



Nearly 9,500 people evacuated as Jhelum water enters Sgr outskirts

Water level recedes at Sangam, flows above danger mark at Pampore, RM Bagh | Landslides damage infra, MeT predicts intermittent spell of rains for next few days

Sajid Raina/
Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 04: Many areas were submerged in Srinagar outskirts on Thursday after the water from river Jhelum entered the residential areas in Taigan and Shalina localities, prompting the authorities to launch a massive rescue operation. The administration has evacuated nearly 9500 people from different parts of the valley.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the heavy rainfall on Wednesday afternoon once again led to the rise in the water level in different rivers and streams across Jammu and Kashmir, leading to a flood-like situation across the region.

Water level recedes at Sangam

However, the water level amidst the improvement in the weather conditions has started



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

receding. The Sangam station of river Jhelum has receded below the danger mark after a gap of

28 hours.

As per the details, the water was flowing at 24.53 ft this

evening, just some inches below the danger mark.

The latest readings at River

Jhelum show: Pampore: 6.36 m (danger mark: 5 m); and Ram Munshi Bagh: 21.62 ft (danger mark: 21 ft).

Other readings include Asham: 13.99 ft (danger mark: 16.5 ft) and Wullar: 1576.77 m (full level: 1578 m).

Regarding tributaries, the data show: Vishow Nallah at Khudwani: 7.39 m (danger mark: 8.5 m); Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi: 3.47 m (danger mark: 5.7 m); Lidder Nallah at Batkoot: 0.55 m (danger mark: 1.65 m); and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama: 2.07 m (danger mark: 3.9 m).

While the water level is still above the danger mark at Ram Munshi Bagh station and Pampore, the flood threat still looms across Srinagar, with some of the areas in the Srinagar outskirts like Taigan and Shalina getting submerged.

The rescue operation was immediately launched to evacuate the families | [More on P6](#)

GST 2.0 double dose for growth: PM Modi



PTI

New Delhi, Sept 04: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hailed GST 2.0 as a double dose of support and growth for the nation and asserted that the series of next-generation reforms to make India self-reliant will not stop.

In an interaction with the winners of the National

Teachers Awards, Modi said he had promised "double dhama" of next-generation GST reforms before Diwali and Chhath from the ramparts of the Red Fort and the new simplified tax rates will come into effect from September 22, the first day of Navratri.

Chhath is one of the most important festivals of Bihar, which goes to | [More on P6](#)

LG Sinha thanks PM, FM

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the Next-Gen GST Reforms.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said: "Heartfelt thanks to PM Narendra Modi ji and FM Nirmala Sitharaman Ji for Next-Gen GST Reforms. It'll empower MSMEs and | [More on P6](#)

NIRF Rankings

LG congratulates J&K univs, edu instts for achievements

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Universities and Educational Institutions of Jammu Kashmir UT for their remarkable accomplishment in the recently released NIRF-2025 rankings.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant

Governor said: "University of Kashmir has secured the 34th position and University of Jammu 51st position in the #NIRF2025 Rankings under the Universities category in the country. In Agriculture & Allied Sectors, SKUAST-K has achieved the 7th rank and SKUAST-J the 23rd position.

University of Kashmir has secured 8th rank | [More on P6](#)

Thanks PM, Ayush Min for 35 Ayurveda PG seats

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir flood: 'Over 98% power network functional'

Nearly dozen DT transformers washed away; 1,230 out of 1,292 feeders up: Officials

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sept 04: Following the floods in several areas of Kashmir, Power Development Department (PDD) Wednesday said that it has restored electricity in 98 percent affected areas.

Officials of the department further said that nearly a dozen DT transformers were washed away by the floods.

A top official of the department informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that floods in several areas of Kashmir have caused

a huge damage to the power infrastructure.

"Out of 1292 power feeders in Kashmir valley 1230 are operational. Some feeders have been closed as a precautionary measure mostly in those areas where flood water has entered the residential areas," the official said.

The official further said that in district Anantnag six receiving stations were off. "Our team restored all the receiving stations in the district and they are all functional now."

"Some other receiving stations in Shopian | [More on P6](#)

'Mission Mausam': J&K to get four new weather radars, says Dr Jitendra

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Sept 04: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that J&K would get four additional weather radars under 'Mission Mausam' to strengthen district-wise forecasts and early warning systems.

Dr Singh, who is also the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Atomic Energy and Space, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), convened



a high-level review meeting via video conference with the Divisional Commissioner of Jammu and the Deputy Commissioners of Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Kathua, and Udhampur. The meeting reviewed | [More on P6](#)

Seven Kashmir workers feared dead in Himachal landslide, rescue on

HP CM, LG Sinha, Omar, other J&K leaders express grief, assure support

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sept 04: At least seven residents from Kashmir are feared dead after a massive landslide hit Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, officials said on Thursday.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expressed grief over the landslide at Inner Akhara Bazaar in Kullu. Sukhu said rescue operations were being carried out by the local administration, NDRF, and relief teams, while MLA Sunder Singh Thakur and senior officials were present at the site.



He confirmed that three people had been rescued so far, and two houses suffered damage in the incident.

"My heartfelt | [More on P6](#)

Trapped in Kullu rains, Kashmiris plead for rescue

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 04: For over a month, more than 30 Kashmiri labourers from Kangan, Tulail, and other areas of Kashmir, have been trapped in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, battling torrential rains, landslides, and blocked roads.

With no safe passage and no official rescue yet, their desperate appeals have now reached home. | [More on P6](#)

J&K's SDRF struggles amid rising disasters

- Declining strength, outdated equipment risk millions
- Experts urge govt action to strengthen force

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sept 04: Jammu and Kashmir, owing to its fragile landscape and complex topography, remains one of the most disaster-prone regions of the country. From cloudbursts and flash floods to landslides and earthquakes, J&K has repeatedly faced natural calamities.

What is more alarming is the fact that the frequency and



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

intensity of such disasters have been increasing in recent years, especially in the current year, leaving the local population vulnerable.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the frontline of disaster management in the Union Territory | [More on P6](#)

Rising floodwaters

Police lead major evacuation, over 200 families rescued

All agencies united to safeguard lives, property: IGP Kashmir

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 04: Amid ongoing heavy rainfall and rising water levels, Srinagar Police, supported by the State Disaster

Response Force (SDRF), River Police, and other agencies, have launched large-scale evacuation and relief operations across flood-affected areas of the city. To date, over 200 families and individuals have been successfully rescued.

Kashmir Police Chief V. K. Bidhuri assured full coordination among | [More on P6](#)

DGP hails JKP for 'working tirelessly' to safeguard lives

KNO

Jammu, Sept 04: Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday commended all J&K Police personnel for working tirelessly on | [More on P6](#)

Curb sale of unsafe meat in J&K: High Court directs IGPs

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sept 04: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Thursday issued a series of directions to curb the alleged sale of rotten and unsafe meat in the Union Territory.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) concerning food safety when it ordered multiple departments and senior officials to file responses by September 10, the next date of hearing. The court

impleaded several top-ranking officers as party respondents, including the Commissioner Secretary of Animal Husbandry, Commissioner Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Commissioner of Sales Tax, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, and IGP Jammu.

The Commissioner, Food Safety, has also been tasked with ensuring that no unsafe meat enters or is sold within Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior Advocate Jahangir Iqbal Ganaie, acting as amicus curiae, assisted the bench, while Advocate Shafqat Nazir represented | [More on P6](#)

CS assesses post-flood restoration across J&K

Urges for health awareness, school safety audits

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, September 04: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired two separate meetings with Administrative Secretaries, which were also attended by the concerned Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of the districts, to review the situation in flood-affected areas and assess the progress of ongoing restoration efforts.

During the meetings, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the damage caused to public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, schools, and other essential facilities. He also reviewed the availability of basic civic amenities such as power, drinking water, and sanitation services in the affected regions.

The Chief Secretary further directed the Health Department to intensify awareness campaigns on potential health hazards in flood-hit areas and to organize special health camps to safeguard public well-being.

He also emphasized the importance of conducting safety audits of all flood-affected schools and ensuring proper hygiene measures before resuming regular academic activities, stressing that no compromises should be made in this regard.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the stock position of essential commodities, including food grains, fuel,



and petroleum products, and sought updates on the pace of restoration work being carried out on damaged roads across the UT.

Deputy Commissioners provided a detailed account of the damage to both public and private property, along with the disruption to critical services such as power, water supply, and transport infrastructure.

The Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need to expedite restoration efforts, ensuring timely relief to the affected population, and relocate vulnerable communities to

safer locations wherever necessary.

Reiterating the government's commitment to stand with the people in this hour of need, the Chief Secretary stressed that it is the foremost responsibility of the administration to remain present on the ground and accessible to citizens.

He urged the officers across all levels to work with dedication, sensitivity, and selflessness, reminding them that such times put to test the true spirit of public service among those at the helm of affairs.

Div Com visits flood-affected areas in Sgr, Budgam

Urges public to stay away of low-lying areas

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 04: Following breaches in the embankments of the River Jhelum at Zonipora and Shalina in Budgam, which led to flooding in several low-lying areas of Srinagar and Budgam districts, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, visited the affected regions to oversee relief and rescue operations.

Accompanied by IGP Kashmir and the Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar & Budgam, Div Com visited Lasjan and Nowgam to assess the situation and ensure that coordinated efforts were underway to safeguard residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com said, "Early this morning, breaches occurred in the Jhelum embankments at Zonipora in Budgam, resulting in flooding of nearby areas. However, as a precautionary measure, we had already evacuated around 9,000 people last night, which helped in preventing any loss of life."

He further added that the weather conditions have started to improve, especially in South Kashmir, and most areas are currently experiencing clear skies.

"Water levels at Sangam and Ram Munshi Bagh are receding, which is a positive sign," he stated.

He added that relief and rescue teams including personnel from the SDRF, NDRF, police, and revenue departments are actively engaged in operations in affected low-lying areas, ensuring timely assistance to residents.

Shailendra Kumar visits SKUAST-J

Takes stock of recent flood damage in varsity



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 04: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar Thursday visited Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST) Jammu at Chatha to take stock of the situation and damage due to flash floods that struck the University on August 26, 2025.

During the visit, the ACS reviewed the damages to academics, research and other infrastructure at Chatha campus and interacted with the University authorities, faculty members and students.

The ACS issued directions for University's preparedness

against future calamities. He advised the University authorities to contact the Irrigation and Flood Control Department for a long term solution to the recurrent flash floods in Ballol Nallah and its tributaries.

Shailendra Kumar emphasized on a detailed study of the water pattern with focus on capacity and thrust areas from where overflow is most likely to occur. He further directed them to seek assistance from IIT Jammu for hiring a consultant of national repute in handling prestigious flood management projects.

cACS along with Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi and statutory officers of the University also interacted with

the hostel boarders. He advised the students to remain calm and resilient in this difficult time and emphasized the need for maintaining hygienic conditions in hostel premises and across the campus along with provision of quality food for boarders.

Assuring the students of uninterrupted academics, he directed that the syllabus of the current semester shall be completed within the stipulated time frame by conducting online classes ensuring that students do not suffer any academic loss.

The ACS reiterated the Government's commitment to extend all possible support for early restoration and long-term resilience of SKUAST-Jammu.

BRO Chief discusses post-flood scenario with CS

Assures swift restoration of road connectivity

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 4: Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan, PVSM, VSM, Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Thursday called on Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, at the Civil Secretariat here.

The DGBR was accompanied by Brig Rakesh Kumar Mishra, Chief Engineer Project Sampark, and Col Vishal Kumar Srivastava, Technical Secretary to DGBR.

During the meeting, Lt Gen Srinivasan apprised the Chief Secretary about the ongoing measures being undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to restore inter-divisional connectivity across J&K, particularly in the aftermath of the recent flood-like situation. He informed that men and machinery have been mobilized on a war footing to ensure early restoration of road services across the UT.

The DGBR shared an updated status



of various key road stretches currently under restoration and briefed about the anticipated timelines for reopening of the key arterial roads of J&K.

He reiterated the commitment of the BRO to make these vital links motorable at the earliest possible time and assured full readiness to facilitate the smooth movement of essential supplies and traffic.

The Chief Secretary, while interacting with the DGBR, emphasized the crucial

role of road connectivity for the sustenance of the mountainous region of J&K. He highlighted that apart from being vital for the transport of essential commodities, these roads also carry immense strategic importance.

Underscoring the urgency of the task, he also called for doubling efforts to ensure early completion of restoration works. He noted that in a hilly region like J&K, roads are the lifelines for its inhabitants and expressed appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the BRO in maintaining and restoring these crucial stretches despite facing formidable challenges.

