



Flood threat looms as water level increases in rivers across Jammu

Water bodies swell beyond alarm levels | Lightning strike claims life in Kokernag
MeT predicts heavy rains today | Cloudbursts, flash floods likely

Yogesh/Umaisar Gull Ganaie

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

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

One more life was lost in a natural calamity in Anantnag district today. A



16-year-old boy lost his life after being struck by lightning in Kokernag.

Officials informed that Dilawar Ahmad Bhokad (16), son of Mohammad Sardar Bhokad, a resident of Soin Wangam, Kokernag, was hit

by lightning at Nawkhan near Margan Top, resulting in his on-the-spot death.

Meanwhile, as moderate to heavy rainfall was witnessed in the Jammu region from late Monday evening, water bodies in Udhampur, Kathua,

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

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

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

Batote station witnessed a rainfall of 55.1 mm since morning till evening, while 17.6 mm rainfall was recorded at the station till this morning. Bhaderwah saw | [More on P6](#)

Haryana govt extends Rs 5 cr support to J&K flood relief

CM Omar expresses gratitude

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sept 02: Haryana's Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini on Tuesday announced financial assistance of Rs five crore each to Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures in the flood-hit regions.

In a post on X, CM Saini, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Haryana government and people of the state stood with the affected families. "From the Chief Minister Relief Fund, 5 crore each has been sent for Punjab

and Jammu and Kashmir. This assistance will support relief and rescue operations and help provide timely aid to affected families," Saini said.

He added that Haryana would continue to provide necessary support if required in the future. "Haryana, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir – together we will overcome this crisis," the Chief Minister said.

Pertinently, the intermittent heavy rainfall over the past week has caused extensive flooding in parts of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, damaging property, roads and agricultural land and displacing residents.

Several teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and state agencies are engaged in | [More on P6](#)

28 BJP MLAs contribute Rs 28 cr for relief efforts: LoP Sharma

'NC govt failed people, BJP stands with flood-affected families'

KNO

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

Addressing a news conference at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, accompanied by Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary & MLA, Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North, and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh, LoP Sharma



informed that the disaster began with the cloudburst in Chashoti village on August 14, followed by another in Kathua on August 16, and further aggravated by continuous rains from August 24

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

Highlighting the proactive role of BJP representatives, Sharma as | [More on P6](#)

Punjab Police bust JeM module 3 J&K residents held on abduction, murder charges of cab driver

KNO

Punjab, Sept 02: In a major breakthrough, the Punjab Police have busted a terror module linked to Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and apprehended three persons from Jammu & Kashmir in connection with the abduction and murder of a cab driver in Mohali.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the case came to light after cab driver Anil Kumar, a resident of Nayagaon, went missing when his vehicle was forcibly snatched by unidentified assailants. A case

was immediately registered, and multiple police teams swung into action.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that three individuals from Jammu & Kashmir had hired the cab from Kharar. Soon after, the driver's mobile phones were found switched off, raising suspicion. Acting with speed and precision, police managed to track down and arrest all three accused," said an official.

He said, "The snatched vehicle and a .32 bore pistol used in the crime were recovered. During interrogation, the accused admitted to having fatally | [More on P6](#)

IGP reviews security preparedness for Eid-e-Milad

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 02: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir V.K. Birdi chaired a security review meeting on Tuesday at Police Control Room Kashmir to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the upcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) celebrations.

The meeting was attended by all range DIsG and SSSP of Kashmir Zone, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The discussions focused on facilitating smooth and secure congregations and processions



across the Kashmir Valley to mark the auspicious occasion.

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

emphasized the need to maintain heightened vigil and ensure foolproof arrangements, particularly at major shrines, mosques, and other religious places where large congregations are | [More on P6](#)

'Melting glaciers threaten Chenab region'

- Mundikar, Hangu Lakes classified as high-risk
- Comprehensive risk assessment, mitigation plan critical



Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sept 02: The sudden shifts in water volume due to rapid melting of glaciers or lake outbursts can lead to devastating floods in the areas around the river Chenab, reveals a risk assessment of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) Kishtwar.

The risk assessment, the risk of GLOFs in Kishtwar, arises from the combination of natural factors and climatic conditions that influence glacial lakes' behaviour.

According to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the risk assessment states that the components form the basis of

the GLOF risk assessment for the region include glacial retreat and lake formation, moraine dam stability, seismic-activity-and landslides and hydrological changes.

"The glaciers in the Kishtwar Himalayas are retreating at an accelerated pace due to rising temperatures, leading to the creation of new glacial lakes. Existing lakes are also expanding, increasing the water volume held behind unstable moraine dams," it reads.

It also states that the lakes such as Mundikar Lake and Hangu Lake, both classified as high-risk, are prime examples of expanding lakes in this region. This expansion | [More on P6](#)

Avoid travelling on Sgr-Jmu highway till weather improves: IGP Traffic

Umaisar Gul Ganaie

Srinagar, Sept 02: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Traffic, M Suleman Chaudhary on Tuesday advised people to avoid traveling on the Jammu-Srinagar and Doda-Kishtwar highways, as incessant rains have triggered fresh landslides, forcing closure of these vital road links.

IGP Chaudhary while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The highway had been reopened partially over the past two days to facilitate the movement of trucks carrying essentials to the Valley,

the situation worsened on Tuesday morning."

He said, "Our priority was to allow trucks carrying essential supplies to the Valley. But since this morning, no work could be taken up for restoration as continuous landslides are hampering clearance operations."

Traffic movement has remained suspended, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded. The IGP urged commuters to avoid unnecessary travel and to confirm the status of the road before embarking on any journey.

On the issue of fruit transportation, IGP Chaudhary clarified that trucks with more than six | [More on P6](#)

CBK books four people in land fraud case

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 02: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has registered a case against four individuals in connection with an alleged land fraud amounting to Rupees 53 lakh.

A statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the FIR was registered after a written complaint alleged that the accused,

acting as land brokers, fraudulently took money from the complainant on the pretext of facilitating a property deal.

The accused have been identified as Tariq Ahmad Hajam, son of Mohammad Ramzan Hajam, resident of Barthana Qamarwari; Ghulam Hassan Mir, son of Ghulam Rasool Mir, resident of Barthana Srinagar; Sonaullah Mir, son of Khaliq Mir, resident of Barthana Srinagar and Razzak Mir, son of | [More on P6](#)

NH closure triggers price hike in Kashmir Vegetables, poultry being sold at exorbitant rates, locals seek action

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sept 02: The week-long closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway has not only crippled fruit trade but also triggered a steep rise in the prices of vegetables, poultry and other essentials across the valley, leaving the locals struggling with inflated prices of essentials.

Locals in several areas across the valley, informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that both imported and locally cultivated vegetables are being sold at exorbitant rates. "We used to buy



haakh (collard greens) at Rs 50, now it costs between Rs 80–90.

Tomatoes and beans are also being sold at nearly double the

usual price," said Mohammed Latief, a resident of Sopore.

Similarly, in Baramulla, Bandipora and Srinagar markets, the chicken prices have shot up from Rs 125 per kilogram to Rs 190, while the cost of eggs has also climbed steeply. "How will poor families manage? We are paying Rs 190 for chicken and still the quality is not fresh. This is exploitation in the name of highway closure," complained Aadil Firdous, a Baramulla resident.

Vendors, however, attribute the surge to supply shortages. "Supplies are not reaching on time and what | [More on P6](#)

Every child has right to affection of both parents: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 02: Every child has a right to the affection of both parents and even if they live apart or in different countries, it is important for the child to maintain a relationship with them, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, while allowing a plea filed by a man seeking video interaction with his nine-year-old son who was living in Ireland with his mother, said denying such contact would deprive the child of the love, guidance and emotional



support of the father.

The apex court noted that at present, the child is living with his mother in Ireland and seems to be settled there. Noting that the conduct of both parents has not been ideal, the top court

said their personal differences have grown into a long and bitter conflict but the court cannot allow the child to become a casualty of this conflict.

The bench said it would not be in his interest to disturb that arrangement at this stage.

"The father has also limited his request before us as he is not asking for custody, but only for the chance to interact with his son regularly through video-conferencing. We find this request to be both fair and necessary."

"Every child has a right to the affection of both parents. Even if parents live apart or in different countries, | [More on P6](#)

CS reviews post-flood restoration measures in Jammu

Stresses on urgent action on HM's directions



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 02: In the aftermath of the visit of the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah to Jammu yesterday to personally assess the extent of damage caused by the recent flash floods, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting with Administrative Secretaries and Divisional Administration to review the swift and time-bound implementation of the directives issued by the visit-

ing Minister.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need for seamless inter-departmental coordination to bring immediate relief to the affected people and ensure early restoration of essential services, including power supply and potable water, in the shortest possible time frame.

Placing particular emphasis on connectivity, he directed that all efforts be undertaken on a war-footing to restore damaged road links at the earliest, as

road connectivity forms the backbone for other relief, rehabilitation, and restoration measures.

He instructed the respective Divisional and District administrations to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the restoration of damaged infrastructure across the flood-affected areas, ensuring strict adherence to timelines. Highlighting the importance of public health, the Chief Secretary directed that all water sources be tested for contamination prior to supply, so as

to prevent any outbreak of water-borne diseases.

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

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

Stressing that these measures hold the highest priority, the Chief Secretary made it clear that the directives emanate directly from the Union Home Minister and must, therefore, be implemented with the utmost urgency and seriousness. The Chief Secretary further reiterated the government's commitment to not only providing immediate relief and rehabilitation to affected families but working towards long-term resilience through better infrastructure planning, disaster preparedness, and preventive measures to mitigate the impact of such calamities in the future.

PUP-2025 draft must be progressive: Sakeena



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 02: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the modalities for the preparation of the J&K Private University Policy-2025, a landmark framework aimed at strengthening higher education opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department, Shantamanu; Special Secretary, Higher Education department and other senior officers of HED attended the meeting. During the meeting,

the Minister held comprehensive deliberations focusing on ensuring that the policy draft is both progressive and pragmatic, balancing the growing demand for quality education with the need for robust regulatory safeguards.

The Minister emphasized that the policy must create an enabling environment for reputed private institutions to establish universities in Jammu and Kashmir while upholding academic integrity, transparency and accountability. "Government's objective is to upgrade higher education, promote innovation and provide local students access to world-class learning facilities without compromising

on quality," the Minister stated.

