this time the players will reach Dubai in a staggered manner from their respective locations unlike in the past when the team would assemble in Mumbai before travelling en bloc.

Don Bradman's 'baggy green' cap worn during 1946-47 Ashes sells for over Rs. 2.5 crore



AFP

Sydney, Aug 30: A "baggy green" Test cap worn by Australian cricketing legend Don Bradman has been bought for Aus\$438,550 (US\$287,000) by the country's National Museum, which called it an iconic slice of history.

Skipper Bradman, who famously averaged 99.94 in Test matches, sported the cap during England's 1946-47 Ashes tour of Australia, the first to be played between the two sides after World War II.

National Museum director Katherine McMahon said that with cricket far from people's minds during the war, the Test series represented a sign of hope and optimism.

"Sir Donald's baggy green marks the life of Australia's most celebrated batsman and reflects a time when sporting heroes gave Australians hope, following the heartbreak and hardship of World War II," she said late on Friday.

"We are delighted this

national treasure has found a home here at the National Museum of Australia for all Australians to enjoy."

The cap, bought from a private owner, is one of 11 worn by Bradman known to exist.

One that he used during India's 1947-48 tour of Australia, his final Test series on home soil, fetched US\$250,000 last year. Australia's cricketers are awarded the dark green woolen caps before Test debuts and they are revered by players and fans alike.

Arts Minister Tony Burke said the purchase safeguarded an important piece of national history.

"You'd be hard-pressed to meet an Australian that hasn't heard of the great Donald Bradman, arguably the greatest cricketer of all time," he said.

"Now to have one of his iconic baggy greens in the National Museum of Australia means visitors will have the opportunity to get up close and connect with our sporting and cultural history."

Sunday, 31st August 2025

PARAM SUNDARI (U/A13+)
HINDI ATMOS - 10:30 AM, 01:25 PM, 04:20 PM, 07:15 PM
HINDI - 03:05 PM

MAA JAYE (U/A16+)
PUNJABI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
04:10 PM

THE ROSES (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
10:15 AM

SAIYARA (U/A16+)
HINDI - 12:00 PM, 06:00 PM

WAR 2 (U/A 16+)
HINDI - 12:40 PM, 06:35 PM

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