



Jhelum calms as level falls below danger mark

Pampore station sees drop after 53 hours, RM Bagh after 30 hours; MeT says no possibility of major wet spell in next 3 days

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Sept 05: The flood threat in Kashmir is almost over as the roaring river Jhelum has witnessed a fall at all the stations after two days, bringing respite to the people from the risk of a deluge.

According to the details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the water level in Jhelum was above the danger mark at Pampore and Ram Munshi Bagh stations till yesterday, but the situation has calmed as both the stations have now witnessed a fall in the water level.

Pampore station saw a drop in water level below the danger mark after a gap of 53 hours, while Ram Munshi Bagh witnessed the fall after 30 hours. Notably, Sangam station had witnessed a drop in the water level to below the danger level after 28 hours yesterday, which was flowing at 16.41 ft this evening.

The latest readings at River



Jhelum show: Pampore: 4.97m (danger mark: 5 m); and Ram Munshi Bagh: 18.93 ft (danger mark: 21 ft).

Other readings include Asham: 13.58 ft (danger mark: 16.5 ft) and Wullar: 1577.22 m (full level: 1578 m).

Regarding tributaries, the data show: Vishnu Nallah at Khudwani: 4.92 m (danger mark: 8.5 m); Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi: 1.34 m (danger mark: 5.7 m); Lidder Nallah at Batkoot: 0.25 m (danger mark:

1.65 m); and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama: 1.76 m (danger mark: 3.9 m).

Notably, the rise in the water levels in the river Jhelum and other tributaries led to a flood-like situation across Kashmir, while several areas in Srinagar outskirts got submerged yesterday, causing extensive losses to properties.

The government had yesterday informed that nearly 9500 people were evacuated after the floods in | [More on P6](#)

Don't lower guard, next 72 hours crucial: CM Omar

» Chairs 3rd meeting in 3 days to review situation in Kashmir

» Asks officials to plug in breaches without delay

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 05: Stating that the next 72 hours are crucial, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday directed officials to maintain strict vigil and plug in the breaches along the river Jhelum and other streams across Kashmir.

The Chief Minister, according to the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) while chairing a meeting for the third consecutive day here to assess the flood situation in Kashmir directed the officials not to lower the guard till the situation becomes completely normal.

Pertinently, the incessant rains created a flood-like situation at multiple places in the Valley with many areas getting submerged amidst the rise in the water levels in river Jhelum and other tributaries.

The Jhelum was flowing above flood declaration mark till this evening at Pampore and Ram Munshi Bagh stations.

The Chief Minister stated that the next 72 hours are



crucial. He asked the officials to maintain strict vigil and ensure that the breaches are plugged in without any delay. He also stated that while the water has started receding, they cannot afford any complacency.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir briefed the meeting on the water levels at Sangam, Ram Munshi Bagh, and Asham, confirming that the Jhelum has receded below the danger mark. He informed that teams from the Irrigation & Flood

Control (I&FC) Department, police, and other agencies are patrolling vulnerable embankments and reinforcing them with sandbags. Inundated villages in Shalina are witnessing receding waters, and relief measures are underway for displaced families.

On restoration efforts, the meeting was informed that water supply schemes are functioning with only minor disruptions, while power, telecom, and health services remain largely unaffected. Essential supplies are being

routed through the Mughal Road, which has temporarily become the valley's lifeline. The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44) is expected to reopen tomorrow, with fruit-laden trucks currently being cleared in a phased manner via Mughal Road.

Deputy Commissioners of all districts also shared ground reports, confirming receding water levels in the Jhelum's tributaries, including Lidder, Vaishow, Sandran, and Rambani. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah | [More on P6](#)

Rains, landslides leave trail of destruction in J&K

- UT begins recovery, surveys underway
- Orchards hit, Vaishno Devi yatra suspended
- Nation stands with flood-hit people: President Murmu

Sajid Raina

Srinagar/Jammu, Sept 05: After days of relentless rains, cloud-bursts and landslides that wreaked havoc across Jammu and Kashmir, people have begun the process of rebuilding and cleaning their homes.

Pertinently, in recent weeks, natural disasters in the Union Territory have claimed over

150 lives and caused widespread destruction of property.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the 4th Tawi Bailey Bridge at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu was opened for light motor vehicles on Friday, easing congestion in the city where traffic had been severely disrupted by the floods.

The official said that there's a possibility that the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway will be reopened on Saturday if weather conditions remain favourable.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said the rehabilitation process was gaining pace but critical challenges remained. "The road from Gulabgarh to Chashoti, which is a vital link to the spot that suffered the cloudburst | [More on P6](#)

J&K sees month of climatic challenges, solution needed: LG Manoj Sinha

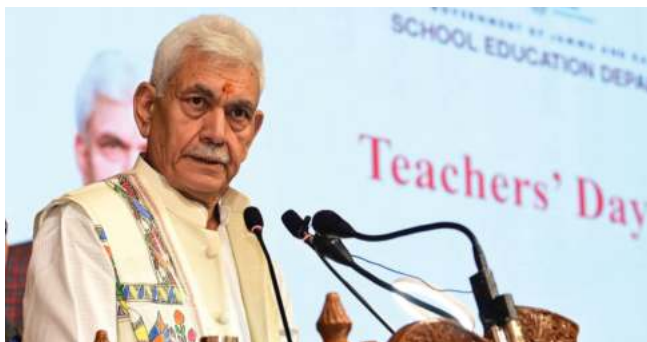
'Climate change must be taught in classrooms'

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sept 05: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a month of challenges in terms of climate change and it's high time to look for a solution in a bid to balance nature and development.

LG Sinha, according to the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) while addressing Teachers' Day celebration event at SKICC here, said that nature's fury during the past one month caused massive damage to people's property and infrastructure.

"Since we are celebrating the 'Teachers' Day', Jammu and Kashmir is facing climate



change issues and the atmosphere it has created in the past ten days has given a tough time to the people here," he said.

LG Sinha said, "The month of August was full of challenges for Jammu and Kashmir

in terms of climate change. During this month, Jammu division was affected badly and normal life was hit. The disaster struck in almost all ten districts of the region."

He said, "I salute the patience of the | [More on P6](#)

Jmu-Sgr Highway shut for 4th day, Mughal Road reopens

- Over 3,000 vehicles stranded
- Full restoration likely today
- KCCI urges contingency measures

Umaisar Gull Ganie/
Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sept 05: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for the fourth straight day on Friday due to landslides, with around four thousand vehicles stranded. However, the Mughal Road has reopened after a four-day closure.

An official told the news agency - Kashmir News

Observer (KNO) that the 270-km-long Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, considered the lifeline of Kashmir, continues to remain closed for the fourth day on Friday due to damage on the route.

He said that in the last eleven days, only one day the road was partially restored, adding that a major hurdle remains the reconstruction of a critical patch at Thard in Udhampur district.

The official said the highway in Udhampur is expected to reopen partially tomorrow as every effort is being made to reopen it. "Big boulders are lying on the patch at Thard. Now blasting is being used on the big boulders. At Thard eleven machines are being used to restore the highway as soon as possible," he said. | [More on P6](#)

PM, LG, CM, others greet people on Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 05: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday extended greetings to the people on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

In a post on X, Narendra Modi, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), wrote, "Best wishes on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi. May this sacred day bring with it peace and well-being in our society. May the values of compassion, service and justice always guide us. Eid Mubarak!"

Office of J&K LG, also wrote, "Greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of | [More on P6](#)

'Op Sindoor' drew red line on cross-border terrorism: CDS Chauhan

'Boundary dispute with China, Pak's proxy war biggest security challenges'

KNO Monitoring Desk

Srinagar, Sep 05: Asserting that India will have to remain prepared for any kind of conventional warfare, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan on Friday said that the armed forces were given full operational freedom to conduct 'Operation Sindoor' and its aim was to avenge Pahalgam terror attack and also to draw a "red line" on cross-border terrorism.

Addressing a function at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, CDS Chauhan, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) described the



unresolved boundary dispute with China as the biggest national security challenge followed by Pakistan's proxy war.

"Regional instability and its impact on India, and the preparations need to handle future

battlefield scenarios with high technology components in a rapidly challenging environment as the third and fourth major challenges," he added.

Gen Chauhan said the armed forces were given full operational freedom to conduct Operation Sindoor and its aim was not only to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack, but also to draw a "red line" on cross-border terrorism.

The CDS also said that the National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval played a significant role in planning and implementation of 'Operation Sindoor' in terms of providing guidance | [More on P6](#)

No let-up in infiltration attempts along LoC in J&K: Army Chief

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Sept 05: Noting that there is no let-up in infiltration attempts along Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday said that it is too early to assess the full impact of 'Operation Sindoor' in the region.

Speaking at the launch of Retired Lt Gen KJS Dhillon's book 'Operation Sindoor: The Untold Story of India's Deep Strikes Inside Pakistan' at the Manekshaw Centre, General Dwivedi said, "The operation ended only a few days ago, and its long-term effects on Pakistan-sponsored terrorism



and the LoC situation remain to be seen."

"The situation on the LoC and the impact it has had is a very small time to talk about this. We will have to look at this from a long-term perspective," he said.

General | [More on P6](#)

Floods damage paddy, other crops, horticulture in Kashmir

Farmers demand compensation; damage assessment on, says official

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sept 05: Recent floods in Kashmir have caused extensive damage to farmland, crops, and horticultural produce, leaving local farmers devastated.

As per the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the rising waters have submerged acres of paddy fields, fruit orchards, and other essential crops.

The floodwaters have also damaged numerous structures, exacerbating the loss for families whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir's flood legacy: 34 'significant' floods in past two centuries

1902, 1959, 2014 among worst deluges

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sept 05: The Kashmir Valley has witnessed a staggering 34 'significant' flood events over the past two centuries.

In a clear indication of the region's chronic susceptibility to water-related calamities, official data reveals that 34 'significant' floods have occurred in the Jhelum basin since 1800.

According to the data, available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the recurrence rate of floods is

approximately one every six years.

It reveals that floods of 1902, 1959 and 2024 were the most extreme flooding events in recent living memory.

The 2014 floods wreaked havoc in Kashmir Valley causing loss of human lives and massive damage to infrastructure. The World Bank had put the estimate of losses due to 2014 floods in the then erstwhile state at Rs 21,000 crore—far below the state government's "preliminary estimate" of losses worth Rs 1 lakh crore (Rs 1 trillion) due to the devastating deluge.