The Minister further called upon the officers that the draft policy should be framed in consultation with all stakeholders, including students, academicians, civil society and other experts. She also asked the officers to consult other departments like Revenue, Industries and Commerce, Finance and other departments for draft formulation of the policy.

The Minister stressed upon the officers to develop transparent guidelines and put them in public domain for the feedback of the general population and make changes accordingly which seem necessary.

DC Sgr reviews progress of development works

KT NEWS DESK

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

During the meeting, DC took sector wise review of all the developmental works taken up for the current fiscal. He also assessed the progress made in the execution of works for various components under the District Capex Budget and other sectors for the current financial year.

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

He stated that prompt execution is vital for delivering tangible benefits to the public and improving infrastructure and basic amenities across the district. On the occasion, DC directed line departments to accelerate the pace of work on all ongoing projects to ensure their timely completion. He directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to adopt a proactive approach, maintain inter-departmental coordination and ensure quality and transparency in the execution of all development works.

Rana calls for strict forest protection measures



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 02: Minister for Forests, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana Tuesday convened a review meeting in Jammu to take stock of the Jammu's environmental challenges and the progress of key forest and conservation initiatives.

Forest Conservators and Divisional Forest Officers attended the meeting, which focused on forest degradation, biodiversity loss and pollution concerns in Jammu division.

The Minister called for strict measures for forest conservation efforts in the region and urged enforcement agencies to adopt stricter monitoring and control mechanisms.

He also directed agencies to strictly monitor pollution levels, especially in areas near forests and water bodies.

During the meeting, concerns were also raised over soil erosion and landslides in hilly areas of Chenab Valley, Reasi, and Udhampur where fragile terrains are

under pressure.

Officials presented ongoing afforestation and slope stabilization works, with the Minister urging scientific planning and better coordination with geotechnical experts.

The Minister also reviewed the progress under CAMPA and other plantation schemes while stressing the importance of survival rates and community involvement. He appreciated the growing role of local institutions and volunteers in forest drives and awareness campaigns.

Promoting eco-tourism was identified as a key opportunity for sustainable development, with a clear directive that all tourism efforts must protect natural habitats and involve local communities. The Minister also underlined the need for increased environmental awareness, particularly among youth.

He praised outreach programmes in schools, villages, and the contribution of Van Mitras and NGOs in spreading environmental education and mobilizing local support.

DC Shopian reviews social security schemes

KT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Tuesday convened a meeting at Mini-Secretariat here to review the implementation of action plan for saturation of the social security schemes in the district.

At the outset, LDM apprised the chair about the achievements/ progress made so far with regard to the registration under PMJDY, PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY.

DC held a threadbare deliberation on implementation of these banking and pension / insurance oriented schemes, and took a comprehensive review of enrollment process, role of banks and progress made till date.

Gupta stressed upon the concerned officers to conduct more vigorous and result oriented IEC campaigns across the district for maximum coverage of beneficiaries under these schemes. He exhorted banks and others concerned to convince the beneficiaries about the benefits and importance of these schemes. He also emphasised to dedicate their staff for enrollment drives in the district and focus on the most vulnerable sections of society.

Targets were set among the departments and instructions issued to submit the weekly work done reports on new registrations.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; LDM, Tehsil-dars, BDOs, Bank officers and other concerned.

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NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that I, Mr Bilal Ahmad Bhat, S/o Mr. Mohammad Ramzan Bhat, R/o Summerbugh am applying for change in name for the electricity bill bearing Consumer Number 0201040002329. Earlier the name of the electricity bill was on the name of my father namely Mohammad Ramzan Bhat, R/o Summerbugh S/o Ab Gaffar Bhat. If anybody has any objection may contact the concerned department within seven days.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.

| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | website: www.medkashmir.org |

CORRIGENDUM 01 FOR DATE EXTENSION

Name of work:- Repairs and maintenance of Snow clearance Control Room
Srinagar of Machinery Division Kashmir
Reference:- This office e-NIT No.: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/31 Date:20-08-2025
(Tender ID: 2025_PWDJK_284617_1)

In view of the representation and for wider participation, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT is extended as under:-

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	30-08-2025 upto 06:55 PM	10-09-2025 upto 06:55 PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	01-09-2025 at 02:00 PM	11-09-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-5812/25
DATED: 02-09-2025

No: MDSK/TS/2351-54 Date: 01-09-2025.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

| Fax No: 0194-2497093 |

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2025-26/35
Date	30.08.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K U T e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from Original Equipment Chassis Manufacturers/ Crane Manufacturers/ Experienced Firms for the below mentioned work:-

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	Est. Cost	EMD (In Rs)	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Supply, Testing, Commissioning of Hydraulic Under Lift Recovery Vehicle with towing system to move disabled/ wrongly parked vehicles for MC Anantnag	1000.00	23.50 Lakhs	47000.00	Accorded by the Director Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir vide no: DULB/Acctts/7598334/253 of 2025 dated: 22.03.2025.	Accorded by the Chief Engineer M&HED Kashmir vide No: MHED/K/TS/26 dated: 29.05.2025

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

01	Publish date	01.09.2025 (18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	01.09.2025 (18:30hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	01.09.2025 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	15.09.2025 (18:55hrs)
06	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	16.09.2025 (14:00hrs)

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar
No: MDSK/ TS/- 2336-39
Dated: -30.08 .2025.
DIPK-5841/25
DATED: 02-09-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA. NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No:51/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/3992-4002

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

Dated:02-09-2025

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	PDDSS2425100071-Setting and Upgradation of Divisional Work Shop for E-awantipora. (CIVIL PART ONLY).	9.77	600/-	2% of Adv cost	40 days	UT Capex (2025-26)	CEE/DEE	KPDCL

Position Of AAA: Accorded vide No: SE/O&M/Pul/83 of 2025 Dated: 01.08.2025.

Position of funds: Committed

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	03-09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	13-09-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15-09-2025 12:00 PM

- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/ Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department) (The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/ upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority).
- All the bidders must upload Earnest money/ Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/ Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Draftsman

Sd/-
Technical Officer

DIPK-5818/25
DATED: 02-09-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

Sgr Admin on high alert for weather activity



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday said that all the religious occasions in the district, from Muharram to Ganesh Chaturthi, are being celebrated with peace and joy, reflecting Srinagar's spirit of communal harmony.

Speaking at Indra Nagar Srinagar, where he joined the Kashmiri Pandit community in Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, DC Akshay Labroo said it is a matter of great happiness that every festival in Srinagar is being observed with enthusiasm.

"Today, we joined our Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters in Ganesh

Pooja, and it is heartening to see everyone celebrate with harmony," he said.

He also highlighted that the recently concluded Amarnath Yatra passed off peacefully, underscoring the administration's commitment to ensuring security and public order.

On preservation of cultural and religious heritage, the DC said Srinagar is witnessing dedicated efforts to restore heritage sites. "We have schemes under which temples, shrines, churches and other religious places with heritage value are being taken up for restoration. Under the Smart City project too, religious places are being preserved to protect our shared heritage," he said.

Meanwhile, the DC also shared that the administration is on high alert for the next 15-30 days in view of changing weather conditions. He said advisories are being issued at regular intervals to safeguard the public.

"We are on high alert and people must follow advisories. Yesterday, we cautioned about gusty winds and advised residents to stay away from electric poles and cables. As of now, the water level in the Jhelum and other water bodies is well below the danger mark," DC Akshay Labroo said.

He also assured that the administration will continue to issue timely weather advisories to ensure public safety—(KNO)

Addl trains deployed between Jammu-Katra sectors



UMAISAR GUL GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 02: Northern Railway on Tuesday announced the resumption of several train services to facilitate the movement of stranded passengers between Jammu Tawi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra.

Railway authorities said that two shuttle services are already operating between Jammu Tawi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra.

Additionally, a train under number 13152 Jammu Tawi-Kolkata and 12446 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi are currently running.

From September 06, the 12472/12474/12476/12478 Swaraj Group trains will resume services.

Train number 12414 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Junction will restart from September 7, 2025, while train number 22478 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi will also resume on the same date.

Furthermore, train numbers 16032/16318/16788 group services will restart operations from September 8, 2025. Northern Railway has advised passengers to check real-time updates through the NTES App or by calling the helpline number 139 before planning their journey.

Railway officials said the resumption of services is aimed at clearing the rush of stranded passengers and restoring normal movement in the region after recent disruptions caused by adverse weather conditions—(KNO)

Kashmir sees advance booking of cold storage units

Growers demand more facilities

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 02: With the apple harvesting peak season still around a month away, all cold storage facilities in Kashmir have already been booked in advance, leaving growers anxious about finding space for their produce.

The advance booking of cold storage units underlines both the rising importance of cold storage in the valley's horticulture economy and the widening gap between demand and available infrastructure.

According to official figures, the valley currently has about 85 cold storage units with a collective capacity of nearly 4 lakh metric tonnes (MT). These are mostly concentrated in fruit-rich districts like Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag, and Srinagar. However, Kashmir produces more than 22 lakh MT of apples annually, creating a significant shortfall in storage capacity.

Growers said they had little choice but to reserve storage space months in advance, given the profits they can make by holding apples for late-season sales.

"Last year, I stored around 500 boxes of apples in a cold store and sold them in April when prices were much higher compared to peak season," said Ghulam Rasool Wani, an orchardist from Shopian. "But many of my fellow growers couldn't get space because of limited capacity. This year, I booked early, but many others are still struggling."

Officials of cold storage units also confirmed the rush. "Every season, we receive far more requests than we can accommodate," said Fayaz Ahmad, who runs a leading facility in Lassipora. "This year, bookings started as early as July, and the majority of units have already been booked fully." He said the pace of bookings has picked up in



the last two weeks after National Highway-44 witnessed frequent closures due to damage at several spots because of continuous inclement weather.

Officials from the Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department acknowledged that infrastructure expansion is urgently needed. "Cold storage is vital for post-harvest management, as it helps reduce losses and ensures better prices for growers," a senior official told KNO. "Under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and other schemes, we are offering up to 50% subsidy and soft loans for setting up new cold storage units, particularly Controlled Atmosphere (CA) facilities." He added that the government has plans to increase the valley's cold storage capacity by at least 3 lakh MT in the coming years.

While growers welcomed the government's initiatives, they said the expansion process must be accelerated. "Without storage,

we're forced to sell apples at throw-away rates during peak season," said Bashir Ahmad Dar, a farmer from Anantnag. "We request the authorities to clear new projects quickly and also support small growers who want to form cooperatives to build their own facilities."