The Chief Secretary conveyed confidence that the BRO would once again live up to public expectations by restoring vital road connectivity in record time and assured the Organisation of full cooperation and support from the civil administration.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION BANDIPORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 43 OF 2025-26 Dated: 28-08-2025

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

S.No.	Block	Panchayat	NAME OF WORK	ADVT COST IN LACS	TENDER FEE	TIME OF COMPLETION	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	SCHEME	EMD	NO OF CALLS
1	ARIN	BALHAMA	CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE P WALL FROM LAND OF JAVAD AHMAD HAJAM TO LAND OF BASHIR AHMAD KHAN PHASE 1ST WARD NO. 07 ARIN BALHAMA	1.50	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
2	ARIN	BALHAMA	CONSTRUCTION OF DRAIN FROM LAND OF FAROOQ AHMAD MIR TO LAND OF GH MOHAMAD MIR AND OTHERS AND CONSTRUCTION. OF DRAIN WITH PATH NEAR HOUSE OF MOHAMAD MAQBOOL DIN AT BALHUMA ARIN BALHAMA	2.75	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
3	ARIN	BALHAMA	CONSTRUCTION OF PATH WITH DRAIN AND EDGE WALL FROM FROM HOUSE OF GH MOHD MIR TO ONWARDS WARD NO. 05 AND CONSTRUCTION OF PATH WITH DRAIN FROM HOUSE OF BASHIR AHMAD WAZA TO ONWARDS WARD 02 BALHAMA ARIN	2.75	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
4	ARIN	BALHAMA	CONSTRUCTION OF P WALL FROM FROM HOUSE OF JAVAD AHMAD KUMAR AND OTHERS KUMAR MOHALLA WARD NO. 06 AND CONSTRUCTION OF P WALL NEAR HOUSE OF RIYAZ AHMAD MIR AND OTHERS ARIN	1.70	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
5	ARIN	BALHAMA	CONSTRUCTION OF TILEPATH FROM HOUSE OF HILAL AHMAD CHOPAN TO HOUSE OF AB RASHID CHOPAN AND OTHERS WARD NO. 06 AND UPGRADATION OF TILE PATH FROM MAIN ROAD TO NAZIR AHMAD MIR AND OTHERS W.NO.02 ARIN BALHAMA	2.05	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
6	ARIN	BALHAMA	FENCING OF ZIYARAT SHAREEF SHEIKH SAHIB RA PHASE 1ST WARD 04 ARIN BALHAMA	1.50	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
7	BANKOOT	BONKOOT C	C/O CULVERT ALONG WITH IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD NEAR PANCHAYAT GHAR AT BONKOOT C	5.00	500/=	30days	DEE/CEE	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
8	BANKOOT	BADIBHUTOO	C/O DRAIN FROM H/O AB GANI MIR TO L/O GH MOHIDIN VIA L/O MOHD YOUSUF MALIK BADIBHUTOO	2.35	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
9	BANKOOT	BADIBHUTOO	FENCING WITH PATH EIDGAH AT W.NO 03 BADI-BHUTOO PANCHAYAT	4.00	300/=	30days	DEE	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
10	BANKOOT	BADIBHUTOO	C/O PATH WITH STEPS AND DRAIN FROM H/O ABASS SHAH TO BECON ROAD BADIBHUTOO	2.00	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
11	BANKOOT	BADIBHUTOO	C/O CONCRETE IRRIGATION DRAIN FROM L/O AB RASHID HURRAY TO L/O AB REHMAN MALIK BADIBHUTOO	1.80	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
12	BANKOOT	BADIBHUTOO	C/O PATH WITH SIDEWALL AND DRAIN FROM COWSHED OF REYAZ AHMAD MALIK TO ORCHARD OF HABIBULLAH MALIK	2.00	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
13	BANKOOT	BADIBHUTOO	DEVELOPMENT OF P WALL WITH SIDEFILLING OF KRALPORA ROAD NEAR H/O AB GANI TO MUSHTAQ WANI BADIBHUTOO	1.50	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
14	BANKOOT	BADIBHUTOO	C/O TILEPATH FROM ABDULLAH TO MUSHTAQ, ZUBAIR TO YOUSUF AND OTHERS W.NO 01 BADIBHUTOO	2.20	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
15	BANKOOT	BHUTOO	C/O P BUND FROM L/O M AKBAR RESHI AND OTHERS AT W.NO.2 PHASE-II	2.00	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
16	BANKOOT	BHUTOO	C/O P BUND NEAR H/O HILAL AH RESHI PMAY AND OTHERS AT BHUTOO	2.00	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
17	BANKOOT	BHUTOO	DEVELOPMENT OF DRAIN WITH R WALLS FROM LAND OF AB RASHID TEDWA PH 1 AT HUDBAL BHUTOO	2.50	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
18	BANKOOT	BHUTOO	C/O DRAIN NEAR GH QADIR RESHI, SHAMSUDIN RESHI AND OTHERS AT BHUTOO	2.00	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
19	BANKOOT	BHUTOO	C/O PATH WITH P WALLS FROM H/O SHAMSUDIN RESHI AND OTHERS W.NO.3	2.36	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
20	BANKOOT	BANKOOT C	C/O DRAIN FROM L/O MOHD RAMZAN GANIE ONWARDS AND FROM MOHD YOUSUF TO NAZIR AHMAD WANI AT BONKOOT-C	2.50	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
21	BANKOOT	BANKOOT B	C/O DRAIN MAIN ROAD TO H/O IMRAN AHMAD MALIK AT PETHKOOT AND C/O DRAIN WITH PWALL FROM H/O SHAHID MALIK TO L/O MOHD ALTAZ MALIK BONKOOT-B	5.00	500/=	30days	DEE/CEE	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
22	BANKOOT	BANKOOT B	C/O DRAIN NEAR L/O MOHD AMAN AND FROM MAIN ROAD TO MUSHTAQ AHMAD AT BRARIPO-RA BONKOOT-B	3.00	300/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
23	BANKOOT	BANKOOT B	C/O DRAIN FROM L/O GH RASOOL MALIK TO L/O FAROOQ AHMAD GANIE PH 1ST AND PCC PATH FROM GH MUSTAFA TO ABDULLAH GANIE BONKOOT-B	2.15	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
24	BANKOOT	BONKOOT C	C/O R WALL AND FENCING NEAR MASJID SHAREEF PHALIPORA AT BONKOOT-C	4.00	300/=	30days	DEE	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
25	BANKOOT	BONKOOT B	CONSTRUCTION OF CHAIN LINK FENCING MS NOWGAM BONKOOT-B	1.50	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
26	BANKOOT	AUTHWATOO	FENCING OF GRAVEYARD NEAR LAND OF ATTA MOHAMMAD AT WARD 5 AUTHWATOO	2.90	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
27	BANKOOT	AUTHWATOO	FENCING OF KANGNAAR GRAVEYARD WARD 4 AUTHWATOO	2.90	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
28	BANKOOT	AUTHWATOO	FENCING GRAVEYARD NAG MASJID NEAR BASHIR CHECHI WARD NO 2 AUTHWATOO	2.90	200/=	30days	DEE/others	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
29	BANKOOT	BONKOOT B	CONSTRUCTION OF FENCING OF GRAVEYARD NEAR JAMIA MASJID BRARIPORA PH 1ST BONKOOT-B	5.00	500/=	30days	DEE/CEE	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL
30	BANKOOT	AUTHWATOO	FENCING OF DOB NAAR GRAVEYARD AT WEVAN AUTHWATOO	6.36	500/=	30days	DEE/CEE	PRI	2 % OF ADV COST	IST CALL

Position of A/A: Accorded

Position of T/S: Accorded

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per scheduled e rates.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29-08-2025 9:00AM
2.	Online Bids Submission Start Date	29-08-2025 9:00AM
3.	Online Bids Submission End Date	11-09-2025 AT 6:00PM
4.	Date & Time of Opening Of Online Bids	12-09-2025 at 11:00 AM
5.	Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document, Fee Receipt EMD, and performance security shall be deposited after the financial bid is opened. In case the original Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 7 days after the Financial Bids are opened for all responsive bidders who have participated online, the Department shall serve the Notice as per Rules.	

NO: XEN-REW-BPR-2025-26/5475-83
DATED: 28-08-2025

DIPK-5899/25
DATED: 04-09-2025

Sd/
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW-BANDIPORA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER SHADIMARGH.

Subject: Temporary Engagement/Hiring of Helper/AAYA under ECCE for the year 2025-26.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION.

Applications are invited from the eligible female candidates of concerned villages shown herein below wherein the school is located for temporary engagement/hiring of Helper/AAYA under ECCE for the year 2025-26 along with requisite documents/certificates. The hiring/engagement of the candidates shall be governed by Order No. 07 of CHIRAG 2023 dated: 09-01-2023 followed by order No. 150 CHIRAG of 2023 dated: 21-09-2023 issued by Director Samagra J&K. The requisite conditions for applying against the said AAYAs/Helpers are as under:

- The applying candidate must be of female gender between the age of 18-45 years as on 1st January 2025.
- The candidate must be domicile of the concerned village wherein the school is located and shall belong to BPL category.
- The candidate must have minimum qualification of 8th pass and shall be mentally and physically fit. However, preference shall be given to eligible Widow, Divorcee, Orphan and in case of non-availability of candidate from the said categories, the eligible female candidate belonging to BPL category with higher age shall be considered as per above referred orders of Director Samagra J&K.

S. No.	Name of school
1	PS Yader Zone Shadimargh.
2	PS Chana Mohalla Kanikoot Zone Shadimargh.

The applications complete in all respects shall be submitted before this office within 07-days from the date of publication of this notification in print media. No application after the expiry of the stipulated date shall be entertained at all.

No: ZE0/S/2025/4213
DATED: 04-09-2025

DIPK-5933/25
DATED: 04-09-2025

Zonal Education Officer
Shadimargh

KU shines in NIRF rankings



KNO

Srinagar, Sep 05: The University of Kashmir has improved its standing in the National Institutional Ranking Framework's (NIRF) 'Overall' category by securing the 59th position this year, up from 69th last year.

The NIRF rankings for 2025 were released by Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday, with the University of Kashmir climbing to 59th position from 69th in 2024 in the 'Overall' category.

According to the NIRF rankings the University of Kashmir has also improved its performance in the 'Universities' and 'Public Universities' categories by securing the 34th and 8th positions, respectively, compared to 45th and 14th last year.

Jammu University has shown slight improvement in the 'Universities' and 'Public Universities' categories, securing the 50th and 21st positions,

respectively. In 2024, it had ranked 51st and 23rd in these categories.

As per NIRF rankings, SKUAST-Kashmir has figured among the top 100 institutions in the 'Overall' category by securing the 94th rank. In the 'Agriculture' category, SKUAST-Kashmir climbed to the 7th rank from last year's 10th, while SKUAST-Jammu slipped to 23rd from 20th.

In the 'Engineering' category, IIT Jammu has bagged the 56th rank this year, compared to 62nd last year. Similarly, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has secured the 73rd slot this year, improving from 79th in 2024.

In the 'Management' category, IIM Jammu has climbed to the 35th position from 42nd last year.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University has improved its standing in the 'Architecture and Planning' category by securing the 23rd position, up from 31st last year—(KNO)

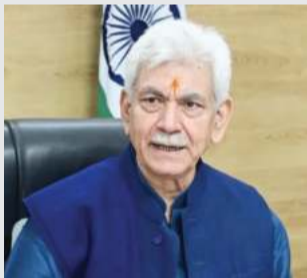
LG Sinha congratulates varsities

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his congratulations to state universities and central institutions in J&K for their performance in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings 2025.

In a series of posts on X, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha praised the efforts of these institutions, stating, "This is a commendable achievement and a testament to the transformative efforts to create world-class teaching and research institutions. I congratulate all universities and institutes for this remarkable accomplishment."

As per the NIRF rankings, the University of Kashmir has secured the 34th position, and the University of Jammu the 51st position in the Universities category. In the Agriculture & Allied



Sectors category, SKUAST-Kashmir has achieved the 7th rank, while SKUAST-Jammu has secured the 23rd position. In the State Public Universities category, the University of Kashmir has secured the 8th rank, and the University of Jammu has ranked 21st.