The state administration had described 2014 floods as a "disaster of international magnitude where losses to properties and businesses were in excess of Rs 100,000 crore (one trillion)".

In the aftermath of devastating deluge, the Union Government had constituted a three-member panel—comprising the Chairman of the Central Water Commission, the Indus Commissioner, and the Director of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee—to undertake an in-depth study and analysis of the unprecedented floods in J&K so as to make suitable



recommendations along with a detailed action plan to deal

with such threat in future. The expert group submitted its

report to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development &

Ganga Rejuvenation on October 31, 2014.

The group suggested that the bowl shape of the valley and very mild slope of the Jhelum river makes the area between Sangam and Wular Lake susceptible to flooding in case of heavy rainfall.

"The low carrying capacity of the Jhelum river is due to very mild slope of the order of 1/10000 between Sangam and Wular Lake resulting in very low flow velocity in the river reach of about 96 KM," the group said. "This slope also results in steep rise of river water level in case of high discharge | [More on P6](#)

Milad

Ensure devotees do not face any inconvenience: DC Sgr

Takes stock of arrangements at Dargah along with SSP

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 05: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Sundeep Chakravarthy on Friday visited Dargah Hazratbal to take stock of the facilities and arrangements for Eid-e-Milad Un Nabi (SAW).

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, Qazi Irfan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM East, CMO Srinagar, Tehsildar North, BMO Hazratbal senior officers of PHE, R&B, PDD, SMC, Police, Traffic and other line departments.

At the outset, the DC along with SSP took on spot review of the arrangements made by all the concerned Departments for providing facilities like a dedicated healthcare camp, uninterrupted supply of power, safe drinking water, transport, parking, cleanliness & sanitation measures and other arrangements for convenience of the devotees expected to visit the Holy Shrine.

The Officers of the all line Departments were directed to ensure every necessary facility and arrangements for the Devotees for smooth and seamless observance of the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad (SAW) at the Shrine.

On the occasion, the DC was



informed that adequate measures have been made by the PHE to ensure a continuous supply of clean drinking water at the shrine so that devotees

do not face any inconvenience. Similarly, the PDD Officials apprised that uninterrupted power supply has been made available at the Shrine during

the auspicious days and nights of prayers culminating with display of Holy Relic. In addition to this, proper power backup through Genset to tackle any power breakdown.

Likewise, the DC was informed that the SMC has deployed sufficient men and machinery including Mobile Toilet Units at the venue for proper sanitation and cleanliness in and around the Shrine.

On the occasion, the DC inspected a Medical camp set up in the premises of Hazratbal Shrine by the Block Medical Office, Hazratbal. He directed for ensuring availability of adequate number of Doctors and paramedics, first aid facilities, besides an ambulance service in the camp.

The DC inspected designated areas for mobile toilets and drinking water taps to ensure their functionality and cleanliness.

In order to assist and facilitate senior citizens visiting the shrine, the DC instructed officials from the Transport department to arrange e-Rickshaw services from designated parking areas to the shrine during their visits to the Hazratbal shrine on the auspicious occasion.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo has also conveyed his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad Un Nabi (SAW).

DC Budgam visits Zoonipora breach site

Reviews relief & rehabilitation efforts



KT NEWS DESK

Budgam, September 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat Friday visited the Zoonipora breach site and other flood-affected areas to take a first-hand assessment of the situation. He was accompanied by senior district officials, SDM Chadoora, engineers, and field functionaries.

DC carried out an appraisal of damages and interacted with the local population, listening patiently to their concerns. He assured people that the District Administration is standing shoulder to shoulder with them in this hour of crisis and that all possible support will be extended to them.

DC informed that relief

measures are in full swing in the affected areas.

The ration kits, medical kits, and other essential items are being distributed among affected families, while portable water tankers have been pressed into service to ensure safe drinking water supply, he said.

Meanwhile, on-spot testing of water sources is also being conducted for public safety.

Regarding healthcare, DC said that medical teams with mobile ambulances and essential medicines have been deployed in all six flood-affected villages – Rakh Shalina, Shalina, Bagh Shakurshah, Seerbagh, Summerbugh & Zoonipora to provide timely medical care to the people.

Speaking on the restoration of

services, the DC said that work on electricity restoration is being carried out on war footing bases. He added that the local receiving station had been damaged, but necessary repairs are underway and supply will be restored at the earliest.

DC further assured that work on restoration of the breached bund at Zoonipora will be taken up shortly in consultation with experts to prevent further damage and safeguard adjoining habitations.

He directed all line departments to remain on high alert, ensure coordination, and provide immediate relief wherever required.

ADC Budgam, SDM Chadoora and other senior district and sectoral officers accompanied him during the visit.

JKBOSE issues revised Date Sheets for exams

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 05: Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education has released the revised date sheets for ongoing Secondary School Examination (Class 10th) and Higher Secondary Examination Part 1st (Class 11th), Session Annual (Private)/Bi-Annual 2025.

In view of the inclement weather conditions and flood like situations and its aftermath in many areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir various papers had to be postponed ensuring safety of students and teachers.

Now in anticipation of improvement in weather, the revised date sheets in respect of remaining subjects as well as postponed papers has been notified. Overall Incharge, Superintendents and supervisory staff appointed for the conduct of these examinations are advised to ensure proper sitting arrangements, safety and security of the students.

It has been clarified that the papers already conducted according to pre-revised date sheets stand as valid.

The date sheets are available on the JKBOSE website www.jkbose.nic.in

J&K Judicial Academy organises workshop

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 05: The Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, under the guidance of the Governing Committee, organised a one-day workshop on "Soft Skill Development, Stress Management, Time Management, and Court Management Techniques" at its Srinagar campus.

The event was graced by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and Member of the Governing Committee, who delivered the inaugural address and conducted the first technical session.

Welcoming the participants, Justice Bharti highlighted the evolving role of Judicial Officers as not only interpreters of law but also effective court managers, decision-makers, and leaders in ensuring sensitive justice delivery. He emphasized the importance of empathy, interpersonal communication, emotional intelligence, and mindful judicial conduct to improve court efficiency and maintain public confidence in the justice system.

The 2nd technical session was delivered by Sonia Gupta, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, focusing on Time



Management and Court Management Techniques. She underscored the significance of prioritizing urgent cases, equitable workload distribution, and leveraging digital tools to enhance judicial efficiency. Gupta stressed the importance of effective scheduling, systematic file management, use of technology for automation, and adopting Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to reduce backlog and ensure swift justice.

The session also provided strategies for preventing burnout, balancing personal and professional life, and strengthening courtroom discipline while upholding dignity and decorum.

The 3rd technical session was conducted jointly by Dr. Arshid Hussain, Psychologist, and Afifa Afreen, RCI-Registered Clinical Psychologist, focusing on "Stress and Behavioural Management – Developing Self-help Techniques". The

session introduced participants to the Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) model, emphasizing psychological flexibility as a tool for managing professional and personal stress.

Practical exercises on mindfulness techniques helped officers cultivate present-focused, non-judgmental awareness, while strategies for self-motivation, values-based decision-making, and self-evaluation were discussed to enhance mental resilience.

The speakers also addressed the unique judicial stressors faced by officers, including heavy caseloads, high public expectations, and the emotional demands of decision-making.

Participants were encouraged to develop a personalized stress-management toolkit integrating mindfulness practices, balanced wellness strategies, and healthy coping mechanisms to maintain efficiency and overall well-being.

Concluding the workshop, Farhana Ali, Joint Registrar, J&K Judicial Academy, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from judicial officers across the region.

IMCT visits flood-affected areas in Udhampur



KT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 05: An Inter-Ministerial Central Team, deputed by the Government of India, visited the flood and rain-affected areas of Udhampur district to assess the damages caused by the recent natural calamities.

The team inspected several affected sites, including Malhar and Thard, as well as stretches of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway NH-44, to evaluate the extent of losses. During the visit, the IMCT interacted with the local administration and reviewed the ground situation.

They were accompanied by Member Legislative Assembly Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia, Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh and other senior officers from various line departments, who briefed them on damages caused to infrastructure, agriculture, housing and other sectors.

Following the field inspection, a detailed meeting was convened in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; Additional SP Sandeep Bhat; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, along

with other senior officers of line departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai presented a comprehensive PowerPoint briefing on rescue and relief operations, restoration measures, rehabilitation efforts and damages to crops, private property, government infrastructure, agricultural land and residential houses. She informed the team that 38 relief camps have been established across the district, sheltering over 2,000 affected persons, with the administration ensuring food, shelter and other essential supplies.

The IMCT was also apprised that around 380 roads have been damaged, of which 190 have already been restored. Connectivity has been re-established in almost all areas, except certain parts of Dudu-Basantgarh and Moungr, where restoration work is still in progress.

Essential supplies and communication networks are being monitored on a daily basis, with focused efforts to improve road connectivity as weather conditions permit.

The visit of the Inter-Ministerial Central Team underscores the commitment of the Government of India to extend all possible support and assistance to the affected regions, ensuring timely relief, rehabilitation and restoration for the people of Udhampur.

DC Reasi for expediting relief, damage assessment measures

KT NEWS DESK

REASI, SEPTEMBER 5: To review the progress of assessment of damages caused to private property including houses, crops and livestock due to heavy rain and floods, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Reasi Nidhi Malik convened a meeting in the VC Room of the DC Office.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed review of the submission of relief/compensation cases, the verification procedures adopted and the subdivision-wise progress in Katra,



Dharmari and Mahore. She directed the Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to ensure that assessment teams remain active on the ground, expedite the

process of damage verification and prepare proposals for timely submission to the Deputy Commissioner's Office.

Alongside relief case

reviews, the DC Reasi also assessed the status of road restoration works to ensure connectivity across the district. She instructed the Executive Engineers of PWD and PMGSY to accelerate repair and landslide clearance work on roads identified by SDMs to restore smooth traffic movement.

Further, the DC also reviewed crop damage assessments and directed the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) to conduct daily evaluations and submit compiled reports. Livestock damage issues

were also deliberated upon with the District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO) and Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO).

The DC stressed that all staff must remain present on ground during relief operations, working round the clock to ensure public convenience. She reiterated that the district administration of Reasi is fully committed to providing relief to the affected families, including the distribution of essential relief material such as tents, mattresses and ration supplies.