Horticulture is the backbone of Kashmir's rural economy, with around 70% of the population directly or indirectly dependent on it. Experts say that strengthening post-harvest infrastructure is essential to improving farmers' incomes and reducing distress sales.

With production this year expected to be normal despite weather challenges, the demand for cold storage space is only set to rise further.

Stakeholders believe that timely investments in this sector will not only boost profits for growers but also stabilise the valley's horticulture economy in the long run—(KNO)

Dr Jitendra praises BJP for immediate response to natural calamities



YOGESH

Jammu, Sep 02: Minister of State (MoS) with independent charge in Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday praised BJP karyakartas (party workers) for responding to the natural calamities within no time.

On incidents of cloud burst and flash flood in parts of Jammu due to monsoon rains, Dr Singh said, "The incidents happened in Ramban, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur.

There was a forecast for rain, but one can't say for cloud bursts. At the time when the incident (cloudburst) happened in Chashoti, Kishtwar, I got to know about it from one of our party leaders.

It was our party workers who were the first responders to the incident. It is a lesson that illegal mining and unauthorised encroachments need to be dealt with."

On India's first indigenously built Vikram-32-Bit Processor Chip, Dr Singh said, "This is a single moment that is symbolic of not one but more than one indicator like self-reliant India and journey towards a developed India."—(KNO)

JKPCC presents Brari Nambal report to NGT

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Sep 02: The Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) presented a report to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), exposing the alarming state of Brari Nambal Lagoon, an important water body connected to Dal Lake.

The Committee cited unchecked sewage inflow, illegal encroachments, and poorly functioning treatment plants as the main factors behind its decline.

The report, filed in line with NGT's directions after a news article titled "Brari Nambal: A Stark Failure, Successive Regimes Failed to Restore Glory of Dal Lake's Lagoon" stresses that the lagoon — once a vital ecological outlet for Dal Lake — has steadily deteriorated, losing both its health and significance due to prolonged neglect.

According to the PCC, poor sewage management in the Baba Demb area has become the main source of pollution, with two drains directly discharging into the lagoon. Although two Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with capacities of 16.1 MLD and 17.1 MLD are operational in the area, the report notes that neither meets the standards prescribed by the NGT.

Consequently, inadequately treated sewage continues to enter the lagoon, resulting in elevated levels of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and faecal coliform, which have



severely degraded its water quality.

A study by the Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing has revealed disturbing land use changes in the Brari Nambal catchment between 2003 and 2025. Agricultural land has shrunk by 32%, plantation cover has fallen by 82%, while built-up areas have expanded by more than 180%.

The report also notes that despite multiple initiatives by the J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) — including dredging, installation of aerators, and beautification works worth crores under AMRUT and PMDP schemes — the restoration drive has faced setbacks. Rampant encroachments, indiscriminate garbage dumping, and resistance from private landholders continue to obstruct meaningful conservation.

In a parallel submission, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar reported that Brari Nambal covers 858 kanals, of which over

240 kanals is state land. However, the extent of encroachments remains unclear due to incomplete revenue records.

To tackle the crisis, authorities have proposed a Rs 50.64 crore "Pollution Abatement Project" featuring a 14 MLD STP, sewer network, and allied works under the NGT Action Plan 2025-26. Tenders for upgrading existing facilities have already been issued.

The J&K PCC has urged the NGT to take note of its findings, pointing out that despite repeated reminders; the Srinagar Municipal Corporation has not yet submitted its detailed status report, citing the prevailing flood situation.

The report concludes that Brari Nambal's ecological deterioration stems from poor sewage management, rampant encroachments, and weak coordination in conservation efforts. It stresses that immediate intervention is essential to safeguard Dal Lake's hydrology—(KNO)

12 vehicles seized in Kashmir: Police

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 02: As part of its relentless drive against illegal mining, Police in close coordination with the Geology & Mining Department, seized 12 vehicles (05 tractors, 02 JCB and 05 tippers) engaged in the illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, a police spokesman said on Tuesday.

The seized vehicles, loaded with illegally obtained minor minerals extracted from nallahs, were intercepted within the jurisdiction of PS Ganderbal, PS Lar and PS Kheerbawani of district Ganderbal and PS Yaripora & Qazigund of district Kulgam, a statement reads.

It reads that the cases under relevant

sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigation has been initiated.

This decisive action underscores the strong commitment of J&K and the Geology & Mining Department in curbing the menace of illegal mining, it reads.

"Community members are earnestly appealed to extend their cooperation by sharing any information regarding such unlawful activities in their areas. J&K Police assures complete confidentiality of the informants and reiterates its resolve to take strict legal action against those indulging in illegal mining," police said—(KNO)

CBK registers case against 2 individuals

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 02: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has registered a case against two individuals, Kumail Ansari and Yetsen Kumar, following a joint complaint alleging cheating and criminal conspiracy.

As per the complainant, the accused falsely posed as influential individuals capable of securing contracts in NHPC and the Defence sector. They allegedly induced the victims to pay substantial sums

of money based on these fraudulent claims. However, no contracts materialized, clearly pointing to deception and fraud, a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reads.

A preliminary enquiry was ordered at Police Station Economic Offences Wing in 2023. During the course of the enquiry, it was prima facie established that the accused had cheated the complainants through impersonation and deliberate misrepresentation.

The actions of Kumail

Ansari and Yetsen Kumar, prima facie constitute offences punishable under Sections 419, 420, and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Consequently, a formal FIR has been registered at the Police Station Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir, and further investigation is underway.

The Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir reaffirms its commitment to thoroughly investigating economic crimes and bringing offenders to justice, the statement reads—(KNO)

Uptick in fish poisoning cases damage trout industry of Kashmir

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 02: The flourishing trout farming industry in Kashmir has been dealt a serious blow with repeated cases of suspected poisoning being reported from different parts of the valley.

In the latest incident, a fish farm at Ganowpora village in Balpora, Shopian, suffered devastating losses when nearly 3,500 fish were found dead overnight.

The farm, owned by Bilal Ahmad Lone, has suffered an estimated loss of nearly Rs 4 lakh.

Lone said that he discovered the dead fish early in the morning and immediately alerted the authorities. "I had worked tirelessly for years to raise these fish. In just one night,

everything was destroyed," he said in despair. Locals alleged that miscreants sneaked into the farm at night and deliberately poisoned the water. The police have since registered a case and launched an investigation to trace those behind the act. According to the Fisheries Department, such incidents are no longer isolated. In Shopian district alone, around a dozen cases of mass fish deaths have been recorded this year. They said nearly three dozen poisoning cases have been reported since January across south Kashmir.

Officials confirmed that at least 50,000 to 60,000 fish of varying sizes have been killed in these incidents in Shopian alone, most of them due to pesticides being deliberately poured



into ponds.

Despite advisories and monitoring by the department, farmers remain unconvinced. "We are living in fear. One night of sabotage can undo years of work. This is not just financial destruction, it is psychological torture," said another trout farmer from Shopian. Trout farming has grown

rapidly in Kashmir over the past decade. With government subsidies and schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), the valley has witnessed hundreds of new farms being established, particularly in rural districts. The industry not only supplements household incomes but also provides employment opportunities to the youth.

Officials say trout farming is emerging as a backbone of rural entrepreneurship in Kashmir. The valley now contributes significantly to the state's aquaculture output, making the sector a vital component of the local economy. However, the increasing sabotage cases have cast a long shadow on this promising industry.

Farmers believe that personal enmities and

rivalries are driving much of the poisoning. At the same time, they accuse the administration of failing to enforce accountability.

"Unless there is strict punishment, these incidents will continue," said a farmer from Pulwama. "Every poisoning means lakhs of rupees lost, families pushed into debt, and years of work wasted. How long can we continue like this?"

Farmers warn that without stronger vigilance, legal safeguards, and government intervention, the entire investment made under HADP could go to waste. "We were told trout farming would transform rural Kashmir," said another farmer, "But if our stock keeps getting poisoned, this sector will collapse before it reaches its full potential."—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Need To Reform JKSSB Exams To Restore Trust

The recurring controversies surrounding the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) examinations have cast a dark shadow over the dreams of thousands of young aspirants. For many, these competitive exams are a lifeline for families, a source of stability, and a beacon of hope in a region where opportunities are scarce. Yet, persistent allegations of paper leaks, delays, and administrative mismanagement have eroded trust in the system

and left an entire generation questioning the value of merit and hard work. The recent Junior Engineer paper leak is part of a troubling pattern that has caused immense emotional, financial, and psychological distress. Candidates invest years of their lives, sacrifice financial resources, and endure immense pressure, only to see their efforts invalidated by institutional failures. The consequences are devastating: ageing out of eligibility, lost savings, and broken dreams. For

families from economically vulnerable backgrounds, these setbacks are catastrophic. It is time for the government to acknowledge the gravity of this crisis and take decisive action. The solution lies in overhauling the examination system with robust technology-driven protocols, including encrypted question papers, remote surveillance of exam centres, and automated result processing. An independent oversight committee comprising retired judges, academics, and youth

representatives should be established to monitor the entire recruitment process and investigate irregularities impartially. Greater transparency in declaring results and clearer communication with candidates are essential to rebuilding confidence. Moreover, the government must introduce a grievance redressal mechanism that is accessible, responsive, and time-bound. Compensatory opportunities should be provided to affected candidates, including age relaxation and

financial reimbursement for those impacted by cancelled exams. Most importantly, those responsible for paper leaks and corruption must be held accountable under strict legal provisions. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a fair chance to succeed. Their perseverance and faith in the system must be met with integrity and efficiency. Only through sincere, systemic reform can we restore their trust and ensure that merit, not manipulation, shapes their future.

HORTICULTURE

Strengthening India's Agri-Economy

‘Focusing on high-value crops to boost farmer incomes’

Press Information Bureau

Shri K. T. Francis, a retired teacher from Kozhikode, Kerala, has turned his three-acre farm into a model of coconut-based mixed farming. With 200 coconut palms, spices, tuber crops and tropical fruits, he earns 14–15 lakh annually, mainly from coconut and nursery sales. Recognised with state and national awards, his success shows how integrated farming and scientific practices can make small holdings both profitable and sustainable.