IIT Jammu, NIT Srinagar, and IIM Jammu have been placed among the top 100 institutes in the Engineering and Management categories, while SMVDU has earned a place in the top 25 in the Architecture category—(KNO)

SC concerned over deforestation in Himalayan region

SAJID RAINA

New Delhi, Sep 04: The Supreme Court on Thursday raised concern over reports of timber logs floating in floodwaters across Himachal Pradesh, observing that illegal tree felling appeared rampant in the Himalayan region.

The Apex Court has issued notices not only to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand but also to the Jammu and Kashmir government, underlining that fragile mountain ecosystems across the northern belt are under severe strain.

A bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran was hearing a Public Interest Litigation on environmental degradation in the Himalayas. The judges said that the scale of landslides and floods being reported in recent

weeks had exposed the vulnerability in hilly states.

"In the flood, huge number of wooden logs were flowing around. Prima facie, it appears that illegal felling of trees has been going on up hills," the bench said.

"The inclusion of Jammu and Kashmir in the notice reflects the court's concern that the problem is not confined to Himachal alone. J&K has also witnessed a sharp increase in deforestation in recent years, particularly in areas of north Kashmir and the Pir Panjal range, where timber smuggling has repeatedly been flagged by local communities and activists," an environmentalist said, while welcoming the court's move.

With the Union Territory also facing recurring flash floods and mudslides, the court's

intervention could push for tighter scrutiny of forest protection measures, he said.

The bench directed notices to the Centre through the Ministries of Environment and Jal Shakti, the National Disaster Management Authority, the National Highways Authority of India, as well as the governments of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir. Chief Justice Gavai, addressing Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said that "It is a serious issue. In the media we have seen a large number of wooden logs flowing in Himachal, Uttarakhand. Illegal tree felling is going on."

The Solicitor General assured the bench that he would ask the Environment Ministry to coordinate with state administrations immediately.

Zainpora residents recount flood horror



Pics: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 04: For the people of Zainpore, Pampore, last night will be remembered not only for the breach of the Jhelum bund but also for the heartbreak of watching their homes "slowly drowning before their eyes."

"We built this house brick by brick over many years. In just one night, it drowned before us," said Ghulam Hassan, pointing to the water-filled courtyard of what was once his two-storey home.

He said a lifetime of effort was washed away in just a few hours.

The bund breach came with little warning. Residents recalled hearing "three loud bangs" before water rushed in like a monster, flooding alleys and fields.

Some families ran barefoot into the darkness, carrying children and

the elderly on their shoulders. Others climbed to rooftops and upper stories, watching helplessly as the river swallowed everything in its path.

"My dowry floated out like a toy. I could do nothing but watch," said Rafiq, her hands trembling. "That chest had my daughter's future. How will I face her now?"

For many, the memories of 2014 resurfaced instantly. "Back then we thought it was once in a lifetime. But this... this feels worse," said Abdul Majid, a farmer. "In 2014 we lost crops. This time we saw our homes drown."

Meanwhile, the residents said what makes the trauma unbearable is not just the loss itself, but the helplessness of watching it unfold. On higher ground, women huddled in groups, recalling the night in broken sentences—(KNO)

Jammu Railway division faces massive losses

YOGESH

Jammu, Sep 04: Torrential rains and the flooding of rivers and streams across the Jammu division have inflicted heavy damage on the infrastructure and revenue streams of the Jammu Railway Division, leading to a near-complete halt in train operations and mounting financial losses. Rail services in the region were severely disrupted from August 26 to August 31, with both passenger and goods trains coming to a standstill in the wake of relentless weather.

Railway officials said that the Jammu Railway Division has already suffered losses exceeding Rs 25 crore due to the suspension of rail operations over the past seven days. Some revenue estimates place the figure even higher, at more than Rs 50 crore.

"If the suspension continues losses could soar past Rs 100 crore," said an official.

A senior railway official revealed that the prospects for resuming goods train services before September 30 look bleak, given the extent of track damage caused by floods and landslides. "It is not possible to operate goods trains till the end of September if the current situation persists," the official said. Indian Railways data indicates that the Jammu Railway Division earns an average of Rs 2.5 crore per day from passenger ticket sales, over Rs 1 crore from freight, and around Rs 3 lakh from parcel services amounting to a daily revenue of more than Rs 3.5 crore. The week-long suspension of train operations has therefore resulted in substantial financial setbacks, affecting everything from ticketing to freight and parcel revenues. Despite the disruptions, the Railways managed to run five special trains for stranded passengers during the crisis, including three that

were free of charge.

Furthermore, the impact of the suspension of goods trains has been particularly severe. On an average day, about 45 goods trains arrive in the Jammu Railway Division with 35 inbound and 10 outbound, carrying raw materials, cement, iron rods, government rations, fertilizers, and other essential commodities to Jammu and Kashmir from across the country. With 50 passenger trains, including premium services like the Vande Bharat Express, also affected, the logistical challenges have multiplied. The halt in goods train operations has led to acute shortages in essential supplies, with industries and traders bearing the brunt.

The disruption comes at a particularly critical time for the region's apple growers. This is peak apple season in Jammu and Kashmir, and apples destined for markets across India have been stranded.—(KNO)

NHM, SKIMS issue public health advisory

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 04: As the flood-like situation in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir continues, the Health and Medical Education Department, in coordination with the Department of Community Medicine, SKIMS, and the National Health Mission (NHM), has issued a comprehensive Public Health Advisory.

The advisory highlights measures to prevent the outbreak of water-borne and vector-borne diseases, ensure food and water safety, and address mental health needs during this crisis.

Health experts have cautioned that contaminated water and food sources pose a grave risk of diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and hepatitis A and E.

They said the foremost priority should be access to safe water. "People should drink only boiled or chlorinated water (rolling boil for at least 5-10 minutes), sealed and packaged bottled water from reliable sources remains the safest option, if water appears muddy, it must be filtered through a clean cloth before boiling or treating and water should be stored in clean, covered containers, and hands or unclean objects

should not be dipped into stored water, instead, a ladle or small vessel should be used."

Doctors have urged that only freshly cooked, hot food should be consumed. "Raw vegetables, cut fruits, or uncovered food must be avoided. Any food that has come into contact with floodwater should be discarded immediately. Dry rations should be stored at elevated levels inside homes to protect them from contamination."

According to the advisory, people must maintain strict hand hygiene – wash hands with soap and clean water after defecation and before meals, and avoid wading in floodwaters. If unavoidable, use rubber boots and clean and dry skin folds properly to prevent fungal infections.

In endemic areas, authorities have advised people to sleep under insecticide-treated bed nets, wear full-sleeved clothing in the evenings, use mosquito repellents and prevent stagnation of water in containers or surroundings.

"People must avoid walking in floodwaters, especially at night without adequate lighting, be alert for snakes seeking shelter in dry areas and in case of a snake bite, immediate

medical care is essential," they said.

Doctors have urged people to dispose of solid waste only at designated sites, avoid dumping garbage into water sources and use temporary latrines if regular sanitation facilities are submerged.

The advisory also highlighted the psychological toll of natural disasters.

Children and the elderly should be reassured and provided with emotional support, and for anxiety, depression, or trauma, people have been encouraged to seek help from mental health services.

The Tele MANAS helpline (14416) has been activated to provide mental health assistance.

The NHM advisory further urged residents to seek early medical help in case of fever, diarrhoea, vomiting, jaundice, skin infections, or injuries and continue routine immunisations and ensure patients with chronic illnesses like diabetes and hypertension continue their treatments without interruption.

For emergencies, the helpline numbers 104, 102, and 108 remain functional.

Neglecting these precautions could lead to a secondary health crisis of preventable diseases, medical experts warned—(KNO)

Shopkeepers shift belongings in dead of night

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 04: As the water levels rise above danger mark in Srinagar, the markets witnessed the sound of shop shutters in Lal Chowk and adjacent areas with the owners along with the helpers moving the belongings to safer places in the dead of night.

The shopkeepers, haunted by memories of the devastating 2014 floods, rushed to shift their belongings, fearing that the rising waters of the river Jhelum could once again swallow their livelihoods.

In Lal Chowk, Maisuma and surrounding commercial areas, the shopkeepers were seen reopening their outlets, to shift the belongings.

Huzaif Ahmad Wani, a ready-made garment shop owner said that as soon as the water crossed the danger mark in river Jhelum, they along with the other

shopkeepers in Palladium Lane rushed to the shops again, not for business, but for the survival.

"We didn't want to face losses. The situation was similar to 2014," Wani said, adding that "we lost everything that year. We can't afford to wait for a warning this time."

Many of these traders are still recovering from economic setbacks over the past decade—first the floods, then prolonged lockdowns, and now, yet another threat.

Meanwhile, he said that the majority of the shopkeepers have shifted their belongings to the safer places.

Pertinently, the heavy rainfall led to the rise in water levels in different rivers and streams, causing the flood-like situation in Jammu and Kashmir second time in the last two weeks—(KNO)

Fearing breach, people spend night on river banks

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 04: As the Jhelum swelled with floodwaters on Wednesday-Thursday night, thousands of residents in different parts of Srinagar, Pulwama and areas of South Kashmir were seen standing along the river bunds, their anxious eyes fixed on the rising current.

"We couldn't sleep. Every hour, we came out to see if the water had crossed the bund," said Shabir

Ahmad, a resident of Lasjan said. He said the sound of the river was like a roar in the dark. "No one had the courage to close their eyes."

"My children kept asking, 'Will our house also drown?' I had no answer," said Haleema, a mother of three from Soiteng.

The administration, however, has urged people not to venture close to the bunds, citing the dangers of sudden breach or spillage. "All necessary measures have

been taken, and continuous monitoring is underway. People are requested to avoid unnecessary gatherings along riverbanks," officials told KNO.

For many, the sight of the swollen Jhelum brought back haunting memories of September 2014. "I still remember the night when water broke through like a monster. Watching the river rise now feels like reliving that nightmare," said Abdul Gani, a schoolteacher

from Pampore. Meanwhile, officials said preventive evacuations are being carried out in vulnerable areas, with teams of SDRF, police, and other departments stationed near sensitive spots. Relief camps have also been kept ready.

Despite the reassurances, fear still looms in the air. "We trust the administration, but when the river swells like this, who can really sleep?" Shabir added, his gaze still fixed on the restless waters—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

FRIDAY BRIEF

Purification Of Soul: A Path To Divine Proximity

In Islam, the purification of the soul stands as one of the core objectives of revelation and prophethood. The Quran emphatically states, "He has certainly succeeded who purifies it, and he has failed who instils it with corruption" (Surah Ash-Shams 91:9–10). This spiritual process transcends mere ritualism—it represents the essence of human purpose and the foundation of eternal success. The significance of tazkiyah manifests on multiple levels. Firstly, it

serves as the prerequisite for divine acceptance. The Quran reveals that Allah only accepts from "the righteous" (5:27)—those whose hearts are free from shirk, hypocrisy, and moral disease. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) reinforced this by comparing a pure heart to a clear mirror reflecting divine light, while a corrupted soul resembles a rusty vessel incapable of holding wisdom. Secondly, soul purification enables correct worship. Islam teaches that deeds

are judged by intentions (Bukhari), and intentions spring from the heart's condition. Rituals like prayer and fasting become transformative when performed with a heart free from arrogance, greed, and distraction. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) warned that a morsel of doubtful food could invalidate forty days of worship, highlighting how physical and spiritual purity are intertwined. Thirdly, tazkiyah fosters societal harmony. A purified individual naturally

embodies justice, compassion, and honesty, becoming a source of benefit to others. The Quran describes such believers as those "who avoid major sins and indecencies, and when angered, they forgive" (42:37). This ethical transformation creates ripple effects, promoting trust, cooperation, and mercy within communities. Ultimately, soul purification is the bridge to divine love. Allah declares, "Indeed, Allah loves the repentant and loves those who purify themselves"

(2:222). Through constant repentance, dhikr (remembrance), and self-reflection, believers polish their hearts until they become worthy vessels of divine presence, achieving the state of "the peaceful soul" (89:27) that returns contentedly to its Creator. In a world increasingly dominated by materialism and anxiety, Islam's emphasis on inner purification offers a timeless antidote—a journey back to one's fitrah (primordial nature) and toward eternal fulfilment.

'India will have its own space station by 2035'

India's Gaganyaan Mission set to transform the nation's space future

Dr Jitendra Singh

Gaganyaan is poised to be a pivotal moment for India's space aspirations, reaffirming its human spaceflight capabilities and advancing scientific knowledge with Earth-benefiting applications, added Dr Jitendra Singh, Union minister of state, science and technology

Q/ What will be the biggest outcome of Gaganyaan for India's space future?