Flood Aftermath....

Fear persists in Kashmir parts

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sept 05: Even as the Jhelum River showed signs of stabilisation on Friday, panic and fear continue to grip low-lying Srinagar localities, including Lasjan, Mehjoor Nagar, Kursoo Rajbagh and adjoining areas.

Residents say they remain "on edge", fearing floodwaters could still breach their homes.

In Lasjan, locals stood by the bund since morning, their eyes fixed on the river. "We haven't slept properly for two nights. Even though officials say the water is receding, the river is still high, and one heavy downpour could change everything," said Ghulam Nabi, who recalled the horror.

For families in Mehjoor Nagar, the anxiety runs deeper. "Every time Jhelum swells, our hearts sink. The memories



of losing everything in 2014 are still fresh. We are constantly looking out of our windows, praying the water doesn't enter," said Rafiq Begum, another local.

Residents said the fear is now more psychological than physical, but added it cannot be dismissed. "We know the

officials are monitoring, but our lives are here on the bund. Until the river fully recedes, there is no peace of mind," said Mohammad Yaseen, a local.

Officials from the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) department said that river levels at Sangam and Ram Munshi Bagh are below the danger

mark, with a reduction of two to three feet in the past 24 hours. They, however, urged people to remain vigilant as water levels may fluctuate depending on weather conditions.

For Srinagar's flood-prone neighbourhoods, however, reassurance alone has not been enough—(KNO)

Taingan reels under flood wrath

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Budgam, Sep 05: Panic and destruction continued to grip Taingan area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday after a breach in the river Jhelum embankment near Zonipora village triggered massive flooding, forcing families to abandon their homes and seek safety along the road and in relatives' houses.

Locals said floodwaters gushed into residential areas hours after the breach, submerging houses, cowsheds, standing crops and with them, people's hopes.

"We had no time to save

anything. The water came rushing in and we just ran with our children and loved ones towards the road," said Ghulam Nabi, a resident of Taingan, while pointing to his inundated home.

The displaced families have now taken refuge on higher ground along the Srinagar-Budgam stretch of the highway and in homes of close relatives.

Women and children were seen huddled under makeshift tents, braving uncertainty. "We are sitting here without proper shelter. It feels like 2014 all over again," said Sha-keela Begum, her eyes filled with tears, as she spoke to

KNO.

Locals also said that repeated pleas to strengthen the embankment had gone unheard. "Every time there is heavy rain, this spot is vulnerable. Authorities ignored our warnings and now we are paying the price," said another resident.

Officials said efforts were underway to plug the breach and assess the damage, adding that work on the embankment would start within days.

Meanwhile, Taingan's residents wait anxiously on the highway, watching the floodwaters swallow their homes, hoping for swift relief and rehabilitation—(KNO)

Floodwaters damage Noorbagh graveyard



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 05: The graveyard in Noorbagh area of Srinagar has witnessed the floods on Friday, damaging scores of graves, leaving the locals in shock and grief.

Many graves were partially damaged, battered by gushing floodwaters that entered the low-lying area after the Jhelum swelled, the local said. "This is like losing them all over again," said an elderly resident, with tears in her eyes as she pointed towards her parents' submerged grave. Locals said the

boundary walls of the graveyard were also damaged. Many graves now lie exposed, some headstones tilted or broken, as families struggle to restore what they can.

"We rushed here with spades and sandbags, trying to protect the graves," said another resident. "But the water flow was too strong. Watching the place where our loved ones rest being ravaged by floods was unbearable."

The community has now come together, planning to rebuild the walls and safeguard the graveyard from future calamities—(KNO)

CM must seek relief package from GoI: Mehbooba

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Anantnag, Sep 05: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday visited flood-affected areas in Anantnag district. Mufti interacted with local residents and assessed the damage caused by the recent floods.

Speaking to reporters she said that people in Anantnag had a close shave. "The paddy crop has been submerged under water due to which farmers will face losses. In 2014, when floods came, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had immediately taken charge of the government and secured a package from the Centre. My request to Omar Abdullah is to seek a package from the Centre and utilize it for the welfare of the people," she said.

She added former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had managed to get around Rs 1,600 crore for the Jhelum project and another



Rac1,500 crore from the World Bank for flood mitigation works. "The works were started and continued for some time, but were later stopped due to unknown reasons," she said. Calling upon Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who she said now holds an "absolute mandate", the PDP chief urged him to take up the matter with the Union Government so that pending works can be resumed. "The banks of water bodies

must be strengthened to prevent such disasters in the future. If the government fails to do so, there will be more problems ahead," she added.

Highlighting the widespread devastation, Mehbooba stressed that both Jammu and Kashmir regions have suffered massive losses. "Omar Abdullah must also work to get a relief package sanctioned for the affected people in Jammu as well as Kashmir," she added—(KNO)

Traffic police rebuts reports of fining roadside parking

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 05: The City Traffic Police on Friday refuted reports that challans were issued to vehicles parked on higher grounds in Srinagar and other areas amid flood concerns.

SSP Traffic City Srinagar, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, clarified that no such challan was issued to vehicles that were parked on flyovers and other elevated locations for safety reasons.

"Some social media posts and a few news outlets have wrongly circulated photos claiming that traffic police were challaning vehicles. This is false and misleading. No challan has been issued against any such vehicle. We request the public not to pay heed to



such rumours," Bhat said. He said traffic police personnel have been actively assisting people in flood-vulnerable areas including Natipora, Mehjoor Nagar, Shalina and others. "Our officers have been continuously responding to calls on our helplines and regulating the movement of traffic to ensure public safety," he said.

On Thursday, a photo went viral on social media purportedly showing traffic police challaning vehicles at Rambagh after locals had parked them on the flyover to avoid damage—(KNO)

Acute water scarcity in Sgr areas

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 05: The recent flood-like situation in Kashmir valley led to increased cloudiness (dryness of taps) in water sources across Srinagar, affecting the supply from several treatment plants.

The district administration Srinagar, however, announced a dedicated helpline for public facilitation. Residents from multiple localities including Parimpora, Bagh-e-Mehtab, Bemina and adjoining areas

complained that they have not received drinking water for the past few days.

"We are struggling for even a bucket of clean water. Our children are forced to fetch water from neighbours," said Shabir Ahmad, a resident of Bagh-e-Mehtab.

At Parimpora, the locals said water scarcity has added to their daily hardships. "We have to purchase bottled water, which is not affordable for everyone," said another resident. Meanwhile, an official

from PHE Jal Shakti told KNO that some issues caused the disruption but efforts were made to restore the supply. "Due to heavy rains, the flood-like situation in sources had affected the system. However, water supply was restored this evening," the official said.

The administration has appealed people not to panic and to reach out through the helpline numbers — 0194-2477207 and 9419413914 — in case of any water supply issues—(KNO)

No alarming situation in B'la: DC

WARIS FAYAZ

Baramulla, Sep 05: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa on Friday assured people that there was no shortage of essential supplies, including fuel and ration in the district. He added that the flood situation is not alarming in the district.

Sherpa said the district has more than a



week's stock of petrol, diesel and LPG, while ration supplies are sufficient for a month.

"People need not to panic. Additional tankers are also expected to reach by this evening

or tomorrow, so there is no shortage of essential commodities in the district," the DC said during his visit to Sopore to review the situation.

On the rising water levels in Wular Lake and Jhelum, the DC maintained that the situation is under control and there is no alarming threat. "The gauge is almost one meter below the danger level in Sopore and

1.5 meters in Baramulla. As such, there is no need to worry. The levels are too far from the alert mark," he said, adding that the administration has identified shelters and kept spots ready as a precautionary measure.

He further assured that the district administration is on alert and will take additional measures if required—(KNO)

Himachal Landslide....

Bodies of 2 Kashmiris recovered

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Sep 05: Rescue teams in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district recovered the bodies of two Kashmiri residents following a massive landslide in the Inner Akhara Bazaar, officials said on Friday.

The landslide, triggered by heavy monsoon rains on Thursday morning, flattened residential houses and buried several people under debris.

An official said that the bodies of the deceased have been identified as 30-year-old Mehran Lal and 28-year-old Sajid Ahmad Wani, both residents of Kashmir.

Rescue operations have been ongoing since the incident with many people still remain missing—(KNO)

Air Vice-Marshal discusses civil-military cooperation with Ladakh LG

KNO

Leh, Sep 5: Air Officer Commanding Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, Air Vice Marshal Vikas Sharma who is on a 4-day visit to Ladakh called on Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta on Friday and discussed host of issues with him.

The Air Vice Marshal discussed civil-military cooperation and regional development with Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta.

"The meeting focused on strengthening synergy between the civil administration and the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Ladakh, particularly in areas of strategic preparedness, disaster management, infrastructure development, and welfare of



the local population," a defence spokesperson said in a statement.

He said that Air Commodore Sanjay Prabhu, Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station Leh also accompanied Air Vice Marshal Vikas Sharma. "The meeting agenda points included

civil-military cooperation and regional development," the spokesperson said.

The Air Vice Marshal Sharma and Air Commodore Prabhu highlighted the ongoing efforts of the IAF in augmenting logistical support and maintaining operational

readiness in the Union Territory.

The LG appreciated the vital role being played by the IAF in safeguarding the borders, supporting civil administration during emergencies, and ensuring connectivity in the far-flung regions of Ladakh. The AOC, according to the defence spokesman also had a detailed interaction with the General Officer Commanding, 14 Corps, focusing on joint operations, border infrastructure development, and connectivity in the Ladakh region.

The visit reaffirmed the IAF's commitment to bolster its operational capabilities and cultivate collaborative relationships with the civil administration and sister services, he said—(KNO)

'Lifestyle, pollution, genetics main causes of hematologic CA's'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 05: Blood cancer, medically known as hematologic cancer, is emerging as a growing health challenge in the world, along with Jammu and Kashmir.

Experts warned that lifestyle changes, environmental pressures, and limited awareness may contribute to a sharp rise in cases if preventive measures are not taken seriously. They said blood cancer affects the production and functioning of blood cells, originating in the bone marrow where blood is formed. Abnormal growth of blood cells, particularly white blood cells, weakens the immune system and affects oxygen transport.

They explained that the three main types of blood cancers include leukaemia, which affects blood and bone marrow, lymphoma, which impacts the lymphatic system and myeloma, which targets plasma cells in bone marrow.