Shri Prabbhat Das, a 40-year-old farmer from Kulhati village in Kamrup district, Assam transformed his fields by shifting from traditional crops to floriculture. A graduate in Arts, he began cultivating Gladiolus, Tube Rose, Tissue Zerbera and Red Zerbera on 12 bighas of his own land during 2014 to 2016. The move proved highly rewarding as he earned between 1.5 to 2 lakh rupees annually by selling his flowers in the wholesale and retail markets of greater Guwahati. Earlier his earnings from field crops were modest, but the shift to flowers has brought him better returns and renewed confidence. Encouraged by this success, he now plans to expand his area under flower cultivation in the coming season.

The horticulture sector plays a vital role in the Indian economy. Horticulture supports better nutrition, offers alternate rural employment, encourages diversification in farming and raises farmer incomes. India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world. It continues to hold a strong position in the production of spices, coconut and cashew nut.

In 2016, the Government set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee to explore ways to double farmer's income. One key strategy identified was diversification into high-value agriculture, including horticulture.

This sector has since, recorded impressive growth over the past decade. As of August 2025, for 2024-25 (second advanced estimates), horticulture production increased from 280.70 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 367.72 million tonnes. This includes fruit production of 114.51 million

tonnes, vegetable production of 219.67 million tonnes, and 33.54 million tonnes from other horticulture crops.

In 2023–24, Fruit production rose from 866 lakh metric tonnes in 2014–15 to 1129.7 lakh metric tonnes, reflecting an increase of about 30%. Vegetable production also grew from 1694.7 lakh metric tonnes to 2072 lakh metric tonnes during the same period, marking a rise of 22%. Productivity levels improved as well, with fruits increasing from 14.17 to 15.80 metric tonnes per hectare and vegetables from 17.76 to 18.40 metric tonnes per hectare.

Schemes and Initiatives
The horticulture sector has witnessed notable progress over the years through targeted government schemes and initiatives that aim to tackle key challenges while unlocking the sector's full potential. The focus remains on enhancing crop quality, increasing production and improving farmers' access to markets.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

The Government has been implementing the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture since 2014–15. This centrally sponsored scheme aims to ensure the holistic growth of the horticulture sector in all States and Union Territories.

To evaluate the results, several impact assessment studies have been carried out through independent agencies, including NITI Aayog. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare also undertakes regular monitoring and evaluation of the scheme in different regions. Based on the feedback from these reviews, the scheme has been restructured with changes and new components to address field-level challenges.

The key initiatives under the scheme include:

Centres of Excellence in Horticulture – Established as hubs for demonstration and training on the latest technologies in the field.

Horticulture Cluster Development Programme – Designed to make use of the geographical strengths of horticulture clusters. It supports integrated and market-led growth from pre-production and production to post-harvest handling, logistics,

branding, and marketing. The aim is to boost the competitiveness of Indian horticulture in both domestic and export markets.

Clean Plant Programme – A central sector scheme that focuses on providing high-quality, disease-free planting material to strengthen India's position in global horticulture trade.

Post-Entry Quarantine Facilities – Set up to supply genuine and quality planting material, thereby improving orchard productivity and enhancing farmers' incomes.

Financial and Technical Support
Under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, financial and technical support is extended to States and Union Territories for a wide range of activities aimed at strengthening the sector. The main interventions include:

Establishment of nurseries and tissue culture units to produce high-quality seeds and planting material.

Expansion of cultivation areas by setting up new orchards and gardens for fruits, vegetables, and flowers, along with the rejuvenation of old and unproductive orchards.

Promotion of protected cultivation through facilities such as polyhouses and greenhouses, enabling the production of high-value vegetables and flowers, including off-season varieties.

Encouragement of organic farming and certification to promote sustainable and chemical-free cultivation practices.

Creation of water resource structures and watershed management systems to support irrigation and water conservation.

Promotion of beekeeping to enhance pollination and improve crop yields.

Adoption of horticultural mechanisation to increase efficiency and reduce labour dependency.

Development of post-harvest management and marketing infrastructure, which includes pack houses, integrated pack houses, pre-cooling units, staging cold rooms, cold storages, controlled atmosphere storage, refrigerated transport, mobile and primary processing units, ripening chambers, and integrated cold chain systems.

National Horticulture Mission

The National Horticulture Mission was launched in 2005–06 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It aims to ensure holistic development of the sector and create strong backward linkages through a cluster-based approach, involving the active participation of all stakeholders.

The Mission focusses on:

Ensuring supply of quality planting material through nurseries and tissue culture units.

Improving production and productivity through area expansion and rejuvenation.

Promoting and spreading modern technologies in horticulture.

Focussing on training and skill development in the sector.

Developing infrastructure for post-harvest management and marketing.

Planning activities as per the strengths and climate of each state or region.

Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH)

The Department has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called the Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States since 2001–02. It was earlier known as the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States.

In the Tenth Plan (2003–04), the scheme was extended to three Himalayan States, namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand. The mission covers the entire horticulture chain, from planting to consumption, with both backward and forward linkages.

From 2014–15 onwards, the HMNEH scheme has been merged with the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.

National Horticulture Board (NHB)

The National Horticulture Board was established by the Government of India in 1984 as an autonomous organisation under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

The Board aims to develop production clusters or hubs for integrated high-tech commercial horticulture, create post-harvest and cold chain infrastructure, ensure the availability of quality planting material, and promote the adoption of advanced

technologies for high-tech commercial horticulture.

Coconut Development Board (CDB)

The Coconut Development Board is a statutory body set up by the Government of India under the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979, and became operational in January 1981. Under MIDH, its focus is on producing and distributing quality planting material, expanding coconut cultivation in both potential and non-traditional areas, and improving productivity in major coconut-growing states. It also works on developing post-harvest processing and marketing technologies, promoting product diversification and by-product utilisation, adding value to coconut-based products, sharing information, and building capacity in the coconut sector.

Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH)

The Central Institute of Horticulture was established at Medziphema, Nagaland, in 2006-07 to provide technical support through capacity building and training for farmers and field functionaries in the North Eastern Region. It now functions as one of the sub-schemes under MIDH. However, the institute does not directly implement any schemes.

Research and Quality Improvement

National Agricultural Research System (NARS) including ICAR Institutes and State/Central Agricultural Universities (CAU/SAU) under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) provide improved horticultural varieties.

Conclusion

Horticulture plays a vital role in strengthening India's agricultural growth and ensuring nutritional security. The wide variety of crops, ranging from fruits and vegetables to spices, flowers and plantation crops, reflects the rich diversity of the sector. Continuous research, improved varieties and better post-harvest management are helping farmers increase productivity and incomes. With sustained government support and adoption of modern practices, horticulture has the potential to further boost rural livelihoods, enhance exports and contribute significantly to the nation's economy.

China Can Lead On Global Institutional Reform

China's dual history of influence and subjugation may prove to be a valuable asset in adapting the international order to new realities. As a founding member of that order, China is well-positioned to balance the demands of power with the imperative of inclusion.

Ana Palacio

Russia and China are often portrayed as partners in a quest to weaken and even destroy the rules-based international order. In reality, however, it is only Russian President Vladimir Putin who seeks that goal. Chinese President Xi Jinping, by contrast, wants to lead the way in reforming the international order, thereby establishing China as its heir and future custodian. After all, Xi reminds the West, China helped establish the current arrangements.

While World War II came to Europe in 1939, it began in Asia two years earlier, when a clash between Chinese and Japanese troops near Beijing escalated into full-scale war. By that point, China had already been resisting Japanese forces largely alone for eight years, since Japan's 1931 invasion of Manchuria. As Japan expanded its campaign of conquest, China continued this fight, sustaining massive losses.

Through determination and sacrifice, China earned its place in WWII's "Big Four" (with the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States). At the Cairo

Conference of 1943, Chiang Kai-shek, China's Nationalist leader, joined US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill as an equal. The resulting Cairo Communiqué called for Japan to relinquish the Chinese territories it had seized and established China as a principal architect of the postwar settlement.

Chinese delegates attended the Bretton Woods Conference of 1944, where the International Monetary Fund was created and the groundwork for the World Bank was laid. At the San Francisco Conference of 1945, China became the United Nations Charter's first signatory. And in the debates that produced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the Chinese philosopher and diplomat P.C. Chang distinguished himself by insisting that any universal framework must reflect not only the principles of Western individualism, but also Confucian notions of community, duty, and precedent. At one point, then-Chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights Eleanor Roosevelt later recalled, Chang "suggested that the Secretariat might well spend a few months studying the fundamentals of Confucianism!"

This history – often forgotten in the West – holds important lessons. First, the existence of a rules-based order is in everyone's interest. The UN, the IMF, and the World Bank are under considerable strain nowadays, with critics calling them outdated or even irrelevant. But abandoning them is not a benign proposition; it would open the way for the logic of raw power to define international relations again.

Second, shared purpose is essential to resilience. China's prolonged resistance to Japanese forces in the 1930s and 1940s showed that, with unity and resolve, societies can withstand extraordinary pressures. As we confront pandemics, escalating climate disruptions, and deepening geopolitical rivalries, such determination will make all the difference.

Lastly, no country can go it alone. Though mistrust underlay China's wartime diplomacy, Chinese leaders recognized the importance of cooperating with the UK, the US, and the Soviet Union to ensure that any postwar settlement accounted for Chinese interests.

After the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949, China distanced itself from

the postwar world order, with Mao Zedong dismissing international institutions as tools of Western power. But in the 1970s, China returned to the fold, regaining its UN seat in 1971 and launching its "reform and opening up" in 1978. Since then, China has fostered deep ties with the rest of the world and built up tremendous economic and geopolitical clout – certainly enough to earn it a place as a leader in international decision-making.

Xi's objective is to update and reform, not abandon, existing global institutions, especially by giving developing countries a greater voice within them. He also seeks to establish new ones – such as the BRICS group of major emerging economies and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank – that are committed to advancing the interests of the Global South.

To be sure, even as China touts international cooperation, it rejects foreign interference in its affairs. This stance, too, is rooted in history: China remembers the period from 1839 until the end of WWII, when imperial powers invaded and annexed its territory and subjugated its people, as a "century of humiliation."

China's dual experience of influence and

subjugation is a defining feature of its foreign policy, and when it comes to reforming multilateral institutions, it may prove to be a valuable asset. As a founding member of the postwar global order, and as a country that has known subjugation and isolation, China is well positioned to balance the demands of power with the imperative of inclusion.

The question for 2025 is not whether the order that was established in 1945 remains relevant, but whether it can be renewed. Relevance requires reform, legitimacy demands inclusion, and authority must be earned through flexibility, reliability, and engagement. China seems to understand this. One hopes that it can help the world to recover the spirit of resilience and dialogue that animated the aftermath of WWII and that we need today to adapt the international order to new realities.