India's ascent in the space sector has already begun and is recognised globally. We are no longer followers, we are equal partners in international collaborations. The Gaganyaan mission will mark another defining moment. It will not just reaffirm India's capabilities in human spaceflight but add to our scientific knowledge. Alongside experiments like those performed by astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla aboard the International Space Station on microgravity, agriculture and life sciences, the mission will provide insights with applications on earth. This will further establish India as a leader in space exploration while we continue to use space technology for infrastructure, development and ease of living.

Q/ With young astronauts like Shukla coming in, how crucial is the role of youth in shaping our human spaceflight journey?

Youth are indispensable to India's future in every sector, including space. More than 70 per cent of our population is below the age of 40, so naturally, they are the torchbearers of Viksit Bharat. In space, youth have an edge because of the physical and mental adaptability required. For instance, among the four astronauts trained for Gaganyaan, Shubhanshu was the youngest and that was an advantage. Space missions demand quick acclimatisation, something younger individuals can handle more efficiently.

Q/ Do you think Gaganyaan will open doors for scientists, engineers and women astronauts?



Absolutely. There is no distinction between men and women in space science. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi first announced Gaganyaan on August 15, 2018, he said Bharat ka ek beta ya beti would go to space. At present, the four selected astronauts happen to be men from the Air Force, largely because they possessed advanced training. But going forward, we will see astronauts from outside the forces, including women. Globally, women have been at the forefront of space exploration. Even in India, many ISRO projects have been led by women scientists, whether it was Chandrayaan, Aditya or others.

Q/ Will Gaganyaan pave the way for India to join international human spaceflight missions or set up its own space station?

India is scheduled to set up its own space station, named Bharatiya Antariksha Station, by 2035. The prime minister has also referred to the "Sudarshan suraksha chakra", where space technology will play a key role in national security. So, 2035 will be a landmark year... Five years after that, India aims to send missions to the surface of the

moon with humans on board.

Q/ With India advancing in semiconductor and AI technologies, how is the government aligning the semiconductor mission with space-grade needs for projects like the Bharatiya Antariksha Station?

Semiconductors will have wide applications, including in space missions. Similarly, small modular reactors will be vital, not just in dense or inaccessible regions on earth but also for long-duration space expeditions. These technologies will be crucial for sustaining future projects like the space station.

Q/ What kind of experiments would you like to see Indian astronauts perform during missions to the moon or Mars?

In the recent mission, experiments were grouped into seven categories. Life sciences were especially important. For instance, the study of myogenesis—muscle wasting and regeneration in microgravity—has direct relevance for conditions like cancer, diabetes or even recovery from fractures on earth. Another set studied cognitive effects of prolonged screen exposure, which is highly relevant in

today's digital era. We also experimented with growing seedlings like fenugreek in microgravity, which could aid research in regenerative biology and genetic applications.

The key point is that space experiments are not limited to astronauts in orbit, they yield benefits for people on earth and advance the idea of 'Vishwaguru Bharat'.

Q/ After SpaDeX, when will India begin monetising space docking and satellite servicing for global clients?

We have already started gaining experience with docking and undocking through SpaDeX. The upcoming Chandrayaan-4 mission, expected around 2028, will involve multiple modules performing complex docking and undocking manoeuvres. This will give us the expertise required for larger projects like the space station. Once space tourism becomes viable, docking technology will also be critical for passenger safety. Over time, monetisation will follow as India offers docking, servicing and tourism infrastructure for global clients.

Q/ India plans to launch 52 spy satellites in five years through public-private partnerships. How will national security be ensured in such collaborations?

Safeguards are already in place. We have created IN-SPaCE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre), which regulates public-private partnerships in space. It determines the scale and nature of collaborations, ensuring security considerations are fully addressed. At the same time, we have liberalised the sector by permitting foreign direct investment. This balance of regulation and openness allows innovation without compromising national interests.

Q/ A Rs 1,000-crore venture capital fund has been cleared, but space-tech funding fell last year. How will this fund support startups?

Until a few years ago, startups in space were almost unheard of. Today, we have nearly 400, with some already becoming

successful entrepreneurs. Startups are not just about launching rockets, they span areas like mapping, smart cities, agriculture, telemedicine and telecommunications.

This fund is meant to give them the financial support needed to scale up. Space has suddenly become a lucrative career option. Aerospace engineering, once a niche stream, is now among the most sought-after branches in IITs. That shift itself shows the rising opportunities in this sector.

Q/ India has targeted 8 per cent of the global space market by 2033. Beyond satellite launches, what technologies will help India compete with SpaceX and China?

Much of the focus is on rockets and launches, but nearly half of space applications are on earth. Space technology is integrated into agriculture, infrastructure and even warfare. Take the PM Gati Shakti scheme; it uses satellite imagery to save time, money and paperwork, directly contributing to economic growth. Similarly, space inputs help farmers decide the timing of sowing and cropping. These savings are as valuable as wealth generation. That is why we expect India's space economy, currently around \$8 billion, to grow fivefold in the next decade to \$40–45 billion, helping India climb global rankings.

Q/ Would you encourage civilians, not just Air Force pilots, to join India's astronaut pool?

Definitely. At the moment, Air Force pilots are better prepared because of their training in high-altitude jets, but this is just the beginning. In the future, our astronaut pool will expand to include civilians, women, biotechnologists, space physicians and even media professionals to record missions in real time. As the ecosystem grows, India will need a larger and more diverse pool of astronauts to meet its ambitious plans.

The author is the Union Minister for Science and Technology

The Income Tax Act, 2025: Reshaping Tax Framework

A landmark overhaul streamlines legal language, enhances digital compliance, and aims to foster transparency, simplicity, and fairness in India's tax framework

Press Information Bureau

Understanding The Income Tax Act, 2025

The passage of the New Income Tax Act, 2025 is a landmark development towards building a streamlined, simplified tax framework aimed at enhancing transparency, equity, and economic efficiency. Enacted by Parliament after intensive deliberation, the legislation reflects the Government of India's commitment to modernizing the tax architecture in alignment with global best practices and domestic aspirations. By simplifying tax slabs, rationalizing exemptions, and integrating digital compliance mechanisms, the Act seeks to reduce administrative burdens while fostering a culture of voluntary compliance.

To modernize and simplify India's outdated tax laws, the government announced a comprehensive review of the Income-tax Act, 1961. This led to the introduction of the Income-tax Bill, 2025, which was referred to a Select Committee of Parliament for detailed examination. After receiving extensive recommendations and suggestions from stakeholders, the government decided to withdraw the original Bill and introduce a revised version - The Income-Tax (No. 2) Bill, 2025. This updated Bill incorporated most of the committee's inputs along with improvements in legal clarity and drafting. It was passed by both Houses of Parliament in the monsoon session and now forms the foundation of India's new tax framework.

From Complexity to Clarity: Rationale Behind the New Income Tax Act

The Income-tax Act, 1961 was introduced to replace the earlier 1922 legislation, based on recommendations from the Law Commission (1958) and the Direct Tax Administration Enquiry Committee.

Here are the factors contributing to the complexity of India's Income-tax Act, 1961:

Extensive Amendments: The Act has been amended nearly 65 times with more than 4000 amendments over six decades through annual Finance Acts and 19 separate Taxation Laws Amendment Bills. While these changes were

intended to keep the law relevant, they significantly increased its length and complexity.

Numerous Exemptions and Deductions: Over the years, the Act was repeatedly amended to include various exemptions and deductions to support socio-economic goals, such as encouraging savings, boosting exports, promoting balanced growth, and advancing social equity. These provisions included benefits for export income, investments in specific sectors or regions, and spending on rural development.

Reduced Tax Base and Increased Litigation: The numerous exemptions and incentives significantly reduced the tax base, which in turn contributed to increased litigation, higher administrative costs, and greater compliance burdens.

Traditional Legal Language: The Act was written in traditional legal language, characterized by long sentences, numerous provisos, and extensive explanations, making it difficult for the average taxpayer to understand.

Fragmented Structure and Outdated Provisions: The accumulation of amendments and additions led to a fragmented structure. This complexity was further compounded by the presence of outdated provisions that were no longer in use.

Reform Process for the New Tax Legislation

In July 2024, the Finance Minister announced the Government's intent to overhaul the Income-tax Act, 1961, aiming to simplify its language, reduce disputes, and eliminate outdated provisions. To lead this effort, an internal Departmental Committee was constituted by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for comprehensive review of the existing Act.

The Committee actively engaged with stakeholders - industry bodies, professional associations, and field officers of tax department - through consultations and brainstorming sessions. It also drew insights from international best practices, including tax reforms in the UK and Australia. The focus extended beyond language to include structural streamlining of the law itself.

To reframe Income Tax law framework, the simplification exercise followed three guiding

principles:

Textual and structural simplification for improved clarity and coherence.

No major tax policy changes to ensure continuity and certainty.

No modifications of tax rates, preserving predictability for taxpayers.

The drafting process of the Income Tax Act, 2025 was anchored in a threefold framework, each component playing a critical role in shaping the legislation's structure, intent, and implementation strategy:

Eliminating intricate language to enhance readability.

Removing redundant and repetitive provisions for better navigation.

Reorganizing provisions logically to facilitate ease of reference.

The New Tax Vision: Goals and Direction

The Income Tax Act, 2025 has been introduced to modernize India's direct tax framework, focusing to simplify and streamline tax legislation, making it more accessible, transparent, and less prone to litigation. By adopting plain language and restructuring provisions logically, the Act aims to reduce taxpayer confusion and improve voluntary compliance. It also seeks to minimize disputes through clearer definitions and harmonized assessment timelines. The reform reflects India's commitment to align with global best practices, improving ease of doing business, and fostering a trust-based tax environment. In essence, the Act is designed not to overhaul tax rates, but to overhaul the tax experience - making it more predictable, efficient, and digitally enabled.

Core Objectives

Simplification: Replace archaic language and redundant provisions with clear, concise, and modern legal text.

Digital Integration: Enable faceless assessments and digital compliance to reduce human interface and corruption.

Taxpayer-Centric Approach: Improve ease of filing, reduce litigation, and enhance

transparency.

Global Alignment: Reflect contemporary economic realities, including taxation of digital assets and global income.

Simplified Framework of Income Tax Act, 2025

The new Income Tax Act has been significantly simplified, with fewer sections and chapters, making it easier to understand and implement. It includes structured schedules along with helpful tables and formulae to improve clarity. Overall, the language and layout have been streamlined for better accessibility and transparency. Importantly, the Act preserves existing taxation principles, ensuring continuity while enhancing usability. These reforms reflect the Government's commitment to improving the ease of doing business by establishing a tax framework that is both simple and transparent.

Key Features of Income Tax Act, 2025

The Income Tax Act, 2025 introduces a streamlined and modernized framework for direct taxation in India. It focuses on clarity, simplification, and improved compliance through structural and procedural reforms. The Act is designed to enhance transparency, reduce litigation, and align with technological developments.

Introduction of 'Tax Year'

The Act simplifies tax terminology by replacing the previously used and often confusing terms 'Assessment Year' and 'Previous Year' with a single, unified concept called the 'Tax Year'. It has been defined as the twelve-month period of the financial year commencing on the 1st April. This change is aimed at improving clarity and making it easier for taxpayers to understand which financial period their income and tax filings relate to, thereby reducing ambiguity in compliance and interpretation.

Power to Frame Schemes

The Act authorizes the Central Government to design new schemes aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, and accountability in tax administration (S. 532). This can be done by:

Eliminating the interface with the assessee or any other person to the extent

technologically feasible, and

Optimising utilisation of the resources through economies of scale and functional specialisation.

Simplified Compliance

Multiple provisions have been brought together for more clarity. For example, the provisions related to Tax Deducted at Source (TDS), which were earlier distributed across multiple sections, have now been streamlined and grouped under a single section - Section 393. This consolidation is intended to simplify the legal framework, making it easier for taxpayers, professionals, and authorities to locate and interpret TDS related rules without navigating through numerous scattered clauses.

Digital-First Enforcement

Virtual Digital Space has been defined as an environment, area, or realm that is constructed and experienced through computer technology. It includes email servers, cloud servers, social media accounts, online investment and trading accounts, and websites for storing details of asset ownership.

The scope of Virtual Digital Assets has been broadened to cover any asset that holds value in digital form and operates using cryptographic ledger systems such as cryptocurrencies or similar technologies.

Dispute Resolution

The Income Tax Act, 2025 introduces a more robust and taxpayer-friendly framework for resolving disputes.