Dr Mohammad Ashraf Mir, an oncologist, said that 8–10%

of all cancer cases in the UT are blood-related and tertiary care centres in Srinagar and Jammu have reported a steady rise in referrals.

"Over the past decade, we have seen a gradual rise in hematologic cancers among both young and elderly patients. Factors such as lifestyle, pollution, and genetics are playing a role," he said. The Kashmir Valley, already known for high rates of gastrointestinal cancers, is now witnessing a growing burden of blood cancers, especially in men aged 30–60 years.

Doctors explain that while the exact causes of blood cancers are not always clear, several risk factors have been identified as genetics, radiation that may be natural or medical exposure, chemical exposure that is long-term contact with pesticides, benzene, or industrial chemicals and immune system weakness that comes usually due to chronic infections or autoimmune conditions and lifestyle that is smoking,

alcohol, poor diet, and lack of physical activity.

In J&K, doctors highlight the role of pesticide exposure in orchards, air pollution, and contaminated water sources as major environmental contributors.

"If untreated, blood cancer can damage the immune system, cause recurrent infections, anaemia, and bone weakness, lead to life-threatening complications and treatment typically involves chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted drugs, and in severe cases, bone marrow transplants," Dr Ashraf said.

While not all cases can be prevented, early detection and healthy practices can reduce risks, he said, adding that regular medical check-ups, especially for those with a family history and eating a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and antioxidants while avoiding tobacco and alcohol and safe handling of pesticides by farmers and orchard workers using protective gear are key.—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

GST 2.0: A Watershed Moment For India's Economic Democracy

The Next-Gen GST reforms, approved by the GST Council and set to take effect from September 22, 2025, represent one of the most progressive and people-centric tax overhauls in India's history. By simplifying the tax structure to two primary slabs - 5% and 18% - and eliminating the cumbersome 12% and 28% brackets, the government has not only made compliance easier but also placed affordability and inclusivity at the heart of economic policy. These reforms are a masterclass in targeted relief. The reduction

of GST on household essentials like soaps, toothpaste, and packaged foods to 5% will directly ease the financial burden on low and middle-income families. The elimination of tax on life-saving drugs and diagnostic kits, along with reduced rates on medical devices and insurance premiums, transforms healthcare from a luxury to a right, a move that aligns with the vision of a healthy, secure India. Similarly, the rationalisation of rates on farm equipment, electric vehicles, and construction materials, such as cement, will

boost agriculture, manufacturing, and housing —the sectors that are critical to employment and growth. What makes these reforms truly revolutionary is their multi-dimensional impact. Lower taxes on consumer durables like televisions, air conditioners, and two-wheelers will stimulate demand, drive manufacturing, and support MSMEs. The hospitality and wellness sectors - gyms, salons, yoga centres - will become more accessible to ordinary citizens, promoting both well-being and entrepreneurship. The correction of inverted

duty structures in textiles and fertilisers will enhance competitiveness and reduce import dependency, strengthening Atmanirbhar Bharat. Beyond economic efficiency, these changes reflect fiscal empathy. By exempting education essentials and handicrafts, the government has acknowledged the role of social and cultural sectors in nation-building. The retention of a 40% sin tax on tobacco and luxury goods ensures progressivity, where the affluent contribute fairly while the common citizen breathes easier. This policy reform is

governance reimaged. The GST Council's consensus-based approach demonstrates cooperative federalism at its best, while the focus on transparency, digitisation, and compliance ease signals a mature tax ecosystem. As India steps into this new era of simplified, fair, and growth-oriented taxation, it sends a powerful message: the economy exists for the people, not the other way around. The government deserves acclaim for turning a complex tax into a catalyst for comfort, confidence, and compassion.

GST Reforms 2025: A New Era Of Relief, Simplification, And Growth For India

Next-Gen GST introduces rate rationalisation and sector-specific benefits to empower consumers, support businesses, and accelerate economic progress across the nation

- GST simplified to a two-slab structure (5% & 18%)
- GST reforms cut taxes on household essentials (soaps, toothpaste, Indian breads) to 5% or Nil boosting affordability
- Life-saving drugs, medicines reduced from 12% to Nil or 5% making healthcare affordable
- Two-wheelers, small cars, TVs, ACs, cement cut from 28% to 18% bringing relief to middle-class.
- Farm machinery, irrigation equipment cut from 12% to 5%, reducing farming costs
- Tobacco, pan masala, aerated drinks, and luxury goods taxed at 40%.



will continue to apply and the new rates will be implemented at a later date to be notified, based on discharging of entire loan and interest liabilities on account of compensation cess.

7 Pillars of Next-Gen GST Reforms

Next-Gen GST reforms build on GST's success with a simplified 2-tier structure, fairer taxation, and digital filing for ease and faster refunds. They prioritize consumers by lowering rates on essentials and high-value items, empower MSMEs and manufacturers with smoother cash flows, strengthen state revenues, and boost demand driving consumption and manufacturing growth across India.

Simplified Structure, Sectoral Relief

The latest reforms mark a major simplification of the GST structure. The shift to a two-slab system of 5% and 18%, removing the earlier 12% and 28% rates, will make taxation more transparent and easier to follow. At the same time, a 40% on luxury and sin goods such as pan masala, tobacco, aerated drinks, high-end cars, yachts, and private aircraft ensures fairness and revenue balance. Alongside, registration and return filing have been simplified, refunds made faster, and compliance costs reduced, easing the burden on businesses, especially MSMEs and startups.

Here is a sector-wise follow-up of the reforms and their expected impact.

Food and Household Sector

Reforms bring direct savings to households by reducing taxes on everyday essentials and packaged foods. GST rate cut on AC, Dishwashers and TVs (LCD, LED) is a dual win. It increases affordability for consumers while strengthening India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

Products like Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) milk, Pre-packaged and labelled chena or paneer, all the Indian Breads will see NIL rates

Household goods like soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tableware, bicycles now at 5%.

Food items such as packaged namkeens, Bhujia, Sauces, Pasta, Chocolates, Coffee, Preserved Meat etc. reduced from 12% OR 18% to 5%

Consumer durables: TVs (LCD/LED) (> 32"), ACs, dishwashers: 28% 18%.

Home Building & Materials

The cut in GST on cement and construction materials will give a big boost to the housing sector. This will lower the cost of homes and infrastructure projects, making ownership of houses more affordable. The move is also expected to spur demand in real

estate and create new jobs in construction.

Cement: 28% 18%.
Marble/travertine blocks, Granite blocks, Sand-lime bricks: 12% 5%
Bamboo flooring / joinery, Packing cases & pallets (wood): 12% 5%

Automobile Sector

Clearer classification of vehicles and auto parts will cut down disputes, improve compliance, and support growth in India's automotive manufacturing and exports.

Small cars, two-wheelers ≤350cc: 28% 18%.

Buses, trucks, three-wheelers, all auto parts: 28% 18%.

Agriculture sector

Cheaper machinery and lower rates on bio-pesticides will help small farmers reduce costs and encourage sustainable farming practices. Correcting the inverted duty structure on Fertilizer inputs will boost domestic fertilizer production and reduce dependence on imports, strengthening self-reliance in agriculture.

Tractors: 12% 5%; tires and parts: 18% 5%.

Harvesters, threshers, sprinklers, drip irrigation, poultry & bee-keeping machines: 12% 5%.

Bio-pesticides and natural menthol: 12% 5%.

Service sector

Lower GST on hotel stays, gyms, salons, and yoga services will reduce costs for citizens, improve access to wellness, and give a fillip to the hospitality and service industries.

Hotel stays up to Rs 7,500/day from 12% to 5%.

Gyms, salons, barbers, yoga GST cut from 18% to 5%.

Toys, Sports & Handicrafts

Fixing duty structures for man-made fibres will improve the competitiveness of the textile industry, especially in exports. The inverted duty structure in the sector has been corrected with reduction of GST rate on manmade fibre from 18% to 5% and manmade yarn from 12% to 5%.

Further, lower GST rates on handicrafts will support artisan livelihoods, preserve India's cultural heritage, and promote rural economic growth.

Handicraft idols & statues: 12% 5%.
Paintings, sculptures: 12% 5%.
Wooden/metal/textile dolls & toys: 12% 5%.

Education sector

Education has become more affordable with exercise books, erasers, pencils,

crayons and sharpeners moving to 0% GST. This directly supports families and students, ensuring lower costs of learning materials.

Geometry boxes, school cartons, trays: 12% 5%.

Medical sector

Reduced rates on medicines and medical devices will improve access to healthcare and support domestic manufacturing in the pharma and medical equipment sectors.

33 life-saving drugs, diagnostic kits: 12% 0%.

Other medicines including Ayurveda, Unani, Homoeopathy: 12% 5%.

Spectacles and corrective goggles: 28% 5%.

Medical oxygen, thermometers, surgical instruments: 12-18% 5%.

Medical, dental, and veterinary devices cut from 18% to 5%.

Health and life Insurance

GST exemptions on life and health insurance premiums will expand financial protection and support the vision of Mission Insurance for All by 2047.

GST exemption on premiums for individual life insurance, health insurance, floater plans, and senior citizen policies.

Mr Himanshu Baid, MD Poly Medicure & CoA Member EPCMD "Even with all the health insurance, the GST has been reduced to zero from 18%. There is a big benefit to the consumer that is going to come in... For essential medical products, such as thermometers, glucometers, and diagnostic kits, the GST rate has been reduced to 5%. It's a great reform done by the govt., which is going to drive local consumption and also improve affordability and accessibility for many products that were out of reach for common people..."

In addition to the above major reforms, several other items have also seen GST rate rationalisation. These include household utilities, smaller consumer products, and industrial inputs. A complete item-wise list is provided here.

Next-Gen GST: Benefits for All

The Next-Generation GST reforms are designed not just to reduce tax rates, but to create a virtuous cycle of growth.

Lower Prices, Higher Demand: Cheaper goods and services increase household savings and stimulate consumption.

Support for MSMEs: Reduced rates on inputs like cement, auto parts, and handicrafts lower costs and make small businesses more competitive.

Ease of Living: A two-rate structure means fewer disputes, quicker decisions, and simpler compliance.

Wider Tax Net: Simpler rates encourage compliance, expanding the tax base and improving revenues.

Support for Manufacturing: Correcting inverted duty structures boosts domestic value addition and exports.