Ana Palacio, a former minister of foreign affairs of Spain and former senior vice president and general counsel of the World Bank Group, is a visiting lecturer at Georgetown University.

Source: Project Syndicate

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KVK Pulwama organizes workshop

Chairperson DDC appreciates efforts



KT News Desk

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

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

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

In her address, Chairperson DDC appreciated the efforts of KVK scientists for reaching every corner of the district and sensitizing farmers about

various schemes launched by the UT Government for their welfare.

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

The workshop aimed to enhance farmers' understanding of financial, technical, and institutional benefits available under JKCIP. Discussions focused on pre-production interventions to improve productivity and achieve high yields, processing and value addition of farm produce, including grading, packaging, and viable transportation methods to extend shelf life, market linkages with national and international Mandis and the infrastructure needed to achieve profitable outcomes.

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

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

DC Gbl reviews Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) arrangements



KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Tuesday visited Qamar-U-Din Shrine and Jamia Masjid Beehama to personally inspect the arrangements being made for the smooth observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) and the Friday following in the district.

During the visit, Intezamia

Committees apprised the DC about the preparations and requirements for ensuring hassle-free conduct of the religious gatherings.

DC issued on-spot directions to the concerned officers for ensuring all necessary facilities including uninterrupted water and electricity supply, proper sanitation, health care facilities, and other essential services well in advance to facilitate the devotees.

Rana reviews restoration efforts in Poonch

Stresses efficient execution, coordinated response



KT News Desk

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

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

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

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

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

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

He directed the concerned

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

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

He informed that 18 schools in the district sustained damage, primarily involving boundary walls, and that four schools require immediate restoration to ensure operational safety. These schools have been prioritized for repair to ensure the timely resumption of academic activities.

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

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

Recognizing the extent of damage to housing and protection works in rural areas, Rana instructed that repair and rebuilding be taken up by the Rural Development Department, as a special case, to expedite relief and recovery in the most impacted villages.

Recognising the health-care response to the floods, the Deputy Commissioner informed that medical camps will be organized in flood-affected and other vulnerable areas over the next two to three days. To further strengthen medical

outreach, the Minister proposed the deployment of Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) on a 10-day rotational basis in Mendhar, Surankote and Haveli, ensuring that people in remote or inaccessible regions have timely access to essential health services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Admin aims to empower tribal communities: DC B'pora



KT News Desk

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

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

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

She further underlined the

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

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

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

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

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

KVK Bandipora-1 organises awareness prog

KT News Desk

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

The event aimed to sensitize farmers to Climate-Resilient Farming Practices, introduce



scientific agricultural interventions, and create awareness about a range of government

schemes and services available to the farming community. The programme witnessed

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

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

Officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, and Fisheries departments

provided in-depth information about the latest schemes, input assistance programmes, and capacity-building avenues under JKCIP and other ongoing government initiatives.

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

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

PDD swiftly restores power supply in Jammu

KT News Desk

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

The PDD closely coordinated with these agencies, which provided timely assistance and logistical support wherever needed to ensure the swift and uninterrupted execution of restoration work across all affected districts.

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

Several transmission towers collapsed, foundations were submerged, and receiving stations were inundated

with water. According to reports, with most feeders down, the power load in the region plummeted to just 299 MW on August 26, compared to the normal demand of around 1,050 MW.

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

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

The transmission lines damaged by

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

To overcome the formidable challenges, the MD JKPTCL, Rahilla Wani and her team deployed special measures and innovative solutions to restore power swiftly. For instance, the collapsed tower on the Hiranagar-Battal Manwal line was replaced using the Emergency Restoration System (ERS)—a modular-type special tower structure designed for quick deployment with the support of PGCIL.

Unlike conventional towers, which can take months to erect, the ERS enables restoration within 24 hours. However, despite the tower collapse, power supply to most of the affected areas was restored immediately through alternative receiving stations by the JPDCL teams working in tandem, preventing a prolonged outage.

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

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

The situation was even more alarming in the distribution sector, where

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

The immediate action taken by the Managing Director JPDCL Sh. G. P Singh and his team was to restore power supply to essential installations, including Defence Installations, Jal Shakti, AIIMS & GMC Jammu, and other major hospitals in the city. These critical installations were given top priority, and electricity was successfully restored to most of them on the very first day of the rainfall.

Restoration work continued day and night. Through continuous monitoring, swift deployment of manpower and machinery, and the use of short-term measures and innovative approach, full restoration was achieved well ahead of the anticipated timeline.

The heavy rainfall also impacted power generation severely. Amid heavy downpour; flooding of Power Houses, damage to access roads, and excessive silt load had forced shutdown of all hydroelectric projects of JKSPDC in Jammu Division. Amidst these challenges, the 900 MW Baglihar Hydroelectric Project was restored to generation within 60 hours of shutdown. Operations were

halted on 26th August due to dangerously high silt levels in the Chenab River. Through round-the-clock efforts involving road clearance, dewatering, cleaning of the powerhouse, testing of critical components, and continuous silt monitoring, MD JKSPDC Rahul Yadav and his team successfully brought the first unit online by 28th August evening, and all units were synchronized by 29th August to secure energy supply for the region.

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

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

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

Div Com Kashmir reviews functioning of Horti, allied depts



KT News Desk

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

The meeting was attended by the Director of Horticulture Planning & Marketing (HP&M) and Joint Director of the Horticulture department, along with technical officers.

On the occasion, the Joint Director of Horticulture presented an overview of the department's role regarding annual income generation, contribution to UT GDP, employment generation, and areas brought under High-Density Apple Plantation, CA Storages, Food Processing Units, and other vital activities. He also shared information regarding interventions of the department to boost horticulture production

with modern technology and incentives.

Director of Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Ghulam Jeelani, presented activities and schemes under HADP, CAPEX Budget, NABARD, JKCIIP, and e-NAM. He also elaborated on Post-Harvest Management, Development of Market Infrastructure, Market Intelligence, Marketing/Promotions, Training for Grading & Packing, and Survey & Market Studies.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com instructed for encouraging stakeholders to come forward to establish CA Storages and Cold Stores. He called for reducing dependency on the import of plant material from outside the country and stressed the development of local stock material of plants.

Garg called for involving local associations for the utilisation of train services for the transportation of local crops to various markets across the country, so farmers can earn maximum benefits.

Congress is 'quintessential vote chor': BJP 'EC must probe how Rahul's 'close associate' carries 2 voter IDs'

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 02: The BJP on Tuesday alleged that Congress leader Pawan Khera had two voter IDs and Rahul Gandhi was running a campaign against voter-roll revision in Bihar to "protect and hide" his party's theft of votes.

There was no immediate response from the Congress, Khera or Gandhi to the BJP's charge.

"Congress is the quintessential vote chor. That is why they want to tarnish everyone with the same brush," BJP leader Amit Malviya said on X, hitting out at Gandhi over his "vote theft" allegations and demanding that the Election Commission investigate how Khera "holds two active EPIC numbers, and whether he voted multiple times - a clear violation of electoral laws".

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari also claimed that Khera, the Congress' media department head and Gandhi's "close associate", had two voter IDs with different EPIC numbers registered in Jangpura and New Delhi assembly constituencies in the national capital.

"Rahul Gandhi and his close associates are chor (thieves) and making shor (noise)," he said.

"The nexus between Rahul Gandhi and Pawan Khera that has come to light today makes it clear that Rahul Gandhi hates the poor, deprived and oppressed of the country so much that to save the vote chori of his own party leaders and to hide their vote fraud, he is calling the citizens of Bihar 'farzi' and and 'chor' in Bihar,"

Bhandari charged.

"Rahul Gandhi and Congress are running a voter fraud racket in which different Congress leaders, who have multiple voter IDs, are given protection," he alleged and demanded a reply from Gandhi on the issue.

The BJP spokesperson demanded a probe by agencies concerned into Khera allegedly possessing two voter IDs, calling it a crime under the Representation of People Act, and also asked Gandhi if he would take any action against Khera and remove him from the Congress.

Slamming Gandhi for making "baseless" accusations of poll rigging against the ruling BJP and the Election Commission, Bhandari alleged that it is the Congress and the Gandhi family that have a history of rigging elections and vote-theft

"Sonia Gandhi was not a citizen of India in 1980 but her name figured in the electoral roll. After we protested, her name was removed from the voter list in 1982. Rahul Gandhi is silent on this issue till date," he said and demanded an apology from Gandhi.

Bhandari termed Gandhi's campaign against alleged "vote theft" a "conspiracy against democracy" and cautioned people against believing in the Congress leader's "bundle of lies".

"Rahul Gandhi keeps lying because he is anti-democracy and a dangerous man. With his unrelenting lies, he wants to inject a sense of mistrust in the people's mind because people have given their mandate to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a third consecutive term", he charged.

The BJP spokesperson

alleged that Gandhi is spearheading a campaign against Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and spreading "lies every day because he knows that the Congress will suffer a setback" in the upcoming Bihar polls if the voter list is cleaned.

"He knows that his two planks -- the support of 'ghuspaithiya' (intruders) and the Congress leaders' vote fraud of which Pawan Khera is an example -- will end with the completion of SIR, and his party would not be able to retain even the seats it has," Bhandari said.

The BJP's counter attack came a day after Rahul Gandhi said his party will soon come out with a "hydrogen bomb" of revelations about "vote chori" and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not be able to show his face to the country afterwards.

Actor Priti Sapru, others call on LG Sinha

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 02: Actor Priti Sapru actor called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday. She was accompanied by S. Paramjit Singh Chandhok, Chief Advisor, Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, Tej Sapru, actor and Sanjeev Saraf.

The delegation briefed the Lieutenant Governor on



their initiative to organize a commemorative event in Jammu Kashmir, observing the

350th Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas, former MLC, also called on Lieutenant Governor. He put forth various issues pertaining to the movement of 10-tyre trucks on Mughal Road to facilitate smooth transportation of fruits from the valley, and commencement of work on Niki Chanchmarag-Shadab Shopian to Dubjen road.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Flood threat looms

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

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

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

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

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

The Tawi's rising levels follow a similar trend observed in Udhampur, where the river had previously crossed the evacuation level of 24,975 ft on August 26, 2025, surpassing both danger and evacuation thresholds. Authorities warn that continued rainfall could push the Tawi in Jammu city past the danger mark in the coming hours, potentially leading to evacuations in vulnerable areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In its advisory, the MeT has stated that there is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rain in a few districts, as well as the possibility of

cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones at many vulnerable places.