Conclusion

The Income Tax Act, 2025 represents a transformative step toward building a more transparent, efficient, and taxpayer-friendly direct tax system in India. By simplifying legal structures, embracing digital processes, and aligning with global standards, the Act lays the foundation for a modern fiscal framework. Guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed and inclusive India, this reform reflects the government's commitment to ease of compliance, economic growth, and institutional accountability.

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

DC Udhampur reviews measures to prevent water-borne diseases

Asks for water quality testing, spreading public awareness



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 04: To discuss preventive measures against water-borne diseases in the aftermath of recent heavy rains and floods, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai Thursday chaired a meeting of officers of line departments in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by IAS Probationer Seerat Baji; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Dr Ashwani Hansa and other senior officers.

The DC emphasized the urgent need for intensive water quality testing, public awareness campaigns and effective sanitation drives, particularly in flood and landslide-affected areas. She directed concerned officers to ensure that safe potable water is made available to all affected families.

Jal Shakti Department was directed to undertake regular water testing and ensure chlorination of all water supply schemes. The Health & Medical

Education Department was directed to organize awareness drives on safe drinking water and distribute chlorine tablets at the community level.

Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj to educate people on safe sanitation and hygiene practices under the WASH program. The Education Department was directed to involve schools and colleges in spreading awareness through students and special cleanliness drives. Besides, the DC calls for using Mobile awareness vans, radio and TV jingles to be used for disseminating advisories regarding safe water consumption and disease prevention.

The DC further stressed on close inter-departmental co-ordination, timely reporting of field-level issues and regularly sharing water testing results.

The DC also appealed to the general public to avoid consuming water directly from flood-affected sources, adopt proper water purification practices and strictly follow advisories issued by the district administration.

DC B'la convenes meeting on prevention of water-borne diseases



KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Thursday chaired a meeting in his office chamber here to review the campaign for prevention of water-borne diseases and intensifying of water quality testing in affected areas of the district.

During the meeting, DC directed the concerned departments to constitute special teams to collect water samples from different areas for regular testing to ensure the availability of safe drinking water. He further instructed for special sanitation drives at water sources and related assets to prevent contamination.

It was highlighted that recent heavy rainfall and flood-like situations in parts of Kashmir had raised concerns regarding

water contamination and the spread of water-borne diseases.

DC emphasized the need for wide-scale public awareness, including announcements through mobile vans, to sensitize people about the safe use of drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation practices.

Chief Education Officer was directed to disseminate awareness among students regarding preventive measures, hygiene, and safe water consumption so that children can act as ambassadors of change within their families and communities.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, Chief Education Officer Baramulla, Executive Engineer PHE Baramulla, Executive Engineer I&FC Baramulla, and District Social Welfare Officer Baramulla.

Rana calls for enhanced inter-departmental coordination

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 04: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Thursday held a detailed discussion with Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to review inter-departmental coordination and monitoring mechanisms related to tribal welfare schemes and development projects in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was convened in the wake of the recent flash floods that have caused extensive damage across several regions, affecting tribal communities.

Expressing deep concern over the hardships faced by affected families, the Minister called for immediate and effective implementation of rehabilitation measures announced by the Government.

He emphasized that short-term relief is critical but there is a pressing need to develop long-term, sustainable strategy for the permanent settlement and protection of tribal populations vulnerable to recurring natural calamities.

He noted that the administration's response must be swift and anchored in structural reforms to reduce long-term vulnerability and ensure security and dignity of tribal life.

During the deliberations, the Minister highlighted several priority areas like timely disbursal of compensation for losses incurred by both individuals and communities, damage to private property and public infrastructure which require urgent attention.

He also called for rapid restoration of essential services in affected areas, stressing that delays in restoring basic amenities could deepen the distress of vulnerable populations.

Rana underscored the critical importance of a robust monitoring framework to ensure that inter-departmental tribal welfare projects are implemented without unnecessary delays.

He reiterated that efficient inter-departmental coordination is key to the success of developmental and relief initiatives and urged for the establishment of

accountability-driven mechanisms to facilitate timely execution and measurable outcomes.

He also directed for aligning UT-level initiatives with the broader policy directives of NITI Aayog, particularly with regard to the mandated allocation of financial resources for tribal development.

He further stressed the need for targeted investment in infrastructure, healthcare, education and livelihood generation to create a strong and sustainable support system for tribal communities.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to inclusive growth, Rana stated that the objective must go beyond reactive relief measures. He advocated for a transformative approach that integrates disaster preparedness with long-term development planning.

The Chief Secretary assured that instructions will be reiterated and amplified to strengthen coordination mechanisms to ensure that tribal communities are not left behind in the progress of Jammu & Kashmir.

Div Com tours flood affected areas in Jammu City

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 04: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar Thursday conducted an extensive tour of the severely affected areas in Jammu city post heavy rains and floods.

The Divisional Commissioner, accompanied by Managing Director JPDCI, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Chief Engineers of PWD, Jal Shakti, PDD and other officials, visited different affected areas and essential infrastructure installation that suffered damages due to the heavy rains and floods.

The Divisional Commissioner commenced the tour from Kalka Colony at Bahu Tehsil where he inspected the damages to Tawi embankment and the houses of people that were inundated. He directed the JMC to provide all assistance to the affected residents for removal of the remaining silt and muck from the area.

Afterwards, the Div Com, along with the team of officers, visited the water Filtration Plant at Har Ki Pouri. He was apprised that the filtration plant has been partially restored. He directed the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti to ensure functioning of the plant at its full capacity at the earliest.

At Rajiv Colony, Bikram Chowk, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officials to restore the Tawi Bank that was partially eroded in the flood



induced by incessant rains. He also directed the Engineers of JPDCI and Jal Shakti to make the water supply scheme at Rajiv colony functional at the earliest.

The Divisional Commissioner also visited the Peerkho area that was severely impacted by the floods during the heavy rains. Interacting with the locals, he was informed by the residents that they received ample support from Jammu Municipal Corporation for removing the silt and muck accumulated in the lanes and houses.

Talking to media persons, the Divisional Commissioner said that water and power has been restored in majority of areas in Jammu City, while efforts are on to restore the same in remaining severely affected

areas.

He further said the District administration has provided immediate relief and an assessment process is underway to provide compensation for damages to private property under SDRF norms. "The Administration and government stands in solidarity with the victims of the heavy rains and floods and will provide all assistance for their rehabilitation," he added.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner visited the water filtration plant at Dhonthly which has been restored partially. The Div Com directed the concerned officials of the PHE departments to restore the plant to its full capacity by evening so that the water supply to the old city is restored completely.

SANKALP-HEW Mission Shakti launches special campaign

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 04: SANKALP-HEW Mission Shakti in collaboration with the Social Welfare department Bandipora and Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Thursday conducted a comprehensive program in the remote area of Ketsan, Bandipora.

The initiative aimed to educate the tribal community on gender sensitization and financial literacy, marking a significant step towards women's empowerment.

The event featured an insightful session by Najmau Saqib, financial literacy

specialist, who provided a detailed overview of various women-centric schemes.

Pamphlets detailing these schemes were distributed to participants, followed by an interactive workshop to enhance understanding and accessibility.

Additionally, Sumaiya Muzafer, a gender specialist from SANKALP, delivered a lecture focusing on gender sensitization in self-employment and its integration into all aspects of life, empowering attendees with valuable knowledge.

The program also witnessed the presence of the Director of RSETI.

DC Gbl directs IWQT to prevent water-borne diseases

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 04: In view of the recent incessant rains that caused water logging in several areas of the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Thursday convened a meeting to review preventive measures against water-borne diseases and directed for intensified water quality testing across the district.

The meeting discussed the functioning of water testing laboratories, activation of Pani Samitis, and finalization of the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns to spread awareness about preventive measures.

DC directed the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to enhance water quality monitoring through intensified testing and ensure that Pani Samitis carry out regular water testing at Panchayat level to prevent any outbreak of water-borne diseases. He also instructed that daily water testing reports be shared for close monitoring.

Further, Chief Medical

Officer Ganderbal was directed to distribute chlorine tablets, especially in water-logged areas, and to ensure wide publicity of health advisories issued by the Health Department. He was also directed to ensure adequate availability of essential medicines at all PHCs.

The CEO and Heads of higher education institutions were asked to sensitize students about precautionary measures to be adopted at home in post-flood situations.

DC also instructed the Rural Development Department (RDD) and Municipal authorities to conduct sanitation drives in affected areas.

He stressed on intensifying IEC campaigns jointly by RDD, Municipality and Health, particularly through IEC vans in water-logged areas to spread awareness among the general public.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihagi; SDM Kangan; Program Officer ICDS; ACD; Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and I&FC; CMO; EO MC Ganderbal, besides other concerned officials.

Orientation programme concludes at Chitternar

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 04: The three-day Block Level Master Trainer orientation programme under Aadi Karmayogi - Responsive Governance programme concluded Thursday at the Forest Training & Research Institute Chitternar, Bandipora.

The programme, organised from September 2 to 4, 2025, was part of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' initiative for tribal transformation aimed at strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring saturation of government schemes in tribal villages.

During the concluding day, sessions focused on integrating participatory planning with sustainable tribal development, with particular emphasis on healthcare, education, livelihood generation, digital access and preservation



of traditional knowledge. Trainers highlighted the need for responsive governance models that address local gaps and empower communities to actively contribute to decision-making.

The orientation witnessed active participation of DPO ICDS, Yaar Ali Khan, BDOs, concerned officers, volunteers and stakeholders, who shared insights on bridging developmental gaps through collective efforts.

Landslide at Rattle HEP Site: Swift evacuation saves lives

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 04: A landslide occurred at the Rattle Hydro Electric Project (HEP) site Drabshalla during the wee hours Thursday, leaving five persons injured and trapped under debris.

On the Directions of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, swift rescue operations were carried out jointly by the Civil Administration, Police, Project Authorities and the Red Cross team, resulting in successful rescue of all five individuals.

Out of the total 05 injured persons, 03 have been shifted to GMC Doda for specialized treatment, while 02 are receiving medical care at SDH Thathri.

The District Administration is closely monitoring the situation and ensuring that the injured are provided with all necessary medical assistance.

DC reviews health services scenario in Poonch

Pushes for hosting medical camps in remote areas

KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma reviewed the functioning of the health department at a meeting held here at the DC office. The meeting was attended by ADDC Pankaj Mangotra; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan and other officers from the department.

The CMO gave a detailed presentation on the functioning of the health department, available facilities, ambulance services including 108, and the healthcare schemes being implemented in the district such as RBSK, JSY, JSSK. He also shared details regarding staff position in the District Hospital and all health blocks,

along with the status of OPD and IPD services.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to further strengthen healthcare facilities for the general public and directed the department to ensure timely ambulance services and effective implementation of all government health schemes. He emphasized organizing medical camps in far-flung and flood-affected areas to provide doorstep health services to the people.

The meeting was also attended by Chief Planning Officer Poonch, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Poonch, Dy. CMO, DTO, DIO, Block Medical Officers of Mendhar, Mandi, Surankote, DPMU and BPMU officials.

Doda admin formulates action plan to prevent water-borne diseases

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 4: In response to the recent floods and the subsequent risk of contamination of drinking water sources, Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh Thursday chaired a crucial meeting to chalk out preventive strategies against the possible outbreak of water-borne diseases in the district.

The meeting was attended by District Programme Officer Akhtar Hussain Qazi; ACD Din Mohd Afaqi; ACP Mushraf Haff; District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar, Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz, Heads of Government Degree Colleges of Doda, Thathri, Gandoh, Bhaderwah and Kastigarh, Superintendent Engineer Hydraulics, XENs PHE, Kishtwar and Gandoh, along with other senior officers.



The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the urgent need to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all affected areas. He directed the Hydraulic Department to intensify chlorination, repair of damaged pipelines and water quality testing.

The Health Department was asked to strengthen surveillance of vulnerable areas, deploy medical teams, and stock essential medicines to deal with any potential outbreak. The Education Department was directed to spread awareness among students regarding hygiene and

safe drinking practices, while the Social Welfare and Rural Development Departments were tasked with community-level sensitization campaigns.

DC Harvinder Singh informed the officers about the government guidelines for handling water-borne diseases and directed the XEN PHE to initiate a district-wide water testing drive. He also instructed them to start mobile campaign to spread awareness. The CMO was directed to mobilise ASHA workers for household visits to educate people about using

safe and treated drinking water. The ACP was asked to create awareness in every Panchayat about the possible spread of water-borne diseases.