Revenue Growth: As seen in past reforms, lower rates with better compliance increase collections.

Economic Momentum: Lower costs higher demand larger tax base stronger revenues sustainable growth.

Social Protection: Exemption of GST on insurance and essential medicines strengthens household security and access to healthcare.

Ravi Patodia, Member, Bhadohi Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) says, "The rates of normal consumption items have been reduced from 12% and 18% to 5% and this is a very good thing. This will provide a lot of relief to the general public. The tax burden will be reduced and inflation will also be reduced... It is a good decision considering the current tariff crisis."

Together, these reforms ensure that

GST is citizen-centric, business-friendly, and aligned with India's global growth ambitions.

For more details on GST processes and common queries, refer to the GST FAQs.

The Road to GST: Challenges and Milestones

Before the launch of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), India's indirect tax system was highly fragmented. Every state followed its own tax rates, levies, and procedures, making trade across India complicated and compliance-heavy. Businesses often faced overlapping taxes, inconsistent rules, and limited credit for inputs.

Problems with the Pre-GST Era (VAT system):

No uniform tax rates across states; additional levies like entry tax raised costs.

Different rules for returns, audits, and penalties created confusion.

Weak input tax credit provisions allowed misuse and tax evasion.

Double taxation (VAT plus service tax) increased the burden on both businesses and consumers.

To overcome these challenges, GST was conceived as a unified national tax system.

The idea of GST was first proposed in 2000 with an Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers set up to study sales tax reforms. Taking this idea forward and with extensive consensus building among states, the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act was passed and ratified in 2016, paving the way for GST. GST was formally rolled out at midnight on 1st July 2017, hailed as a "path-breaking legislation for New India."

Why GST is a Milestone:

Subsumed 17 different taxes and 13 cesses into one unified tax.

Eliminated cascading of taxes (tax on tax).

Created a single national market with common rates and procedures.

Simplified compliance and improved transparency.

Symbolized economic integration of the country.

Performance So Far

Expansion of Tax Base: GST taxpayer base has grown from 66.5 lakh in 2017 to 1.51 crore in 2025, reflecting greater formalization of the economy.

Record Revenue Growth: FY 2024-25 saw Rs 22.08 lakh crore in gross GST collections, doubling in just four years with a CAGR of 18%.

Economic Confidence: Rising collections and active taxpayers reflect stronger compliance, improved systems, and robust economic fundamentals. Average monthly collections have risen to Rs 2.04 lakh crore year from Rs 82,000 crore in 2017-18.

Conclusion

The adoption of a simplified GST structure and wide-ranging rate reductions marks a new chapter in India's tax journey. By focusing on affordability for citizens, competitiveness for businesses, and transparency in compliance, these reforms make GST not just a tax system, but a catalyst for inclusive prosperity and economic transformation.

Effective from 22nd September 2025, the reforms reaffirm India's commitment to building a simpler, fairer, and growth-oriented GST framework, ensuring both ease of living for people and ease of doing business for enterprises.

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J&K youth will excel with contribution of teachers: Edu Minister

Extends greetings to teaching community on Teachers Day

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 05: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo has extended her warm greetings to teaching community on Teacher's Day, celebrated on 5th September across the country to honor the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's second President and a respected philosopher and educator.

In her message, the Minister extended her heartfelt gratitude to all teachers, who are

true torchbearers of society. She added that Teachers are the nation-builders, guiding our children with knowledge, values, and inspiration.

"Your dedication and resilience have been instrumental in nurturing the dreams of our students and in shaping a brighter future for all of us", the Education Minister said.

She further said that with the continued contribution of Teachers, the youth of J&K will excel and lead our nation to greater heights.

KVK Bandipora holds farmer awareness prog



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 05: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1 in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and various allied departments Friday organised an awareness programme at Pazzalpura Panchayat under the ongoing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, a flagship component of the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP).

The programme aimed to educate the local farming community about modern agricultural practices, encourage the adoption of climate-resilient techniques, and create awareness regarding various government schemes and support services. The event saw participation from over 100 individuals, including farmers, women entrepreneurs, students, and rural youth.

During the technical sessions, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Zargar and Shabnum Mumtaz, scientists from KVK Bandipora-1, delivered in-depth lectures

on advanced crop production methods, the use of modern farm machinery, and opportunities in income-generating allied sectors such as beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, and poultry farming. Emphasis was laid on adopting scientific methods and improving farm productivity while promoting sustainable agricultural growth.

Resource persons from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, and Fisheries Departments shared details of newly launched schemes, input assistance programmes, and training opportunities available under JKCIIP and other ongoing initiatives. Representatives from financial institutions also addressed the gathering, highlighting the availability of institutional credit, subsidized loans, and the streamlined process for availing agricultural finance.

The event concluded with an interactive session, where farmers raised questions about field-specific challenges and received expert advice tailored to their local conditions.

Govt committed to responsive governance: Sakeena

Holds public darbar at Sailkhanen DH Pora



KT News Desk

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 05: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday visited Sailkhanen village in D.H. Pora, Kulgam and held a massive Public Darbar to directly engage with the people and listen to their grievances and developmental aspirations.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that the Omar-led Government is public centric and making concerted efforts to meet developmental aspirations of the people and ensure improved services at their doorsteps.

She added that the government in recent months has

initiated several projects of public importance besides healthcare facilities have been upgraded across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir with particular focus on rural and far-flung areas.

In her address, the Minister also spoke about various schemes meant for various sections of society, including women. She also urged youth to actively avail skill development schemes and stressed the importance of community participation in ensuring accountability and progress.

The Minister further underlined that these Public Darbars are at the core of the present government and vital for bridging the gap between administration and the people. She added that the

Government is committed to responsive governance and grassroots development.

During the Darbar, locals projected several demands like upgradation of Middle School to High School, establishment of Animal Husbandry Centre, a Sub Centre, SFC wood depot, Agriculture and Horticulture units, food store, relief in utility bills, fast-track completion of Panchayat Ghar, as well as development of a playfield in the area.

While responding to these demands, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to identify land for a playfield and assured the locals that an ambulance will be provided to the area considering its far-flung nature. She also assured the public that other demands will be addressed promptly.

CORRUPT PRACTICES

Termination of 4 temporary RDD officials ordered

KT News Desk

REASI, SEPTEMBER 05: In a decisive action against corruption, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik has ordered the termination of four temporary officials of the Rural Development Department (RDD) after an enquiry revealed their involvement in serious irregularities, manipulation of records and embezzlement of government funds.

DC Reasi affirms unwavering commitment to integrity, transparency and accountability in all areas of public service.

The action comes after a detailed enquiry which exposed large-scale violations under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh was the enquiry officer.

In Block Jij Bagli, the terminated temporary officials, Mohammad Latief Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS) and Rahil Magotra (Technical Assistant), were found guilty of manipulating official records, issuing fake and duplicate job cards and irregular sanctioning of multiple IHHL units in violation



of SBM guidelines. The enquiry revealed that out of 55 job cards under complaint, seven were fake, five were duplicate, twenty-four were deleted and thirty-one are active. The officials were also held responsible for misappropriation of government funds under MGNREGA, as highlighted in the Social Audit report.

Similarly, in Block Chassana, Abdul Qayoom (GRS) and Arun Gandotra (Technical Assistant) were found responsible for major irregularities in the execution of works under the Swachh Bharat Mission. While financial records reflect an expenditure of 3.00 lakh on the construction of a Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) in Panchayat Chassana-A, the asset was not found on the

ground during the Social Audit.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner has taken up the matter with the Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD), recommending strict and exemplary action against the permanent employees who were posted during the period of irregularities. These include the BDOs of Chassana and Jij Bagli, AEE (REW Subdivision Mahore), Junior Engineers and Panchayat Secretaries.

The Deputy Commissioner Reasi has also urged initiation of recovery proceedings against those involved, in line with the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956, so that accountability is enforced and such malpractices are not repeated in the future.

DC Kathua reviews restoration post floods



KT News Desk

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 05: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Friday visited Lakhampur to take stock of the ongoing restoration efforts along the Ravi river bank which had changed its course during the recent flash floods and rains, posing threat to nearby government buildings.

Pertinently, the district administration has stepped up the restoration drive with round-the-clock efforts being made to stabilize the embankments.

The DC asked the Flood Control Department and NHAI to ensure full mobilization of men and machinery for protection works so as to mitigate the threat of flooding and safeguard critical government infrastructure. He further impressed upon the agencies to utilize the fair weather window effectively while observing all safety precautions.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner visited the village Babera to assess the damages caused to residential houses due to landslides triggered by heavy rains. The DC instructed the Revenue field staff to carry out immediate assessment of losses so that timely relief under SDRF norms can be provided to the affected families.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Bhed-Blore road which has suffered extensive damage due to flash floods. He called upon the concerned agency to ensure early temporary restoration of connectivity to facilitate smooth movement of locals.

Among others, ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh, ASP Kathua Rahul Charak, Tehsildar Kathua Vikram Kumar, CAHO Kathua and representatives from NHAI accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

Beopar Mandal provides relief to flood-affected

DC Udhampur flags off Good Carrier for distribution



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 05: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai Friday flagged off a relief van carrying essential supplies for the flood-affected families of Udhampur district. The relief material has been provided by the Beopar Mandal Udhampur for the distribution among the people affected by recent floods induced by heavy rain.

While interacting with media persons, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the community support and the philanthropic gesture of Beopar

Mandal Udhampur. She congratulated the members of the Beopar Mandal for their humanitarian contribution and stressed that collective efforts are crucial in mitigating the hardships of flood-hit people.

The Deputy Commissioner informed that the relief material, comprising ration and other essential commodities, is meant exclusively for the families impacted by the recent floods. She further added that several teams are working tirelessly on the ground to assess damages and ensure effective relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected population.

MISSION YUVA

DC Reasi approves 307 cases

KT NEWS DESK

REASI, SEPTEMBER 05: In a significant push towards youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik Friday approved 307 loan cases under Mission Yuva here at a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC).

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the applications received through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU). After thorough scrutiny, the committee approved 307 cases, including 306 under Non-Enterprises and 1 under MSME, for financial assistance and institutional support.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Nidhi Malik underlined the role of Mission YUVA in



equipping youth with skills, fostering entrepreneurship and creating avenues for self-employment across the district. She emphasized the importance of post-approval handholding and continuous follow-up to ensure the long-term sustainability of the approved ventures.