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

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

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

Railway services have also been disrupted, with 18 trains cancelled due to soil erosion and flash floods near the Chakki River, and traffic between Jammu Tawi and Katra has been suspended. (KNO)

'Melting glaciers

heightens the potential for catastrophic dam failure.

The document further states that many glacial lakes are formed behind moraine dams, which consist of unconsolidated glacial debris. These natural dams are prone to failure due to their unstable structure.

"Factors such as increased water pressure from lake expansion, earthquakes, or heavy rainfall can lead to sudden breaches, causing GLOFs. Lakes like Patla Pani Lake categorized as moderate-risk, are also susceptible to GLOFs if their moraine dams fail," it reads.

It also reads that the steep terrain of the region exacerbates the risks associated with GLOFs, as floodwaters can travel swiftly through narrow valleys, causing widespread damage downstream.

"The Chenab river, fed by glaciers and glacial lakes, is sensitive to changes in the region's hydrology. As lakes expand, there is an increased risk of sudden outflows, which could impact the river's course and flood surrounding areas," it reads.

It also states that "The changes in the water balance of these glacial lakes are continuously monitored, but sudden shifts in water volume due to rapid melting or lake outbursts could lead to devastating floods."

The report states that a comprehensive risk assessment and mitigation plan is critical to safeguard the lives, property, and infrastructure of downstream communities in Kishtwar.

It states that to minimize the impact of GLOF events a regular-monitoring-and, early warning-systems need to be put in place. "Continuous monitoring of high-risk glacial lakes is critical for early detection of any significant changes in water volume or dam stability. Establishment of Early Warning Systems (EWS) should include collaboration with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to predict weather conditions that could trigger GLOFs. These systems will enable authorities to issue timely alerts to vulnerable communities and ensure evacuation measures are in place," the report states.

"In cases where glacial lakes pose an imminent threat, engineering interventions should be considered. These include: -Controlled drainage of high-risk lakes to reduce the pressure on moraine dams. This can be done by creating artificial channels or tunnels to release excess water in a controlled manner. -Reinforcement of moraine dams using structural materials to stabilize them and prevent collapse. Where feasible, geotechnical studies should be conducted to assess dam stability and determine the most effective reinforcement methods."

The report suggests: "The DDMA in

collaboration with all the stake holders should conduct a comprehensive risk mapping of the region to identify areas most vulnerable to GLOF events. This should include detailed assessments of downstream communities, critical infrastructure (such as roads, bridges, and power plants), and agricultural areas that could be affected by floodwaters. Areas identified as high-risk should be prioritized for disaster preparedness measures, including the creation of buffer zones and evacuation routes."

"Local communities in Kishtwar must be educated about the risks of GLOFs and trained in emergency response. Regular awareness campaigns should be conducted to inform residents about warning signs of GLOFs, evacuation procedures, and how to respond during a flood event or other events caused by GLOF(s)," it adds. (KNO)

Avoid travelling

tyres are not being allowed to ply on Mughal Road. "We have already advised truckers. Over the past two to three days, more than 1,500 fruit-laden trucks were allowed to move towards Jammu. Currently, there are about 1,500 to 1,600 trucks stranded at Qazigund, though very few of them are carrying fruit," he said.

The IGP Traffic assured that efforts are underway to restore connectivity, but added that the safety of travellers remains the top priority and they should avoid embarking on any journey till the restoration works are completed. (KNO)

28 BJP MLAs

per a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "BJP leaders and MLAs have stood shoulder to shoulder with the people, participating in rescue and relief operations. This is not a favour but our duty towards society."

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

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

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

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

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

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

pledged Rs 2.5 crore each, taking the total to Rs 35.5 crore.

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

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

He also shared that a request has been made to allow the farmers to sell the accumulated aggregates on their fields on their own. The free ration to all the affected people is requested, which will be conveyed to FCI by the Union Home Minister. He added that all the union ministers of departments related to flood affected fields, will visit and organize meetings with the J&K government.

Sharma reiterated that the NC government in J&K has miserably failed the people in their hour of crisis, while the BJP, Union Government, and LG administration remain fully committed to ensuring maximum relief and rehabilitation. (KNO)

Haryana govt

rescue and relief operations.

Responding to the announcement, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed gratitude to the Haryana government and CM Saini for extending support. "We thank the Haryana government and CM Saini for contributing 5 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. This support will strengthen ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts in Jammu and Kashmir," Abdullah said.

Officials said flood-affected families are being shifted to safer locations and provided with food and medical supplies.

According to the India Meteorological Department, both Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir received rainfall far above normal levels in August, making it among the wettest months in recent years. (KNO)

IGP reviews security

expected.

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

The IGP directed officers to enhance surveillance at sensitive locations, maintain effective area domination through intensified patrolling, and ensure efficient crowd management to prevent any untoward incidents. He also underlined the importance of proper traffic regulation to facilitate smooth movement of devotees.

Taking note of the current weather forecast, V.K. Birdi directed officers to take proactive measures to mitigate any possible disruptions. He stressed the need for police to conduct a safety audit of buildings and ensure preparedness and evacuation in case of flash floods, cloudbursts, waterlogging, or inundation.

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

Punjab Police bust

shot the driver following an altercation and later disposing of his body in the Mohali area."

He said that the intensive search operations

are currently underway to locate the mortal remains.

The official identified one of the accused, Sahil Bashir, as a wanted individual in a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Arms Act at PS Qalamabad, Handwara, J&K. "His brother, Aijaz Ahmad, had earlier been arrested with a cache of weapons and materials linked to JeM. Both brothers are identified as Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of the terror outfit," he added.

"Dedicated Punjab Police teams are pursuing further investigations to expose the wider network and ensure that such anti-national activities find no space on Punjab's soil," the official added. (KNO)

CBK books four

Khalik Mir, resident of Barthana Srinagar.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused, in connivance with certain revenue officers and officials, manipulated documents and procedures to illegally grab both money and land from the complainant," the statement said.

It also said that the actions of the accused prima facie disclose the commission of offenses punishable under Sections 420 (cheating) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

Accordingly, a formal case has been registered at Police Station Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir.

Further investigation is underway to ascertain the larger conspiracy and determine the role of public servants in the case, the statement added. (KNO)

NH closure triggers

little arrives comes at higher rates. We cannot sell at losses", said a vegetable seller in Srinagar.

Taking cognisance of the issue, the authorities in Baramulla said market checking squads have been activated to ensure genuine pricing. "Dealers have been strictly warned against overcharging. Anyone found violating the norms will face strict action," an official said.

Residents, however, insisted that mere announcements won't suffice. "There should be daily checks across all markets; otherwise consumers will continue to suffer."

It is noteworthy that the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the Valley's only all-weather road link with the rest of the country, has remained blocked for nearly a week due to continuous landslides and shooting stones triggered by heavy rainfall in Ramban and adjoining stretches. (KNO)

Every child has

it is important for the child to maintain a relationship with both of them. Denying such contact would deprive the child of the love, guidance, and emotional support of the father.

"We are therefore of the view that the appellant's request for video interaction is reasonable. It balances the reality of the child's present living situation with the need to ensure that the father remains a part of the child's life," the bench said.

Issuing a slew of directions, the top court said the man shall be entitled to interact with his son through video-conferencing for two hours on every alternate Sunday from 10 am to 12 noon (Ireland time).

Both parties shall cooperate to ensure that the arrangement is carried out smoothly, in good faith, without obstruction or hostility.

"Any technical or logistical difficulties in arranging the video sessions shall be resolved mutually, keeping in mind that the interest of the child is paramount," it said.

I may forgive RJD-Cong but people of Bihar won't pardon them for insulting my mother: PM

PTI
Patna, Sept 02: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said he was deeply pained by the hurling of abuses at his mother during Congress' recently concluded 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar, and asserted that although he may forgive RJD and the grand old party but people of the eastern state would never pardon them.

In the PM's first reaction to the controversy over hurling of abuses at his deceased mother during the yatra in Darbhanga recently, he took a dig at the opposition parties, stating that using expletives against his mother was nothing for those who insult 'Mother India', and that they should be punished.

"My late mother had nothing to do with politics, so what was her fault; why was she abused?" he questioned.

The PM was addressing a gathering in Delhi while virtually inaugurating a new cooperative for the women associated with self-help groups in Bihar.

"Bihar is the land of Maa Janki... it has always given respect to women. This is the land where Chhath Puja is celebrated. My mother was abused from the dais of RJD and Congress... I had never imagined such a thing would



happen... it was an insult to the mothers and daughters of Bihar... people of the state will never forgive them," Modi said. "I am my mother's son... I am sharing my pain with you," he said.

"I have been working tirelessly for the welfare of the women in the country... the mother who gave birth to me asked me to serve the motherland, which I am doing. She had never brought a saree for herself and saved the money for us. I must say that the position of a mother is more than that of God," the PM said.

Modi said that those who hurl abuses at mothers and sisters consider women weak.

"Their mindset makes them treat women as objects of exploitation and oppression. Whenever people with an anti-women mentality came to power, mothers, daughters and sisters had to endure suffering the most... this happened during the 'mafia raj' of RJD," he said.

"During the RJD era, crime was rampant in Bihar and the state witnessed cases of murder, extortion and rape every day. The RJD government gave protection to murderers and rapists. Women had to bear the brunt... so it was them who ousted the RJD from power and now the regional party wants to take revenge on women for that," the PM alleged.

The Congress had never been able to tolerate any person from the backward community rising to a position of power and that is why they are unleashing a barrage of abuses, Modi claimed.

"I may forgive them, but the people of Bihar will never pardon them for insulting my mother. People of the state must say that they will punish the leaders of these parties in the coming days," he said.

"People of Bihar must demand answers from RJD and Congress leaders... in every street and neighbourhood, only one voice should be heard - 'we won't tolerate insult to a mother, we will not tolerate RJD's tyranny and Congress' attacks," he said.

Assembly elections in Bihar are due later this year.

Several challenges continue in terms of digital literacy, financial awareness: President

PTI
Chennai, Sept 02: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said that despite progress in banking sector, several challenges were still faced in terms of digital literacy and financial awareness among the public.

Empowerment of farmers and rural economy should be a priority for the banking sector, Murmu said at the 120th Foundation Day celebrations of Tamil Nadu-based City Union Bank here.