The CEO Doda was directed to organize hygiene awareness and WASH campaigns through students in schools, while Principals of Degree Colleges were instructed to conduct similar campaigns and practices in their institutions. The DC also directed ACP to take immediate action to start de-watering and mud clearance in the colleges and schools that were submerged due to the recent heavy rains. The District Social Welfare Officer was asked to organize WASH awareness campaigns in institutions under the department's supervision, while the District Programme Officer was directed to conduct awareness drives on hygiene and water safety in all Anganwadi Centres.

Nearly 9,500 people

from the flood-affected areas. Nearly 9500 people evacuated Earlier in the day, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg said that nearly 9,000 people have been evacuated from affected areas in Budgam as a precautionary measure following a breach in the Jhelum embankment.

He also urged people not to panic, assuring that the situation is under control as the water level is receding. “Some areas of Budgam were inundated, but as a precautionary measure, we carried out evacuations last night itself. Around 9,000 people were safely shifted to avoid any loss of life,” Garg told reporters.

Similarly, the Police in Srinagar said they rescued and evacuated nearly 200 families from flood-affected areas of the district.

The district police have formed quick reaction teams to actively assist stranded citizens, a police spokesperson said.

“In response to the ongoing flood-like situation and heavy waterlogging in various parts of the city, Srinagar Police, in close coordination with SDRF and River Police, has activated a comprehensive evacuation and relocation plan to safeguard the lives and well-being of affected citizens,” he said.

The spokesperson said teams from concerned police stations, along with River Police and SDRF units, have been deployed under the supervision of territorial officers across multiple vulnerable locations in the district.

“These teams have successfully evacuated and relocated nearly 200 families and individuals from the severely impacted areas, which included 24 families and houseboat dwellers who were rescued from Peerzo Island and Basant Bagh,” he said.

According to the spokesperson, 39 families were evacuated from Bonyarbhal, S R Gunj, Malik Sahib, Safakadal, Pamposh Colony, Noorbagh, Guzarbal, and Madanyar Fateh Kadal. “Around 20 families and individuals were evacuated and relocated from Dedi Kadal, Habba Kadal, Zaindar Mohalla, Tankipora, Karan Nagar, Kursoo, Iqbal Colony, and Aramwari, while 20 families were rescued from Tailbal and vulnerable areas of Hazratbal,” he added.

The spokesperson said 63 individuals were rescued and relocated from Panzinara-Mujgund, Bund Side, Maloora Bund, Khawajabagh Bund, Parimpora Bund, Bilal Colony Bund, Qamarwari, Rampora Chattabal Bund, Zenpora, and Tengan.

Landslides damage infrastructure Moreover, a series of landslides disrupted life and infrastructure across parts of Jammu and Kashmir, damaging projects, transport links, and border fencing while prompting multiple rescue operations.

In Kishtwar district, a landslide struck temporary tin structures at the Rattle power project site in Dhrabshala. The sheds, which had been erected for use as washrooms, collapsed under the impact.

Five people who were inside at the time were trapped. They were pulled out by the local administration and rescue teams. Three among them were shifted to the Government Medical College Hospital in Doda for treatment, officials said.

Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office, Dr Jitendra Singh, said he had spoken with Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Sharma following the incident. He wrote on X that the timely response by the district administration had prevented further harm. Singh added that the rescued individuals were receiving medical attention and other required support.

Elsewhere, connectivity was affected in several sectors, including in many parts of Kishtwar. The Jammu–Katra shuttle train, introduced recently to facilitate local travel and assist stranded passengers, remained out of service for a second consecutive day due to flood-related damage and landslides along the route.

Officials also said that nearly 30 kilometres of fencing along the international border in Jammu division had been impacted by floodwaters.

In several areas, the barriers were submerged, displaced, or bent, creating additional security and maintenance challenges, they said.

In Udhampur district, a major landslide hit a section of National Highway-44, the primary road link between Jammu and Srinagar. The incident took place at Tharad, where a 200-metre stretch was damaged by hill movement.

Teams from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have been deployed to restore traffic and clear debris. The disruption has added to the difficulties faced by commuters and transporters already struggling with weather-related closures.

In Ramban district, police and local administration carried out a rescue operation after around 50 tourists from West Bengal were stranded near Nashri on the Jammu–Srinagar highway.

The group, which included women and children, had been stuck for several hours after sudden flash floods and falling debris cut off movement on the road.

The official said that a team from Police Station Batote, joined by the Tehsildar and the disaster management unit, responded soon after receiving information. The visitors were moved to Batote, where they were accommodated in safer conditions. According to police, all tourists were unharmed.

Weather forecast

Pertinently, the weather conditions improved across Jammu and Kashmir since yesterday afternoon, with the weatherman predicting dry weather conditions till September 07.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that a brief spell of rain and thunder is expected at a few places with moderate showers at one or two districts of Jammu division for the next three days.

He added that on September 8 and 9, a spell of moderate rain is expected over a few districts of Jammu division during 8th late night and 9th morning and improvement thereafter. Also, from September 10 to 12, a brief spell of rain and thundershower activity is expected at

a few places. (KNO)

GST 2.0 double

polls later this year, while Diwali and Navratri are celebrated across the country.

Modi’s remarks came a day after the GST Council approved a complete overhaul of the tangled Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime with a two-tier rate structure of 5 and 18 per cent.

He also slammed the previous Congress governments for levying high taxes on kitchen essentials and items related to farming and agriculture, or even medicines.

“Had that regime continued, you would have been paying 20-25 rupees tax on every purchase worth Rs 100. But the aim of our government is to ensure maximum savings in the lives of common people, and to make people’s lives better,” the prime minister said.

He likened the GST reforms to adding ‘Panch Ratna’ (five gems) - simpler tax system, better quality of life for citizens, boost for consumption and growth, encouraging investments and job creation through ease of doing business and strengthening cooperative federalism for developed India - to the country’s economy.

“Without timely changes, we cannot give our country its rightful place in today’s global context. I had said from the Red Fort on 15 August this time that it is crucial to undertake next-generation reforms to make India self-reliant. I had also promised the countrymen that there would be a double blast of happiness before this Diwali and Chhath Puja,” he added.

The prime minister called upon students to think of ways to fulfil at least one need of the country.

He said the new law to regulate online gaming will safeguard the future of the country’s youth.

“Gaming is not bad, but gambling is and the future of our youth must be safeguarded,” he said, adding that India can dominate the global online gaming market, if it is done in the right manner.

“Today, the nation has a government that has political will and that cares for the bright future of the youth. We have enacted the law related to online gaming without heeding to any pressure,” the prime minister said.

He also made a strong pitch for the use of ‘swadeshi’ products and urged students and teachers to lead campaigns for ‘vocal for local’.

According to the reforms approved by the GST Council on Wednesday, common use items from roti/paratha to hair oil, ice creams and TVs will cost less, while tax incidence on personal health and life insurance will be brought down to nil.

Almost all personal-use items and aspirational goods for the middle class, like AC, washing machines, will see rate cuts as the government looks to boost domestic spending and cushion the economic blow of the US tariffs.

Premium paid for individual life insurance and health insurance (including family floater), policies too have been exempted from GST. Earlier, such policies were subject to 18 per cent GST.

LG Sinha thanks

farmers and accelerate manufacturing. It’ll improve ease of living and ease of doing business while further strengthening our fastest growing economy.”utenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the Next-Gen GST Reforms.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor, according to KNO said: “Heartfelt thanks to PM Narendra Modi ji and FM Nirmala Sitharaman Ji for Next-Gen GST Reforms. It’ll empower MSMEs and farmers and accelerate manufacturing. It’ll improve ease of living and ease of doing business while further strengthening our fastest growing economy.”—(KNO)

LG congratulates

and University of Jammu has secured 21st rank under State Public Universities category. This is a commendable achievement and a testament to transformative efforts to create world-class teaching and research institutes.

IIT Jammu, NIT Srinagar and IIM Jammu have figured among the top 100 institutes in Engineering and Management categories respectively, while SMVDU has earned a place in the top 25 for Architecture. I congratulate all universities and institutes for this remarkable accomplishment”.

Thanks PM

of State (I/C), Ministry of AYUSH, Prataprao Jadhav for granting 35 Ayurveda PG Seats for Government Ayurvedic Medical College, Akhnoor.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said: “Heartfelt gratitude to Hon’ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji and Union MoS (I/C), Ministry of Ayush, Shri Prataprao Jadhav Ji for granting 35 Ayurveda PG Seats for Govt Ayurvedic Medical College, Akhnoor. This is a first for J&K and a huge gift for aspirants of Ayurveda Practices in UT.

Ayurveda, the traditional medicine system has gained global popularity and the people across the world are adopting Ayurveda techniques for healthcare needs of people and well-being of the body, mind and spirit and management of various diseases.

The 7 new PG Degree Programmes with 35 seats at GAMC Akhnoor will further strengthen J&K’s health architecture and popularize traditional medicine system. The human resource in Ayurveda practices and research and collaborations will help in promoting preventive and holistic care.”

500 fruit laden

Ramban-Banihal stretch. This stretch will be restored for vehicular movement by tonight,” they added.

Stranded for over ten days, drivers on the Qazigund side are pleading for assistance as the load in their trucks is about to perish and they are running out of resources. “We have neither rations nor money. We need facilities here and the highway should be restored on a war footing basis,” said a driver.

Meanwhile, the strategic Mughal Road,

connecting Poonch and Rajouri with Shopian in south Kashmir, is also closed due to landslides and shooting stones at several locations, while the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road remains shut due to unstable conditions. (KNO)

11 years wasted

11 years have been wasted.”

CM Abdullah said that in the next week, he will conduct a review to see what has been done in the last 11 years and what needs to be done to ensure that such a situation is prevented in the future. We will raise the questions in this regard to get the answers, he said.

“As the teams from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) have been deputed to Jammu districts, I will write to the Home Minister Amit Shah to depute the team to Kashmir districts also to assess the damage caused to the orchards, agriculture and other things due to the floods and announce the package for both Jammu as well as Kashmir accordingly,” he said.

About the floods, the CM said Srinagar has been protected, but some areas like Lasjan and others have been submerged. He, however, added that the administration, including Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and MLAs, have evacuated the people on time, which saved lives, but there is undeniable damage to the properties.

During his visit to Tengan and Shalina in Budgam, Abdullah reviewed the situation caused by continuous rains and rising water levels in the Jhelum, which led to breaches and flooding of nearby areas. He commended the swift action of the administration and MLAs, who remained on the ground during the crisis. (KNO)

Seven Kashmir

condolences go out to the affected families. I pray for peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved families in this hour of grief,” Sukhu said in his condolence message.

CM Sukhu said all possible measures were being taken to ensure swift rescue and relief.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that rescue operations are on and that many victims are residents of Tulail, Bandipora, who were working as labourers in Himachal.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) said a landslide in Kullu led to the collapse of two houses, leaving around 12–13 persons feared trapped.

“An NDRF team carried out collapsed structure search and rescue (CSSR) operations, during which three injured persons were rescued and one body was recovered. Search and rescue operations are continuing to trace the remaining trapped victims,” the NDRF posted on X.

In a post on X, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister’s office expressed grief over the loss of lives in Kullu and assured all possible assistance is being extended.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed grief over the unfortunate landslide incident in Kullu. The LG said that the landslide incident in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, is unfortunate and saddening. “A resident of J&K has lost his life, and many others are feared trapped under the debris,” he added.

“My deepest condolences to the bereaved family, and I pray for the safety and well-being of others,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma said he was deeply saddened by the tragic landslide in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, which claimed several lives, including those of residents from Jammu and Kashmir. He conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

“My heartfelt prayers are with those affected by this calamity. May the families find strength and the injured regain health soon,” Sharma said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary has spoken with the Deputy Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, seeking urgent intervention in connection with the landslide tragedy in Kullu district. MLA Gurezi, Nazir Gurezi, also held a telephonic conversation with the Deputy Commissioner Kullu regarding the rescue operation.

Gurezi said he is in constant touch with the Kullu administration, which has assured him that the evacuation of the deceased will begin once rescue operations conclude.

Expressing grief over the loss of lives, Gurezi conveyed condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for peace for the departed. He assured that all possible support will be extended to the affected families. (KNO)

Trapped in Kullu rains

“We are stuck here without our children and families. On one side there is water and on the other there are broken roads. Where can we go? We appeal Jammu and Kashmir Government to rescue us so that we can return home,” one of the stranded men, Fareed Ahmad Khan, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), over phone.

He said they left their rented quarters after repeated landslides and now have no shelter. “People who had relatives here moved in with them, but we are left with nothing except Allah. If anything happens, who will even know?” another survivor, Nasir Ahmad Khan, said.