Highlighting the need for synergy among departments, the DC Malik called for

coordinated efforts to maximize outreach and impact of the scheme. She also directed banks to ensure timely processing and quick disbursement of sanctioned cases to benefit the youth at the earliest.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi, Sukhdev Singh Samyal, Assistant Director Employment, Annie Vaid, representatives from banks and other concerned officers.

DC Kishtwar approves 160 Mission YUVA cases

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 05: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) met Friday in Kishtwar under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma to review and approve applications submitted under the Mission Yuva Scheme.

A total of 166 applications, duly verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs), were presented before the committee. Each case was assessed on eligibility, project feasibility and the applicant's socio-economic background.

After scrutiny, the Committee approved 160 applications for financial assistance and handholding support. As verified by the J&K Bank Manager, Cluster Head Kishtwar, 06 applicants had already availed themselves of benefits under other government-sponsored schemes and their cases were accordingly



rejected. DC Kishtwar emphasized the importance of empowering youth to drive local economic growth.

The DC directed the AD Employment to ensure that all approved cases are forwarded to banks at the earliest so that applicants can avail themselves

of timely benefits under the scheme. He further directed banks to sanction and disburse loans without delay and ensure regular mentorship to support the new entrepreneurs.

Mission YUVA continues to play a vital role in creating livelihood opportunities and

promoting self-reliance among the youth of Kishtwar district.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; GM DIC Rishi Sharma; AD Employment Shafqat Keen; DSWO Zubair Ahmed; Lead District Manager, Manager Cluster J&K Bank and other concerned officers.

Wular crosses ‘danger mark’, Bandipora residents evacuated to safer places

Waris Fayaz

Bandipora, Sept 05: Several families from flood-prone villages in north Kashmir’s Bandipora District, including Kulhama and Kanyari, were evacuated on Friday after Wular Lake crossed the danger mark and water entered into residential areas.

Officials told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the affected households were temporarily shifted to nearby school buildings, where arrangements have been made for the people.

“We shifted families as a

precautionary measure to avoid any risk to life. Shelter and basic facilities have been provided”, a senior officer said.

Amid the evacuation drive, three transformers along with their 11kV feeder at Kanyari village (Gundjehangir 11kV feeder) were put off as a safety measure after the area was submerged. “This was necessary for the safety of the public and to prevent any mishap”, said Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib.

Locals at Kanyari, however, accused successive governments of ignoring their demand for

permanent relocation. “We live in constant fear. Floods threaten our homes every year, and despite repeated assurances, we haven’t been given land to shift permanently”, villagers said.

Earlier the DC said adequate measures had been taken to prevent further damage. “To stop spillage into adjoining areas of SK Payeen, sandbags have been laid at three vulnerable spots. People need not panic, the situation is being closely monitored”, she assured.

Meanwhile, concerns were also raised in Sonawari belt over swelling waters of Jhelum

at Asham, where the river touched 14 ft earlier. However, Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Department Sumbal, Mutayib Bashir, ruled out any flood threat. “There is no need to panic. The level has stabilised and is expected to recede. Preventive steps have been taken at all vulnerable points”, he said.

Authorities said that while precautionary evacuations and shutdowns were carried out, the overall situation remains under control and round-the-clock monitoring will continue until water levels recede. (KNO)

LoP Sharma visits flood-affected areas in Akhnoor

KNO

Jammu, Sept 05: Leader of the Opposition (LoP), Sunil Sharma along with MLA Akhnoor Mohan lal, undertook an extensive tour of the flood-affected areas in Akhnoor constituency to assess firsthand the wide-spread devastation caused by the recent floods. During his visit, he reached out to the worst-hit villages in Pargwal region including Mollu, Sajwal Kulle, Chani, Nai Basti, Rangpur, Pindi, Markulle Fattu Kotli, Garhal, and the Mala Bela BSF Post.

As per a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sharma interacted with affected families,

patiently listened to their grievances, and expressed deep solidarity with the suffering communities. He assured the local population of every possible support, stressing that their concerns would be raised with urgency at all appropriate forums.

Highlighting the pressing challenges faced by the displaced and distressed families, Sharma called upon the administration to immediately initiate comprehensive and coordinated relief measures. He urged for the provision of essential supplies including food, clean drinking water, medical aid, and temporary shelters. He also pressed for the swift restoration of critical services such as electricity, road

connectivity, and communication networks to ease the hardships of the people.

Looking beyond immediate relief, the Leader of the Opposition emphasized the need for a long-term, structured rehabilitation plan. He underscored that rebuilding damaged infrastructure, restoring livelihoods, and creating effective flood mitigation systems must be treated as priority areas to safeguard the region from recurring natural calamities.

Sharma assured continuous monitoring of the situation and reaffirmed his personal commitment to stand by the affected families until normalcy is restored.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Jhelum calms

different parts of Kashmir, especially in Tiagan, Shaalina and Zainapora areas.

Furthermore, an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, told KNO that the water level is expected to come below the flood declaration mark, also at Pampore and Ram Munshi Bagh, till midnight.

He added that the weather conditions are expected to remain dry for the next three days, but a brief spell of rain, especially in the morning and late afternoon hours, cannot be ruled out.

Also, he said that the Monsoon conditions at present look weak and are mostly in the withdrawal state.

Pertinently, the weather conditions started improving from Wednesday afternoon, and no rainfall was recorded at any station across Jammu and Kashmir today. However, a precipitation of 0.2 mm was recorded at Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, today till Friday evening. (KNO)

Don’t lower guard

directed immediate reinforcement of embankments, evacuation from inundated areas, and round-the-clock monitoring through control rooms. He emphasized frequent field visits, timely advisories urging people to remain alert and avoid panic, and full public cooperation with the administration.

The Chief Minister further instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted arrangements for evacuees, maintain close coordination with police to uphold order, and counter rumour-mongering to prevent panic. He stressed the swift restoration of essential services such as electricity, water supply, and road connectivity, alongside a realistic damage assessment to guide relief and compensation measures.

“Deputy Commissioners must conduct realistic assessments of the damage caused to property, agricultural lands, and infrastructure. These findings will form the basis for projecting requirements to the Government of India,” he said.

To support immediate relief operations, the Chief Minister announced the release of 5 crore from the UT CapEx budget, in addition to funds from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). He also asked Deputy Commissioners and Agriculture Department officials to assess damage to standing crops across both provinces. Highlighting the strategic importance of the Mughal Road amid the NH-44 blockade, he directed the Health Department to remain vigilant against potential water-borne and post-flood diseases.

Reiterating his government’s commitment, Omar Abdullah assured that safety, timely relief, and early restoration of normalcy in flood-affected areas remain top priorities. Notably, this was the third meeting chaired by the Chief Minister in the last three days to review the flood situation with a focus on rescue, relief, and rehabilitation.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmad Rana, and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani. Also present were Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM, Additional Chief Secretaries Jal Shakti, Agriculture Production, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, all Administrative Secretaries, heads of key departments, senior police officers, Chief Engineers of KPDC, KPTEL, I&FC, PHE, R&B, BEACON and SAMPARK, Commandants of SDRF and NDRF, Director India Meteorological Department Kashmir, RO NHAI J&K, State Level Coordinator IOCL J&K, besides other concerned officers. Outstation officers participated through video conference. (KNO)

Rains, landslides

tragedy, is still blocked and may require heavy equipment to remove the blockade. Authorities are working with the target of clearing it by late evening,” he said.

The pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Reasi district, however, remained suspended for the 11th consecutive day. The yatra was halted after a landslide on August 26 claimed 34 lives and injured 20 others. “Yatra is still suspended. This is due to the decision taken by authorities last week, keeping in view the safety of pilgrims. A decision to resume will be taken after reviewing all aspects,” an official said.

In Panchayat Bali of Udhampur district, a massive landslide has left more than 50 houses completely destroyed and several others partially damaged. Residents have appealed to the government to provide immediate compensation and relief to the affected families.

Ramesh Kumar, whose house was reduced to rubble, said, “We have lost everything, our homes, cattle, and fields. The government must step in quickly so that we can start rebuilding our lives.”

Another villager, added, “We are living in temporary shelters with no proper food or water. Winter is approaching, and without compensation or support, survival will become even more difficult.”

Officials said assessment teams have been sent to the area to record the extent of the damage.

Another top official said a team from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is on the ground inspecting areas affected by heavy rains, floods, and landslides, while major rehabilitation measures are being undertaken by the government. Multiple surveys are being conducted in flood-hit regions of J&K, and compensation will be provided after assessments are completed.

Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma visited flood-hit areas in Reasi, including Markulle village and the BSF post at Mala Bela, along with MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal. He assured residents of timely relief and rehabilitation. Officials said land subsidence in Reasi’s Bagga Jameslan and Sarh had damaged 50 houses, forcing villagers to evacuate.

SRINAGAR, BANDIPORA, SOUTH KASHMIR
Meanwhile, floodwaters continued to affect several areas. In Srinagar’s Hajam Mohalla, locals said water levels were still rising. “Our ground floors are filled with water, and despite some sunshine, the situation is not easing here,” said Mohammad Ashraf, a resident. In Bandipora, the rising water in Wular Lake forced the evacuation of families from low-lying villages.

In South Kashmir, residents in flood-hit low-lying areas reported gradual improvement. “Water has started receding from our homes. We are cleaning whatever is left, though most of our belongings are destroyed,” said Naseema Begum from Pulwama. Local orchards have also suffered heavy losses.

Fruit growers have urged the government to announce a special compensation package to cover damages.

PREZ MURMU EXPRESSES ANGUISH

President Droupadi Murmu expressed her anguish over the widespread devastation in J&K and other states. “Cloudbursts in the hills and floods in the plains have taken a heavy toll. The nation shares the sorrow of the people affected by calamities and is with them in this crisis. I commend the spirit of those involved in rescue and relief,” she said.

“I have been deeply anguished every time I have come to know about natural calamities during the monsoon this year. Cloudbursts in the hills and floods in the plains have taken a heavy toll, leaving death and destruction in their wake in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Assam and many other parts of the country,” she said.

The President said that the nation shares the sorrow of the people affected by calamities and is with them in this crisis. “I commend the spirit of those involved in the rescue and relief operations. Together we will overcome this challenge,” she added. (KNO)

J&K sees month

affected people. The disaster has taken place in other parts of the country as well.”

“Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working hard to provide every possible assistance to the affected families even the Home Minister Amit Shah himself visited the Jammu region post floods,” LG Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor also said that the rapid change in climate is posing a big question as to how the intensity of the issue has increased especially in the places like J&K, UP, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Punjab and other neighbouring states.

“The disturbing news is coming from many other countries as well. In America the same type of disasters were witnessed 81 times and the assessment shows that it has faced a loss of 181 billion dollars,” he said.

LG Sinha added that “We have to look for the solution that will keep balance between nature and development. The scientists are looking for the solution but I think students and the teachers also shall look for a way out to deal with the issue of climate change.”

He also said that the working and learning space across the world is changing and on the other hand new technology and industrial ecosystem and social norms are also changing completely. “Due to climate change and the unsustainable development, the global temperature has increased by 1.1 centigrade.”

“I suggest that the subject related to climate change should be taught in classrooms, be it the school or higher education the students shall be given a field experience and a program ‘Green Jammu and Kashmir Life’ shall be run by the concerned authorities,” LG Sinha said.

The LG said that AI tools can give students more information but cannot inspire students the way teachers do. The relationship between the students is much stronger than anything.

He suggested the teachers to replace old

practice of teaching students. “Teaching students only does not mean to transfer the information of books or to complete the syllabus, the teacher has a much more role. They should nurture the talent of the students.”

“I suggest the school and higher education department that besides the gold medal and certificate of merit, they should introduce such awards wherein the students who tried to introduce or invent something new. I think that with this the students will be encouraged to do more wonders,” LG Sinha said.

The LG also said that by felicitating the specially abled students, the school education department has started a new legacy. (KNO)

Jmu-Sgr Highway

A traffic official told KNO that the Ramban-Banihal stretch has been partially restored for stranded traffic after it was hit by landslides and shooting stones. He said men and machinery are on the job to restore two-way traffic in the Ramban-Banihal sector.

According to officials, more than 3,000 vehicles, including 500 trucks carrying fruit, are stranded on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway due to landslides, road sinking, and debris accumulation.

The most critical disruption is reported between Samroli and Udhampur, where a 10-kilometre stretch of the highway has collapsed, posing significant challenges to restoration teams. Repair and clearance operations are ongoing, but due to the scale of the damage, traffic movement is yet to resume.

Vehicles are stuck in multiple locations, particularly between Qazigund and Wanpoh. Authorities confirmed that once the road is cleared, fruit-laden trucks will be given priority for movement to prevent spoilage and further economic loss.

Truck drivers have raised concerns about the lack of food, money, and basic supplies. Many drivers have been stranded for over ten days with no assistance.

The drivers near Qazigund said that their resources have been exhausted and called for immediate relief and restoration of the highway.

The Mughal Road, an alternative route connecting Poonch and Rajouri with south Kashmir, was also blocked due to landslides and falling rocks. After remaining closed for four days, it has been reopened for traffic movement, officials said. Passenger vehicles and private cars have been permitted to travel in both directions between Jammu and Srinagar via Poonch.

For heavy motor vehicles, however, movement has been restricted. Only sixty-tire trucks carrying essential supplies are currently being allowed to ply from Poonch towards Shopian, while larger vehicles remain barred until the road condition improves.

Meanwhile, the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road remains shut due to unstable conditions.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has expressed concern over the prolonged highway closure. In a statement, KCCI said that the blockage has disrupted trade, supply chains, and transport of essential goods, including fruits, vegetables, livestock, groceries, and dairy products. The group stated that the unavailability of alternative logistics systems has deepened the crisis, affecting several sectors.

The KCCI urged the government to allow the movement of heavy vehicles through the Mughal Road until the national highway is restored. It also appealed to traders to avoid increasing prices during the crisis.

The Chamber called for a long-term contingency plan to manage such recurring disruptions, pointing out the region’s dependence on a single highway. It stressed the need for a sustainable supply chain mechanism to minimise economic losses and prevent future crises due to natural disruptions. (KNO)

No let-up in infiltration

Dwivedi added that while the operation targeted terror infrastructure, infiltration attempts are still being reported along the LoC. “If you look at today’s date and see if state-sponsored terrorism has ended, I don’t think so. Infiltration attempts have still been made along the LoC. The number of terrorists killed and those who escaped are known and have been reported,” he said.

On the subject of theaterisation, the Army Chief said it is necessary for effective command and coordination during operations involving multiple agencies. “Theaterisation is something that will inevitably come sooner or later. To implement it, we need several steps involving jointness, integration, and careful planning. Wars are not fought by the Army alone. With so many agencies involved, theaterisation becomes the solution. A single commander is needed to coordinate execution effectively,” he said.

General Dwivedi described ‘Operation Sindoor’ as a tribute to the professionalism and effort of the Indian Army and the nation. “It is

not just a narrative of a military operation, but a record of the courage and work of the Indian Army. Regarding the LoC situation, we have become accustomed to these conflicts and may not always recognize the relevance, losses, and challenges involved,” he added.

On economic and defence reforms, General Dwivedi welcomed the government’s GST reform, noting its potential to boost defence corridors. “The reform will allow greater investment in defence corridors and support MSMEs and startups. They will find it easier to invest in research, development, manufacturing, and upgradation of equipment for the Indian Army,” he said. (KNO)

Floods damage

Several farmers described the extent of the destruction, with many expressing their concerns about the future of their crops and their families’ survival.

“Our fields are completely submerged. This flood is worse than anything we’ve seen in the past decade,” said Ghulam Mohammad, a farmer from the Awantipora area. “The paddy crop, which was almost ready for harvest, has been washed away. All that hard work is gone.”

The damage also extends to horticultural crops, with apple orchards, one of the valley’s most valuable agricultural assets, severely impacted. “The apples were just about to ripen, and now they’ve been destroyed,” lamented Shabir Ahmad, an orchard owner from Anantnag. “Our trees are soaked, and many of the fruits have fallen. It’s a total loss.”

As the floodwaters recede, the full scale of the destruction becomes more evident. The affected families are now calling for urgent compensation, and some are drawing comparisons to the devastating 2014 floods, which similarly ravaged large parts of the region.

In 2014, the Jammu and Kashmir government provided financial assistance and compensation to those affected by the flood.

Farmers and residents are now urging the government to take similar steps.

“In 2014, the government promised us compensation and relief,” said a local farmer, Mehmod Ali. “We are once again asking for the same support. If the government could help us then, there’s no reason they can’t do so now.”

The local administration is already at work, assessing the damage across the valley. According to officials, a report on the extent of the destruction will soon be submitted to the government, and compensation plans will be discussed thereafter.

“We are in the process of gathering all the necessary information on the damages,” a senior official said.

“Once the assessment is complete, we will submit a report to the government, and relief measures will be implemented accordingly.” (KNO)

‘Op Sindoor’ drew

to the military that included target selection, deployment of troops, framework for de-escalation and use of diplomacy.

Referring to the national security challenges faced by India, the CDS said, “I consider the unresolved border dispute with China as the biggest challenge. The second major challenge is the proxy war being run by Pakistan against India,” Gen Chauhan said.

“Pakistan’s strategy has been to bleed India by a thousand cuts. It means keep hurting India slowly at a regular intervals and keep the flow of blood continuing in the country,” he added.

The CDS said the third biggest security challenge is emanating from the regional instability, especially the way India’s neighbouring countries are facing social, political, and economic unrest. Such a situation impacts India as well, he said.

“The fourth challenge would be what kind of warfare we will have in future. Wars are changing rapidly. Future wars will not be confined to land, air and water. It will include space, cyber and electromagnetic domains. It will be a challenge for us to make adjustments and keep ourselves ready for such a scenario,” he said.

On the fifth challenge, the CDS said “both our adversaries are equipped with nuclear arsenals and It will remain a challenge for us what kind of conventional war we will fight and what kind of operation we choose to deal with them.”

Gen Chauhan said the sixth challenge is about “technology and its impact” on future warfare. (KNO)

PM, LG, CM, others

Milad-un-Nabi. The life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad inspire humanity to live a life of compassion and selflessness. May his message guide us to righteous living and strengthen unity, brotherhood & peace in society. Eid Mubarak!”

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also extended

warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

In his message, the Chief Minister said that the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) are an eternal source of guidance for humanity, emphasizing the values of peace, compassion, equality and brotherhood. He urged people to imbibe these values in their daily lives and work collectively towards building a harmonious society.

“The auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) reminds us of the timeless message of the Prophet (SAW), which is rooted in kindness, tolerance and service to humanity. Let us dedicate ourselves to following this noble path and promote unity, brotherhood and mutual respect across all sections of society,” the Chief Minister said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and hoped that the occasion would strengthen the spirit of harmony and collective responsibility.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo extended her heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

In her greeting message, the Minister said that this sacred day reminds us of the timeless values of compassion, kindness, and service to humanity, which form the essence of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW). She expressed hope that this pious occasion will inspire people to strengthen bonds of brotherhood, promote peace and harmony, and work collectively for the welfare of society.

“On this revered occasion, let us pledge to walk on the path of truth, compassion, and selfless service shown to us by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)”, she said.

The Minister also highlighted that true way of celebrating this blessed and sacred day is to uphold the values of empathy, patience, and mutual respect in our daily lives.

Sakeena Itoo also prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of all citizens, particularly the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the auspicious and blessed occasion, Minister Javed Ahmed Rana has extended his warmest and most heartfelt greetings to all citizens, urging them to embrace the sacred spirit of this blessed day.

The Minister emphasized that Eid Milad-un-Nabi is not only a time for celebration but also an opportunity to reflect deeply on the noble teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

He described the life of the Prophet (SAW) as the perfect embodiment of peace, mercy, compassion, unity and justice—qualities that remain timeless and universal.

Rana called upon the people to seize this occasion to renew their commitment to the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW).

He highlighted the importance of serving humanity with humility, promoting harmony and strengthening the bonds of brotherhood within our communities.

Addressing the current challenges faced by society, marked by social divisions and hardships, the Minister reminded everyone that the Prophet’s (SAW) message of universal brotherhood, mercy and compassion for all creation shines brighter than ever.

The Cabinet Minister, Javid Ahmad Dar, in a post on X, said, “May the blessings of Prophet Muhammad SAW bring peace, love, and guidance into our lives. Eid Milad-un-Nabi Mubarak!”