Banks and financial technology companies offer user-friendly mobile applications and insurance products tailored



for underserved communities. Payment banks, digital wallets and banking correspondents have taken financial services to the doorsteps of remote villages, she said.

Despite progress in this area, Murmu said, several challenges in terms of digital literacy, internet access and financial awareness remain.

"With combined efforts of all stakeholders, people can be better integrated with banking services through technology, digital and financial literacy," she said. Further, banks can play a key role in transforming MSMEs into

engines of growth.

"By extending timely and affordable credit, offering financial literacy and supporting agri-tech initiatives, banks can help in making agriculture sustainable and profitable. Banks can play an important role in transforming MSMEs into the engines of growth" she said.

Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, TN Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Geetha Jeevan, City Union Bank Chairman G Mahalingam, the Bank's MD and CEO N Kamakodi were present on the occasion.

AI big opportunity, going to increase jobs: Goyal



PTI
New Delhi, Sept 02: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers huge opportunities, and it is only going to increase jobs in the country.

He also said, "I have told my office, every person at decision-making levels, has to have the latest version of AI, ChatGPT or whatever else is available, on their phones or their laptops.

"So we are going to use it, but with a condition that any input they make should have at the bottom, that it has been generated or prepared with the support of AI...and has been validated for," he said here at an industry chamber event.

The minister said that it is an idea whose time has come.

India is a nation which is always willing to adopt new technologies, he said, adding that there will be a few naysayers who would write that technologies like AI would have a terrible impact on jobs.

But, one should not be deterred by that, he said.

"AI will have its role...there will be the problem of unethical use

of AI, so human intervention will be required to address that...This is only going to increase jobs...and Indians are agile and very smart.. So I look upon this as a great opportunity; we must adopt it," he said.

He added that there could be short-term blips till unethical use or other problems come, but in the long run, it will be great for India.

In February, the finance ministry directed its officers not to download or use AI tools and apps such as ChatGPT and DeepSeek in office computers and devices, saying they pose confidentiality risks to data and documents.

On March 27, Union minister Jitendra Singh said that there is no specific prohibition on the use and adoption of AI-based tools by any government departments as this is an emerging technology with great potential in citizen-oriented web applications.

However, government functionaries are expected to exercise due diligence and caution to ensure safety, security and confidentiality of public information while using any digital technology or platform, he has said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Finance ministry to kick-start FY27 Budget making exercise from Oct 9



PTI
New Delhi, Sept 02: The finance ministry will kick-start the exercise to prepare the annual budget for 2026-27 from October 9 in the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties and the steep US tariff of 50 per cent imposed on shipments from India.

The budget for the next year will have to address issues of boosting demand, job creation and putting the economy on a sustained 8 per cent-plus growth path. The government estimates the Indian economy to grow in the range of 6.3-6.8 per cent during the current financial year.

"Pre-budget meetings chaired by Secretary (Expenditure) shall commence from October 9, 2025," according to the Budget Circular (2026-27) of the Department of Economic Affairs.

"Financial advisers should ensure that the necessary details required in the appendices I to VII are properly entered...before or latest by October 3, 2025. Hard copies of the data in the specified formats should be submitted for cross-verification," the circular added.

The Budget Estimates for 2026-27 will be provisionally finalised after completion of pre-budget meetings, it said, adding that RE (Revised Estimate) meetings continue till around mid-November 2025.

"All the ministries/departments should submit details of autonomous bodies/ implementing agencies, for which a dedicated corpus fund has been created. The reasons for their continuance and requirement of grant-in-aid support, and why the same should not be wound up, should be explained," it said.

The Budget 2026-27 is likely to be presented on February 1 during the first half of the Parliament's Budget session.

The Budget for the current fiscal has projected a growth rate of 10.1 per cent in nominal terms, while the fiscal deficit is pegged at 4.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government scrapped a colonial-era tradition of presenting the Budget at the end of February. The then finance minister Arun Jaitley had for the first time presented the annual accounts on February 1, 2017.

With the preponement of the Budget, ministries are now allocated their budgeted funds from the start of the financial year beginning in April. This gives government departments more leeway to spend, as well as allows companies time to adapt to business and taxation plans.

GST Council meets today; tax cuts on daily use items in offing

PTI
New Delhi, Sept 02: The Centre is likely to push for a 5 per cent tax on EVs when its ambitious overhaul of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to lower tax rates on daily use items ranging from butter to electronics is considered by the all powerful GST Council in a two-day meeting starting Wednesday.

The Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising ministers from all states, will discuss the Centre's 'next-gen' GST reform proposal of having just two tax rates of 5 and 18 per cent by moving products from the current 12 and 28 per cent slab to lower rates. A special 40 per cent rate has been proposed to be levied on select few items.

While the pruning of the tax slabs and the resultant expected fall in prices have been welcomed, opposition ruled states are seeking compensation for any loss of the revenue that may occur because of the rejig. A 4-tier GST structure of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent was implemented from July 1, 2017, when the Centre and states agreed to subsume most of their taxes like excise duty and VAT into one uniform tax. A compensation cess in the range of 1 to 290 per cent is levied on luxury and demerit goods to create a revenue pool for compensating states for the loss of revenue occurring



from the exercise.

However, the compensation mechanism was for initial 5 years ending June 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in his Independence Day speech on August 15 unveiled the plan for GST reforms. Shortly thereafter the central government shared a blue print of the planned reform with a Group of Ministers (GoM) from different states for initial vetting.

The GoM has consented to Centre's proposal of doing away with the 12 and 28 per cent slabs, and reducing tax rates to benefit common man. Its recommendations are to be considered by the Council on September 3 and 4. While broadly agreeing with the

slab changes, the GoM has favoured charging electric vehicles priced up to Rs 40 lakh with an 18 per cent GST, sources aware of the matter said. The Centre, however, is keen to push EV adoption and favours a 5 per cent rate and the same stance will be pushed in the Council meeting, they said.

Most of the common use food items like ghee, nuts, drinking water (20 litre), non-aerated drinks, namkeen; certain footwear and apparels; medicines and medical devices are likely to move from 12 per cent to 5 per cent tax slab. Common use items ranging from pencils, bicycles, umbrellas to hair pins may also move to 5 per cent slab.

Study estimates 14 pc of adults aged 45, above have obstructive lung disease

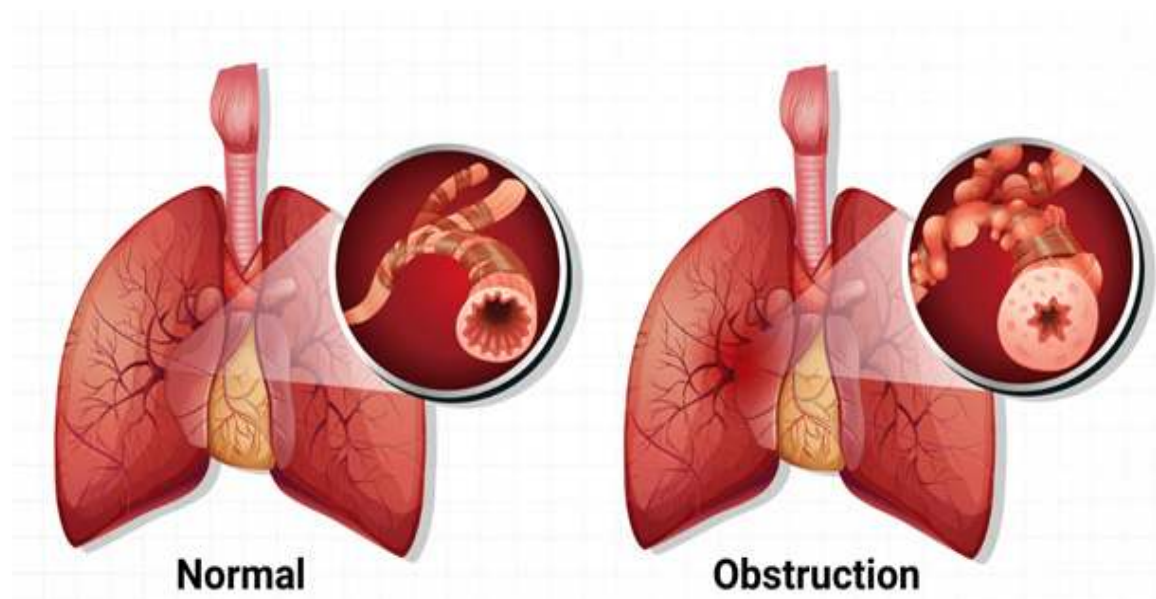
PTI
New Delhi, Sept 02: Over 14 per cent of those aged 45 and above in India could be affected by obstructive lung disease, reveals an analysis by an international team of researchers, including those from Mumbai's International Institute for Population Sciences.

Over 31,000 adults were administered spirometry -- commonly used to test how well one's lungs work -- as part of the 'Longitudinal Aging Study in India' (LASI), the country's first and world's largest database of older population recorded over long-term.

The findings published in the journal PLOS One show that men could be affected more, compared to women, and the prevalence increased with age.

Obstructive lung disease -- of which Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a type -- is marked by damage to lungs, causing inflammation and obstructing flow of air.

The team, which included researchers from the US' University of Southern California and Harvard School of Public Health, also found a low level of awareness among the participants -- only 12 per cent of the men and 11 per cent of



the women surveyed reporting a prior diagnosis. "The overall prevalence of obstructive lung disease was 14.4 per cent. Prevalence was higher among

men than women and increased with age," the authors wrote.

Disease awareness was low, with only 12 per cent of men and 11 per

cent of women with obstructive lung disease reporting prior diagnoses of lung disease, they said.

The team called for nation-wide

campaigns for creating awareness of the important public health concern among the people, adding that despite a high disease burden, few estimates of prevalence based on high-quality data are available.

Data-driven approaches for addressing a rising burden of the disease are required, the authors said.

Prevalence of smoking as a risk factor for obstructive lung disease was found to vary by region, with rates ranging from about 30 per cent in north India to nearly 14 per cent in the country's western regions.

Prevalence of using unclean fuel for cooking -- another risk factor -- was found to be lowest in south India (nearly 30 per cent) and highest in the northeast (over 65 per cent).

The 'LASI' study -- a nationally representative survey of 73,000 adults in India, including 32,000 elderly (age 60 and above) -- is internationally harmonised with the US' Health and Retirement Study and sister research projects across 45 countries, allowing for cross-country comparisons, the researchers said.

Second wave of data collection is underway, they added.