Other workers described how relentless rains have worsened the situation. “It has been nearly two months of continuous rain, and in the past 15 days it has become even more dangerous. Just yesterday, a big patch of land collapsed near us. We live in constant fear,” they added.

Back in Kashmir, families are spending sleepless nights. Videos circulating on social media show relatives sitting together, eyes moist, praying for their safe return.

“Death is written for everyone, but at least if we are at home, our families will see our faces one last time,” said, Fareed Ahmad in a choking voice. (KNO)

‘Mission Mausam’:

ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures following unprecedented rainfall, cloudbursts, and flash floods across the districts.

Dr Singh said that Union Ministry of Earth

Sciences, in collaboration with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), will install four additional weather radars in J&K.

Three radars are already operational in the region, and the new installations aim to provide more precise monitoring of extreme weather events.

Dr Singh directed the Ministry of Earth Sciences and IMD to issue dedicated, district-specific forecasts for North Indian states including Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Punjab. He also instructed round-the-clock monitoring of weather patterns to ensure timely alerts and minimize loss of life and property.

The Minister commended the efforts of district administrations and civil society, noting that despite challenging weather conditions, officials have worked tirelessly to provide rations, medicines, and shelter to affected families.

Dr Singh, who is also the Lok Sabha MP from Udhampur, confirmed that additional consignments of ration kits, advanced water filters, and essential medicines are being dispatched from his own MP funds to supplement government relief measures. He also highlighted measures taken to prevent water-borne diseases by ensuring access to potable drinking water and medical kits.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are closely monitoring the situation, with an inter-ministerial committee set to visit Kathua to assess damages and coordinate assistance, Dr Singh added.

In Doda, DC Harvinder Singh said that timely intervention prevented large-scale inundation in Bhaderwah by clearing blocked culverts and diverting water channels during peak floods.

In Udhampur, 38 relief camps accommodate over 2,000 people, while around 190 of the 380 damaged roads have been restored. In Kathua, 26 relief camps shelter 1,900 people, with restoration of roads and water supply schemes ongoing. Ramban and Kishtwar also saw swift response operations, including the rescue of five people trapped in a landslide at the Rattle Power Project.

Dr Singh assured that no effort would be spared in providing relief and rehabilitation across all affected districts, praising the role of local authorities and community volunteers as integral to a coordinated government response. (KNO)

Kashmir flood

and Budgam districts are being restored and we are expecting their restoration by today late evening,” the official said.

In case of the flood hit areas of Budgam district, the official said that the Khadermoh feeder is the main network for the power distribution to Summerbugh, Lasjan, Shalina, Rakh-Shalina and adjacent areas. “The feeder is down due to the floods in the surrounding areas. But overall our 98 percent network is functional.”

On asking about the damage, the official added that “Nearly a dozen DT transformers were washed away by floods in Anantnag district and we are yet to make an final assessment of damage to power infrastructure.” (KNO)

Curb sale of

the petitioner. Petitioner Advocate Mir Umar was present in person.

The bench noted that replies had not yet been filed by the Commissioners of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). It directed that if responses are not submitted before the next hearing, the concerned officers must appear in person before the court.

The case also drew attention to a news report in regarding the seizure of 21 quintals of synthetic cheese and expired oil. The bench directed the respondents to file replies on this matter as well.

By directing the IGP’s of Jammu and Kashmir divisions, along with the Commissioner, Food Safety, to monitor the sale and transport of meat products, the court signaled an enforcement-led approach to food safety. Compliance reports are expected on September 10.

Earlier, public health advocates and sections of civil society have long raised concerns over poor monitoring of food products in the region. (KNO)

Police lead major

all agencies involved, saying their united effort to safeguard lives and property. He said all rescue and relief operations are being carried out under the direct supervision of territorial officers.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that evacuations were carried out under the direct supervision of territorial officers.

Around 24 families and houseboat dwellers were rescued from Peerzo Island and Basantbagh; 39 families from Bonyarbhal, S.R. Gunj, Malik Sahib, Safakadal, Pamposh Colony, Noorbagh, Guzarbal, and Madanyar Fateh Kadal, they said, adding that 20 families and individuals from Dedi Kadal, Habba Kadal, Zaindar Mohalla, Tankipora, Karan Nagar, Kursoo, Iqbal Colony, and Aramwari; and another 20 families from Tailbal and vulnerable pockets of Hazratbal.

Additionally, 63 individuals were evacuated from Panzinara-Mujgund, Maloora Bund, Khawajabagh Bund, Parimpora Bund, Bilal Colony Bund, Qamarwari, Rampora Chattabal Bund, Zenpora, and Tengan.

Besides rescue efforts, police personnel plugged potential breaches at multiple embankments, preventing further escalation of the situation. Quick Response Teams (QRTs) and contingency squads have been activated across all police establishments to regulate traffic, provide frontline assistance, and reach stranded families in time.

Srinagar Police have also set up dedicated 24x7 helplines while publishing contact numbers of district officers to ensure immediate public access during emergencies.

Meanwhile, people have been urged to avoid unnecessary travel during heavy rains, report waterlogging, fallen trees, or electrical hazards, and cooperate fully with emergency services.

IGP Bidhuri, speaking to reporters here, said all departments, including the Police, Army, SDRF, NDRF and civil administration, are working in close coordination to ensure timely rescue and relief.

“Our forces are on the ground wherever water entered residential areas. Rescue teams remain on standby, and whenever a call is received, the nearest unit responds immediately,” he said.

He added that police units have been directed to patrol along Jhelum’s embankments to detect seepages or breaches. “If such situations arise, they are reported to flood control authorities, and plugging operations are initiated without delay,” Bidhuri said.

The IGP urged people to remain calm, follow advisories, and cooperate with authorities. “Weather is showing signs of improvement, and water levels are expected to recede. All agencies are united in this mission to safeguard lives and property,” he added.

“J&K Police remain fully committed to public safety and will continue to extend all possible assistance during these challenging times,” the IGP said. (KNO)

DGP hails JKP

the ground to safeguard lives of people amid the heavy rains.

DGP Prabhath, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) toured several flood-hit areas of Jammu district to review rescue and relief operations amid rising water levels in rivers Tawi, Chenab and adjoining nallahs following continuous rainfall. He was accompanied by DIG JSK Range Shiv Kumar, SSP Jammu and SP Rural.

The DGP visited Mangu Chak, Makwal, Miran Sahib, Domana and other vulnerable belts, meeting police officers, SDRF teams and jawans engaged in rescue work. He praised their efforts in evacuating people and providing timely help to affected families.

In Akhnoor, the DGP inspected Jio Pota Ghat, Steel Bridge and the Fort area before chairing a review meeting with senior police and BSF officers, including DIG BSF Varinder Dutta. He directed all agencies to work in close coordination to ensure public safety.

At Garkhal, the DGP personally oversaw the rescue of 47 civilians trapped in the Chenab. In a joint operation by J&K Police and BSF, all were safely rescued and airlifted from Fatu Kotli area.

He lauded the timely action of police officers and jawans, while also interacting with BSF personnel and appreciating their role in both border security and disaster response. MLA Akhnoor, Mohan Bhagat, thanked the police and BSF for saving precious lives.

Later, the DGP, along with DIG JSK Range, visited Gujjar Nagar, Hari Ki Pori, Gorakhnagar and Bagh-e-Bahu to assess the Tawi water level and directed field officers to remain on high alert for rescue and evacuation. He commended all personnel working tirelessly on the ground to safeguard lives amid the heavy rains. (KNO)

J&K’s SDRF struggles

is the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)—the only specialised unit trained and equipped to deal with such emergencies. However, this crucial force today stands severely understaffed and under-resourced, raising serious concerns about its ability to respond effectively in times of crisis.

Currently, SDRF operates with just two battalions, one each stationed in Jammu and Srinagar; however, these battalions have witnessed no enhancement in sanctioned strength since their inception, despite growing challenges and in contrast, their manpower is far less than that of a typical armed battalion and pales in comparison to the capacity of an NDRF unit.

“Adding to the crisis, most of the existing personnel are over the age of 50, with little to no fresh recruitment taking place over the years. This ageing workforce is directly impacting ground-level service delivery, especially during high-intensity disasters like the recent cloudbursts that struck several parts of J&K,” an official said. “In many districts, SDRF has only 20–25 personnel, a number too meagre to provide meaningful intervention when thousands of lives and properties are at risk.”

The Commandant General of Home Guards, Civil Defence & SDRF has repeatedly highlighted the urgent requirement to strengthen the force. Proposals to create fresh posts and expand the force have been submitted, but the files continue to languish in the corridors of bureaucracy, he said.

During a review meeting of the Home Department in December 2024, the Lieutenant Governor acknowledged the urgent need to augment SDRF’s strength and called for immediate steps. However, the proposal remains stuck in the Finance Department, which continues to raise queries “in instalments”, delaying the process indefinitely, the official said.

Experts and officials said J&K needs at least four more battalions of SDRF to cope with its disaster-prone geography. Yet, the government has so far not even approved the creation of around 300 posts, let alone larger structural reforms, a senior official said. “This administrative apathy has left the force crippled, with its numbers dwindling each year. If the current trend persists, the SDRF could be left with only a handful of men in the next decade.”

Ironically, while the executive and armed wings of the J&K Police have seen the creation of thousands of posts over the past decade, the SDRF has not been granted a single new post in its executive cadre, the official said, adding that this neglect has left disaster preparedness in the UT hanging by a thread.

He said the SDRF has the potential to save countless lives and protect property during disasters, but instead of being strengthened, it is being allowed to wither away. The issue, he stressed, requires immediate intervention from the highest levels of government.

The onus, the official said, now lies on the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister to step in and ensure that the long-pending file for augmentation of SDRF strength is cleared without further delay. (KNO)

SC asks replies from Centre, NDMA, flood-affected states

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 04: Considering the unprecedented landslides and flooding in states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the Supreme Court on Thursday sought the stand of the Centre, National Disaster Management Authority and others, and observed "illegal felling of trees led to the disasters".

Observing a balance ought to be struck between "development and environment", a bench of Chief Justice B R Gavi and Justice K Vinod Chandran also issued notices to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the National Highway Authorities of India (NHAI), as well as the governments of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

"We have seen unprecedented landslides and floods in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. From the media reports, it is noticed that in the flood, a huge amount of wood was flowing along. Prima facie, it appears that there has been illegal felling of trees. Thus, issue notice to respondents," the CJ said.

The bench granted advocates Akash Vashishtha and Shubham Upadhyay, appearing for petitioner Anamika Rana, to serve the notice and the copy of the



Pic: BIKAS BHAGAT (KNO/KT)

petition at the central agency.

The CJ during the hearing asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was present in the court in connection with another case, to take note of the grim situation and ensure remedial steps.

"Please take note of this. It appears to be a serious issue. A large number of wooden logs are seen to be falling around... it shows illegal felling of trees. We have seen pictures of Punjab. Entire fields and crops are inundated...Development has to be balanced with mitigating measures," the CJ said.

"We have interfered with nature so much...that nature is giving back now. I will speak to the secretary of the

environment ministry today itself and he will speak to the chief secretaries (of the states)," the law officer said.

Such situations cannot be permitted, Mehta added.

The petitioner's counsel said there instances of people being trapped in tunnels and on the verge of "near death situations".

The CJ said he noticed the seriousness of the issue and posted the matter after two weeks. he plea, filed through lawyer Akash Vashishtha, has sought framing of action plan and SIT inquiry into the reasons of landslides and flash floods besides the measures to ensure that such disasters do not recur.

"The Central and state

governments, in spite of having dedicated Disaster Authorities, have no plan in place to prevent or mitigate the losses due to these disasters whose frequency has increased alarmingly of late," it said.

It said the ministries of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Jal Shakti have failed in their duty to protect the "pristine Ecology and the Rivers of the Himalayan region from degradation".

"The Petition is being filed bona fide in the larger public interest to ensure and to uphold the Constitutional Right to Life (Article 21) and access to justice of the residents of these Himalayan States," it said.

Seeking appropriate directions, the plea sought to constitute an independent expert committee to carry out geological, geo-technical or environmental/ecological investigation into all road/highway projects where landslides have occurred and assess the causes of floods and flash floods in the rivers, rivulets, streams, water courses, channels in the Himalayan states, particularly Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand besides Jammu and Kashmir.

The plea also sought a direction to the Centre and others to ensure emergency relief, rescue, safety, and first-aid for affected citizens.