China's Xi hosts 'old friend' Putin, North Korea's Kim in challenge to West

REUTERS

Beijing, Sept 02: China's President Xi Jinping convened his Russian and North Korean counterparts in Beijing for the first time on Tuesday, a show of solidarity with countries shunned by the West over their role in Europe's worst war in 80 years. Xi hosted Vladimir Putin for talks at the Great Hall of the People and then at his personal residence, calling him his "old friend".

A few hours later, Kim Jong Un's armoured train was spotted by a Reuters witness arriving in the Chinese capital. North Korean state media confirmed Kim's arrival, saying he was greeted by Chinese officials including foreign minister Wang Yi and expressed his thanks to Xi for his hospitality.

The three are set to take centre stage at a massive military parade on Wednesday, where the Chinese president will flaunt his vision for a new global order as U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" policies strain Western alliances.

Beyond the pomp, analysts are watching whether the trio may signal closer defence relations following a pact signed by Russia and North Korea in June 2024, and a similar alliance between Beijing and Pyongyang, an outcome that may alter the military calculus in



the Asia-Pacific region.

It would also be a blow for Trump, who has talked up his close relations with Putin, Xi and Kim and touted his peacemaking credentials as Russia's three-and-a-half-year war with Ukraine has raged on.

In a thinly veiled swipe at this rival across the Pacific Ocean on Monday, Xi told a summit of more than 20 leaders of non-Western countries: "We must continue to take a clear stand against hegemonism and power politics."

Xi also held talks on Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, whose country has been targeted by Trump over its purchases of Russian oil seen as

helping finance Putin's war effort.

Trump's Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called the summit "performative" and accused China and India, the biggest buyers of Russian crude, of being "bad actors" by fueling Russia's war.

As Putin and Xi met, Russia's Gazprom (GAZP.MM), opens new tab and China National Petroleum Corporation signed a deal to increase gas supplies and penned an agreement on a new pipeline that could supply China for 30 years.

The leaders later retired to the Chinese president's personal residence to continue talks. Putin and Kim may also hold a meeting following Kim's arrival, Russia's state news agency TASS reported.

Afghan quake could impact 'hundreds of thousands': UN

AFP

Geneva, Sept 02: The United Nations (UN) on Tuesday said the earthquake in eastern Afghanistan that has killed more than 900 people could impact "hundreds of thousands," and warned of an "exponential" rise in casualties.

"We think potentially the impacted individuals would go up to almost into the hundreds of thousands," Indrika Ratwatte, the UN humanitarian coordinator in Afghanistan, told reporters in Geneva, speaking from Kabul.

Already, more than 900 people are known to have been killed and thousands injured in the 6.0-magnitude earthquake, which hit remote areas in mountainous provinces near the border with Pakistan around midnight Sunday, followed by at least five aftershocks.

"The numbers are definitely going to increase," Ratwatte said, adding there was "no question that the casualty rate is going to be rather exponential."

The earthquake's epicenter was about 27 kilometers (17 miles) from the city of Jalalabad, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS), which said it struck around eight kilometers below the Earth's surface.

Such relatively shallow quakes can cause more damage, especially since the majority of Afghans live in low-rise, mud-brick homes vulnerable to collapse.

Ratwatte said homes in the affected region were largely "mud and wooden roof structures, so when the walls collapse the roof is what basically for the individuals kills them or suffocates them."

"It's a low (population) density, but since this happened in the night, everybody was sleeping so I think (the casualty figure) is going to be much



higher." He added that the quake had set off "lots of landslides, rockfalls, etc., and access has been very limited. This has posed a huge challenge."

"The biggest challenge is to reach these remote areas with the road access extremely damaged," he said, stressing the need for helicopters to reach those in need, evacuate the injured and deploy search and rescue and medical teams.

After decades of conflict, Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world, facing a protracted humanitarian crisis and the influx of millions of Afghans forced back to the country by neighbors Pakistan and Iran in recent years.

Ratwatte urged countries to show solidarity with the people of Afghanistan "facing multiple crises, multiple shocks."

He lamented that an appeal for \$2.8 billion to provide desperately needed aid to Afghans this year was so far only 28-percent funded.

Israeli prez to meet Pope Leo at Vatican tomorrow



REUTERS

Rome, Sept 02: Israeli President Isaac Herzog will travel to the Vatican on Thursday to meet Pope Leo, who has recently stepped up his calls for an end to the war in Gaza.

The one-day visit is being made at the invitation of the pope, Herzog's office said in a statement on Tuesday.

The president will also meet Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's chief diplomat, and tour the Vatican Archives and Library, it added. "Central to their meetings will be the efforts to secure the release of the hostages, the fight against global antisemitism, and the safeguarding of Christian communities in the Middle East, alongside discussions on other political matters," the presidency said.

Leo, the first US pope, last week issued a "strong appeal" for an end to the nearly two-year conflict between Israel and Hamas, calling for a permanent ceasefire, the release of hostages held in Gaza and the provision of humanitarian aid.

UN says over 200,000 Syrian refugees return from Lebanon

AFP

Beirut, Sept 02: More than 200,000 Syrian refugees have returned to their homeland from neighboring Lebanon this year following the fall of long-time ruler Bashar Assad, a United Nations official told AFP.

The Syrian civil war, which erupted in 2011 with Assad's brutal repression of anti-government protests, displaced half of the population internally or abroad.

But the December 8 ouster of the former Syrian president at the hands of Islamist forces sparked hopes of return.

Lebanese authorities recently introduced a plan offering \$100 in aid and exemptions from fines for refugees leaving the country, provided they pledge not to return as asylum seekers.

"Since the beginning of this



year, we're looking at about 200,000 Syrians that have gone back, most of them on their own," said Kelly Clements, deputy high commissioner at the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). "That number is increasing very quickly," she

told AFP in an interview.

While many Syrians are heading back to Hama, Homs and Aleppo, most refugees remain in Lebanon where humanitarian needs remain high amid shrinking aid budgets.

Clements stressed the UNHCR was not encouraging returns, describing it as "an individual choice for each family to make."

Lebanese authorities estimate that the country hosts about 1.5 million Syrian refugees. The United Nations says it has registered more than 755,000.

UNHCR support for returnees includes small-scale housing repairs, cash assistance and core relief items, though more intensive reconstruction is beyond the agency's capacity.

About 80 percent of Syrian housing was damaged during the civil war, with one in three families needing housing support, according to Clement.

The majority of Syrians who fled the 14-year civil war to Lebanon remain there, she noted, with needs remaining high as humanitarian aid decreases.

National ranking table tennis returns to Delhi after 13 years

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 02: A host of India players including reigning national champion Diya Chitale and Commonwealth Games gold medallists G. Sathiyar and Harmeet Desai will headline the UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Tournament beginning here from September 7.

The tournament has attracted as many as 2958 entries. Delhi State Table Tennis Association is hosting a national ranking tournament for the time first time since 2008 though the Table Tennis Federation of India had organised one in the capital back in 2012 with the support of Haryana. The tournament will run from September 7 to 14 at the Thyagraj Stadium. The players will battle it out across 12 events including the senior, U-19, U-17, U-15, U-13 and U-11 categories. The national champions in



the men's field include Sathiyar, Harmeet, Anthony Amalraj and Soumyajit Ghosh, who disappeared from the national set up after featuring at the 2012 London Olympics due to personal issues. Chitale will be the favourite in the women's field including veteran Mouma Das, Madhurika Patkar, Reeth Rishya and Divya Deshpande. Delhi-based India star Manika Batra is not available for the

tournament as she is busy with international commitments with her world ranking slipping to 55.

"The number of entries, 2958, is a strong indicator of the interest the tournament has generated. I don't remember the last time there were these many entries for a national ranking event. We are fully ready to host the event," said Gurpreet Singh, president of DSTTA.

BCCI invites bids for Team India's title sponsorship, no real money gaming or crypto company allowed

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 02: The BCCI on Tuesday (September 2, 2025) invited bids for the Indian cricket team's title sponsorship rights after fantasy sports giants Dream11's pullout and barred companies dealing in real money gaming and cryptocurrency from the process due to a government ban on such entities.

Dream 11 recently shut down its real money games due to the 'Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act 2025', which states that "no person shall offer any, aid, abet, induce, indulge, engage in offering online money gaming services nor shall involve in any advertisement which directly or indirectly promotes any person to play any online money game".

Dream 11 and My11Circle jointly contributed about Rs 1,000 crore to the BCCI through title sponsorship of the Indian cricket team and Indian Premier League.

"Bidder, including any of its Group companies: (i) should not be engaged in online money gaming, betting or gambling services or similar services in India or anywhere in the world; (ii) should not provide any online money gaming, betting or gambling services or similar services to any Person in India; and (iii) should not have any investment or ownership interest in any Person engaged in betting or gambling services in India,"



stated a press release from the BCCI.

The last date for the purchase of the IEOI is September 12, while the date of submission of the bid documents is September 16.

"To clarify, a bidder, including any of its Group companies, engaged in any activities/business that is prohibited under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 is not permitted to submit a bid," it added.

Also barred from applying are tobacco, alcohol and any entity "which is likely to offend public morals such as, including but not limited to, pornography".

The Board also made it clear that some brand categories will also be "blocked on account of the BCCI having existing sponsors within the said categories."

These include Athleisure and Sportswear Manufacturers; Banks, Banking and Financial Service and Non-Banking Financial Companies;

Non-Alcoholic Cold Beverages; Fans, Mixer Grinders and Safety Locks; and Insurance.

The brands in these categories that are associated with BCCI right now are Adidas, Campa Cola, IDFC First Bank, and SBI Life, among others.

"...bidder operating or engaged in multiple brand/product categories, one of which falls under either the Blocked Brand Categories or Prohibited Brand Categories, shall not be permitted to submit a bid in respect of such Blocked Brand Categories or Prohibited Brand Categories."

"Bidders are prohibited from submitting bids through surrogate brands. Surrogate branding refers to any attempt to indirectly submit a bid on behalf of a different entity or Person through the use of a different entity or person. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of different names, brands, identity or logos," the Board stated.

PARAM SUNDARI (U/A13+)
HINDI ATMOS - 11:00 AM, 02:00 PM, 05:00 PM
HINDI - 06:40 PM

MAA JAYE (UA16+)
PUNJABI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
06:05 PM

WAR 2 (U/A 16+)
HINDI - 10:40 AM, 02:30 PM

SAIYAARA (U/A16+)
HINDI - 12:00 PM, 03:15 PM

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