GST cut on drugs, medical devices to provide relief to patients: Industry players

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 04: The government's move to cut GST on medicines and medical devices while exempting lifesaving drugs from the levy is a bold step that will bring direct relief to patients and families while significantly reducing financial strain on them, pharmaceuticals and healthcare industry players said on Thursday.

The bold reforms will improve accessibility of medicines, ensure accessibility to quality healthcare and contribute positively to the government's vision of affordable healthcare for all, they said.

The government's decision to exempt life-saving and cancer medicines from GST is a step that will bring direct relief to patients and their families, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance Secretary General Sudarshan Jain said. "Equally, the reduction in GST on a wide range of medicines from 12 per cent to 5 per cent will help ease the overall treatment burden and make essential therapies more affordable," he added.

Similarly, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) Director General Anil Matai said, "The decision to reduce GST on lifesaving medicines -- bringing 33 essential drugs from 12 per cent to nil and three critical drugs for cancer, rare diseases, and other severe chronic conditions from 5 per cent to nil -- is both historic



and compassionate. This bold step will significantly reduce the financial strain on patients and families." Equally impactful are the reductions in GST on all other medicines to 5 per cent and on a wide range of medical apparatus, diagnostic kits, surgical devices, and healthcare supplies, he added.

"This move will make healthcare more affordable and accessible at every level, from hospitals to households. By realigning the GST structure, the government has sent out a strong signal of prioritising patient well-being and strengthening India's journey towards universal health coverage," Matai said. The reduction in GST would be passed down to patients, helping reduce the cost of treatment, while also improving access and creating greater demand for quality healthcare, he added.

NATHEALTH President and

Executive Chairperson Metropolis Healthcare Ltd Ameera Shah said, "By easing costs and improving affordability, the measure will enhance access to quality healthcare services, support early disease detection, and bring greater consistency by standardising GST rates across preventive, curative and rehabilitative care." Apollo Health Co Ltd Executive Chairperson Shobana Kamineni said, "Zero GST on health and life insurance is a masterstroke, making protection a right, not a privilege."

Stating that reductions in medicines and supplies bring affordable care to every household, she said, "By putting empathy and the middle class at the centre, the government has enabled millions to access healthcare with dignity."

Similarly, Poly Medicure Ltd Managing Director Himanshu Baid welcomed the landmark decision to reduce GST from 12 per cent to 5 per cent on a wide range of medical products, including diagnostic kits, reagents, surgical apparatus and other critical medtech products.

"This progressive reform will directly benefit patients by lowering treatment costs, improving affordability, and expanding access to essential medical technologies. It is a transformative step that will strengthen India's healthcare system and advance the vision of affordable healthcare for all," he added.

GST cuts on farm inputs, dairy products 'big Diwali gift' for farmers: Agri industry

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 04: Industry leaders across agriculture and dairy sectors on Thursday welcomed the government's decision to reduce GST rates on key agricultural inputs and dairy products, calling it a major relief for farmers grappling with rising input costs and weather uncertainties.

The GST Council's move to slash rates on fertilisers, biopesticides, farm equipment and dairy products is expected to boost farmer incomes while making nutritious food more affordable for consumers.

Sunil Kataria, CEO and MD of Godrej Agrovet Ltd, said the GST reduction on fertilisers and biopesticides would provide "big relief" to farmers at a time when



agricultural crops have been adversely impacted by erratic weather patterns.

"With average input costs making up around 30-40 per cent of total cultivation expenses, lowering these costs will increase accessibility of quality crop protection solutions, thereby helping farmers enhance yield and boost income," Kataria said in a statement.

The executive added that the decision to reduce GST on dairy products to 5 per cent would improve affordability and consumption, addressing the country's protein deficiency while uplifting dairy farming families.

Narinder Mittal, President & Managing Director of CNH India, hailed the GST reduction on farm

equipment, components and tyres to 5 per cent, saying it would accelerate mechanisation by making tractors, harvesters and implements more affordable.

"These reforms will empower industry players to address labour shortages, enhance farmer productivity, and promote sustainable practices," Mittal said, adding that the move provides the right environment for further localisation and innovation.

He noted that the reform was particularly timely ahead of the harvesting season, as lower costs would enable more farmers to adopt baling solutions, potentially reducing crop residue burning.

Divya Kumar Gulati, Chairman of the Compound Livestock Feed

Manufacturers' Association of India (CLFMA), termed the GST reduction on dairy products a "progressive step" that would benefit India's 80 million dairy farmers.

With UHT milk becoming tax-free and products like condensed milk, butter, ghee, paneer and cheese moving from 12 per cent to 5 per cent, the reforms are expected to boost rural incomes and encourage greater investment in feed and animal care.

Devendra Shah, Chairman of Parag Milk Foods Ltd, said the move would particularly benefit price-sensitive rural and semi-urban consumers. "Higher demand will allow farmers better income stability and confidence to invest in better cattle care and feed," he said.

Centre seeks transfer of pleas against online gaming law from HCs to SC

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 04: The Centre has sought the transfer of pleas challenging the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 from three high courts to the Supreme Court to avoid conflicting verdicts.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavi and Justice K Vinod Chandran has agreed to list for hearing next week the plea of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for transfer of three pending cases from the high courts of Karnataka, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh to the apex court.

"(The) Union has filed a transfer plea... The Online Gaming Regulation Act has been challenged before three high courts. If it can be listed on Monday since it's listed for interim orders before the Karnataka High Court," the Centre's counsel said.



Besides seeking the transfer of pleas, the Centre sought a stay of all proceedings in the writ petitions" in different high courts till the transfer petition was disposed of.

Due to multiple litigations pending before various High Courts involving same or substantially similar question of law and challenging the vires of the same Impugned Act, it is imperative that the same is transferred to this court or any High Court to avoid any divergence of opinions or

multiplicity of proceedings, the plea said.

It said after the law got President's assent, multiple petitions were filed in the high courts challenging the validity of the Act.

The impugned Act has been enacted with the objective of promoting and strategically regulating the online gaming sector, while safeguarding citizens from the adverse effects of online money games, and simultaneously encouraging and regulating other forms of online gaming, it said.

In 2021, over a billion people were affected by mental health conditions: WHO

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 04: More than a billion people around the world – around one in every seven – were living with mental health conditions in 2021, with anxiety and depressive disorders accounting for over two-thirds of all cases, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said.

The disorders exact immense human and economic tolls, the United Nations' health agency added. Suicide is a major cause of death among youths, accounting for over one in 100 deaths across the globe and about 20 attempts made for each death, the WHO said in reports titled 'World Mental Health Today' and 'Mental Health Atlas 2024'.

Authors of the reports also said that schizophrenia and bipolar disorder – affecting about 1 in 200 and 1 in 150 adults, respectively – are a primary concern.

"Schizophrenia in its acute state is modelled to be the most impairing of all health conditions" and is the "costliest mental disorder per person to society," they wrote. The condition is marked by hallucinations and a disorganised way of



thinking.

The findings are based on the analysis of databases 'Global Health Estimates 2021' – managed by the WHO – and 'Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study 2021', which is co-ordinated by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington.

The U.N. health agency said the estimates are the latest on the prevalence and burden of mental disorders and also reveal country-wise information on gaps in mental health care – the first such estimates since the COVID-19 pandemic that broke out in 2020.

The reports highlight that a sustained investment in mental health and care is urgently needed, with a scale-up in services to protect and promote people's

mental health, it said.

"Transforming mental health services is one of the most pressing public health challenges," WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "Investing in mental health means investing in people, communities, and economies – an investment no country can afford to neglect. Every government and every leader have a responsibility to act with urgency and to ensure that mental health care is treated not as a privilege, but as a basic right for all," he said.

The authors also drew attention to the "staggering" and "enormous" economic impacts of mental health disorders, with losses in productivity and indirect costs to society far outstripping health care costs. Depression and anxiety, whilst being less

costly per person, collectively contribute majorly to overall national costs because of a wider, more common prevalence – yearly losses in the world's productivity linked to the conditions are estimated at \$one trillion, the team found.

Since 2020, countries have made significant strides in strengthening mental health policies and planning. However, the progress has not translated into a legal reform, the authors said.

Typically, governments around the world were found to spend only 2% of total health budgets on mental health – "unchanged since 2017". Disparities in expenditure ranged from \$65 per person in high-income countries to \$0.04 in low-income countries.

Globally, 13 mental health workers typically cater to one lakh people, with "extreme shortages in low- and middle-income countries," the authors said. Globally, 13 mental health workers typically cater to one lakh people, with "extreme shortages in low- and middle-income countries," the authors said.

INOX
SRINAGAR

Movies Schedule

Friday, 5th September



BAAGHI 4 (A)
HINDI - 04:20 PM
HINDI ATMOS - 06:50 PM



LOKAH CHAPTER 1 CHANDRA (U/A16+)
MALAYALAM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
03:00 PM



THE BENGAL FILES (A)
HINDI - 06:00 PM



THE CONJURING LAST RITES (A)
ENG ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 04:00 PM
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 07:30 PM



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India-Singapore relations go far beyond diplomacy: PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 04: India and Singapore on Thursday unveiled a roadmap to expand their comprehensive strategic partnership with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong underlining the need to bolster the ties to navigate the current geopolitical turbulence in the world.

Modi and Wong, who arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday, held wide-ranging talks covering the entire expanse of the bilateral ties.

India-Singapore relations go far beyond diplomacy, Modi said in Wong's presence. The prime minister said both sides decided that cooperation between the two countries in areas of artificial intelligence, quantum and other digital technologies will be enhanced.

"We share common concerns regarding terrorism," Modi said in his statement to the media.

"We believe that fighting against terrorism with unity is the duty of all countries which believe in humanity," he added.

Modi said the partnership between the two countries is rooted in shared



values and it is guided by mutual interests and a common vision for peace and prosperity.

On his part, Wong said in a world marked by uncertainty and turbulence, the partnership between India and Singapore becomes even more important.

A number of pacts were signed between the two sides following the Modi-Wong talks.

An agreement on digital asset innovation between the Reserve Bank of India and the Monetary Authority of Singapore is one of them.

Afghanistan earthquake death toll rises, survivors face aid crunch

REUTERS

Kabul/Mazar Dara, Sept 04: Rescue workers battled to pull bodies from the rubble of homes razed in Afghanistan's earthquakes this week, as time runs out for survivors, who face a bleak future with global aid agencies warning of dwindling funds for food, shelter and medicines.

Search operations ran late into Wednesday in the quake-hit mountainous eastern areas as more bodies were dug out, the Taliban administration said, adding that the death toll had crossed 1,457 but exact numbers had yet to be compiled.

"Everything we had has been destroyed," said Aalem Jan, a survivor in the worst affected province of Kunar.

"Our house collapsed, and all our belongings and possessions were lost. The only remaining things are these clothes on our backs."

The first earthquake of magnitude 6, one of Afghanistan's deadliest in recent years, unleashed widespread damage and destruction in the provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar on Sunday, when it struck at a shallow depth of 10 km (6 miles).

A second quake of magnitude 5.5 on Tuesday caused panic and interrupted rescue efforts as it sent rocks sliding down mountains and cut off roads to villages in remote areas.

About 3,400 more have been injured and more than 6,700 homes have been destroyed, authorities have said. The United Nations has warned the toll could rise with people still trapped under rubble as time runs out for survivors.

IPL tickets to become more expensive with govt's 40% GST decision



PTI

New Delhi, Sept 04: Indian cricket fans, who love turning up for IPL matches across the country, will have to shell out more for tickets next season with government raising the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on admission to these games from 28 per cent to 40 per cent.

According to a Ministry of Finance release issued late on Wednesday, "Admission to casinos, race clubs, any place having casinos or race clubs or sporting events like IPL will have GST of 40 per cent with ITC (Input Tax Credit)."

An IPL ticket with a base price Rs 500 before GST till last season would ultimately cost Rs 640 with GST levied at 28 per cent. However, during the 2026 edition, the same ticket will now cost Rs 700 after imposition of 40

per cent GST by the government.

This is because IPL tickets have been classified in the 'Luxury Goods' category.

However, India's international games have been classified under other sporting events and would invite a lesser GST of 18 per cent on tickets priced above Rs 500.

Any tickets priced below Rs 500 will be exempted from GST.

The rule states: "Admission to other sporting events including recognised sporting events where the ticket price is not more than '500 continues to be exempt, and if the ticket price is more than Rs. 500, it continues to be taxed at the standard rate of 18 per cent."

As far as IPL is concerned, the ticketing is not controlled by the BCCI and every franchise decides the rates at their respective home grounds.

Flood in several areas of Srinagar outskirts and south Kashmir's Pampore

Pics: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