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief, Mehbooba Mufti in a post on X, said, “Eid Milad - Un- Nabi Mubarak On this blessed occasion may the virtuous Seerah of Prophet Muhammad continue to guide us with honesty, compassion & righteousness.” (KNO)

Kashmir’s flood

in river.”

It suggested both short-term and long-term measures to avert floods in Kashmir.

The short-term measures recommended by the panel included raising and strengthening existing embankments, enhancing the carrying capacity of the existing Flood Spill Channel (FSC), dredging the Outfall Channel (OFC) to increase its capacity, setting up rapid-action dewatering facilities in urban areas, and establishing adequate emergency response systems and designated rescue zones.

The long-term measures recommended by the panel included constructing an additional supplementary Flood Spill Channel, creating water storage infrastructure, developing and enhancing the capacity of Wular Lake, implementing floodplain zoning regulations, among other initiatives. (KNO)

Looks like we lost India, Russia to ‘deepest, darkest’ China: Trump

PTI

Washington, Sept 05: It looks like the US has lost India and Russia to "darkest" China, President Donald Trump said on Friday in his latest remarks as ties between New Delhi and Washington continue to reel under possibly the worst phase in over two decades.

Trump's latest post on social media came days after the bonhomie among Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin drew global attention.

"Looks like we have lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest China. May they have a long and prosperous future together!" the US president said on Truth Social.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington are on a downturn after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. The additional tariff has already come into effect from August 27.

India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" and even wondered why it has been singled out for the punitive action.

Surprisingly, the US has not imposed any punitive measures on China, the largest importer of Russian crude oil.



In the last few days, several Trump administration officials, including White House trade advisor Peter Navarro, have used offensive language to target India.

India's big oil lobby has turned the largest democracy in the world into a "massive refining hub and oil money laundromat for the Kremlin", Navarro said last week.

Though the focus of the SCO summit on Monday was to ensure deeper security and economic complementarities among its member nations, what drew larger attention was the public display of bonhomie among Modi, Putin and Xi, signalling a broader convergence among the leading three powers.

A video of Modi and Putin holding hands and walking towards Xi, and then all three forming a close circle as good

friends went viral on social media. In his address at the summit, Xi elaborated on his vision for a new global security and economic order that prioritises the Global South.

As China hosted several world leaders at the Victory Day parade in Beijing on Wednesday, Trump accused the Chinese president of conspiring against the US along with Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

"May President Xi and the wonderful people of China have a great and lasting day of celebration", Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against the United States of America."

Over the last few days, India-US ties have witnessed a major downturn after over two decades of close

cooperation. The tension began after the collapse of the negotiations for a trade deal, as well as Trump's repeated claims that he resolved the military conflict between India and Pakistan in May. India has been maintaining that it ended following direct talks between the two sides.

Over the last few months, India and the US held several rounds of negotiations for a bilateral trade deal, but it could not be sealed in view of sharp divergences in certain critical areas, including agriculture and dairy.

The bilateral trade between India and the US was around USD 130 billion last year and there was a projection of upward mobility in the volume.

The US has also been targeting India for its energy ties with Russia.

Defending its purchase of Russian crude oil, India has been maintaining that its energy procurement is driven by national interest and market dynamics. India turned to purchasing Russian oil sold at a discount after Western countries imposed sanctions on Moscow and shunned its supplies over its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Consequently, from a mere 1.7 per cent share in total oil imports in 2019-20, Russia's share increased to 35.1 per cent in 2024-25, and it is now the biggest oil supplier to India.

Smart teachers more imp than smart classrooms & blackboards: President

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 05: Smart blackboards, smart classrooms and other modern facilities have their own importance in schools and higher education institutions but the most important thing is smart teachers, President Droupadi Murmu said on Friday.

Recalling her time as a teacher, she described it to be a very meaningful period of her life.

Murmu was speaking at the National Teachers Awards ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan where she conferred the awards upon over 60 educators for their exemplary contribution to teaching and learning.

"Smart blackboards, smart classrooms and other modern facilities have their own importance. But the most important thing is smart teachers.... Smart teachers are the teachers who understand the needs of their students' development. Smart teachers make studies interesting and effective with affection and sensitivity.

"Such teachers make students capable of fulfilling the needs of society and the nation. Sensible teachers work to instill a sense of dignity and security in children," she said.

Murmu noted building the character of students is the primary duty of a teacher.

"Sensitive, responsible and dedicated students who follow moral conduct are better than those students who are only interested in competition, bookish knowledge and selfishness. A good teacher has both emotions and intellect. The coordination of emotions and intellect also impacts the students," she said. "Children from the poorest of



backgrounds can touch the skies of progress with the power of education. Affectionate and devoted teachers play the most important role in giving strength to the flight of children. The biggest reward for teachers is that their students remember them throughout their lives and make commendable contributions to the family, society and country," she added.

The president said that the National Education Policy aims to make India a global knowledge superpower.

"For this, our teachers must be recognized as the best teachers in the world. Our institutions and teachers have to contribute actively in all three areas of education – school education, higher education and skill education. I am confident that our teachers will establish India as a global knowledge superpower with their crucial

contribution," she said.

From novel methods of teaching, dedication to students' growth to attempts to enhance learning achievements in difficult environments, the awardees were recognised at the annual award ceremony.

Ranging from innovative pedagogy to inspiring first-generation learners, the awardees played a key role in shaping young minds across India.

Ahead of the awards, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the National Award-winning teachers.

In a light-hearted remark, he said that while teachers usually give homework to students, he wanted to assign one to them to lead campaigns promoting swadeshi products and strengthen the "Make in India" and "Vocal for Local" movements.

India plans 15-yr defence upgrades with nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, indigenous fighter jets

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 05: India could build its third aircraft carrier, to be nuclear-powered, as part of a 15-year defence modernisation plan announced on Friday that also includes the use of Indian-made fighter jets by the navy for the first time.

Bordered by strategic rivals China and Pakistan, both of whom India has clashed with in deadly fights in recent years, New Delhi is increasingly leaning on domestic defence companies to bolster capabilities and cut dependence on foreign suppliers such as Russia, France and the United States. "As the nation stands on the threshold of embracing greater challenges and responsibilities in the forthcoming decades, it is but imperative that the Services be equipped accordingly," said the defence ministry's 2025 roadmap.

"Greater private-public sector partnership is thus the road ahead."

India currently operates two aircraft carriers, one of Russian origin and the other home-built. The proposed carrier is expected to be nuclear-powered, a first for India, for longer reach and stealthier operations. The document outlines the need for at least 10 nuclear propulsion



systems to support the carrier and other future warships, underscoring India's ambition to expand its strategic reach across the Indian Ocean.

India also plans to induct an unspecified number of new-generation twin-engine, deck-based fighters and light combat aircraft, both being developed by state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for the navy. In April, India signed a deal with France worth 630 billion rupees (about \$8 billion) for 26 Rafale-Marine twin and single-seat jets, made by Dassault Aviation, to be deployed on its two carriers: INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya.

India hopes to have 62 Rafale jets in service by 2030, including 36 for the air force

that started arriving in 2020. Currently, the carriers deploy a fleet of Soviet-origin MiG-29K.

The roadmap also anticipates procuring two electromagnetic aircraft launch systems, developed for the U.S. Navy to launch aircraft from carriers using electromagnetic forces instead of traditional steam catapults.

It also places a big emphasis on drones that played a key role in a May military conflict with arch-enemy Pakistan.

India has budgeted spending of about 6.81 trillion rupees (\$77 billion) on defence this fiscal year. It is the world's fourth biggest defence spender after the United States, China and Russia, according to World Bank data.

GST cut on cement to lower cost of infra projects, say industry players

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 05: The rationalisation of GST on cement -- a key construction material -- will help lower capital cost of infrastructure projects and improve cash flows, industry players said.

At its 56th meeting on Wednesday, the GST Council approved slashing GST rates on a number of items. On cement, the council recommended the duty to be reduced to 18 per cent from 28 per cent. The new Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate will be effective from September 22.

"The government has taken a landmark decision to reduce GST on critical construction materials such as cement. The rationalisation is expected to boost the development of infrastructure, and serve as a catalyst towards economic growth," said Kavita Shirvaiar, Managing Director (MD), Patel Engineering.

A spokesperson of IRB Infrastructure Developers said the proposed reduction on key inputs will provide a significant boost to the road sector, lower construction costs and improved cash flows will strengthen the financial health of developers.

Echoing similar views,

Vimal Kejriwal, MD, KEC International, said the reduction in GST on cement is expected to unlock working capital, improve cash flow efficiency and accelerate project delivery timelines.

Combined with the government's ongoing infrastructure push, the reform is likely to stimulate private sector capital expenditure and attract greater investments into the sector, he said.

Sorab Agarwal, Executive Director at Action Construction Equipment Limited (ACE), said the reduction in GST on key building materials is expected to significantly ease input costs, accelerate project execution, and provide much-needed momentum to the sector.

"Separately, the reduction of GST on agricultural equipment from 12 per cent to 5 per cent is a landmark decision that will directly benefit farmers and the rural economy," he said. Nagendra Nath Sinha, MD, Rodic Digital & Advisory, said: "With cement and steel forming nearly 40-45 per cent of project costs, this change (GST reduction) will cut material tax burden by about 10 per cent. Such savings will make projects more viable, accelerate execution, and boost participation in public-private partnerships."

DGCA plans to allow import of up to 20 yrs old aircraft for commercial flight ops

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 05: Aviation watchdog DGCA is set to amend norms to allow airlines to import aircraft that are up to 20 years old at a time when global supply chain woes have been impacting plane deliveries.

Currently, pressurised aircraft that are up to 18 years old are permitted to be imported into the country, subject to certain conditions.

The DGCA has proposed amendments to the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) pertaining to 'Age of Aircraft' to be imported for Scheduled/ Non-Scheduled including Charter, General Aviation and other Operations'.

A senior official told PTI that the draft CAR proposes changes for pressurised aircraft permitted to be imported subject to certain conditions up to 20 years instead of 18 previously, un-pressurised aircraft up to 25 years instead of 20 previously.

According to the draft CAR, pressurised aircraft



intended to be imported and used in passenger services (scheduled/ non-scheduled) and general aviation operation, shall not have completed 20 years of age or 65 per cent of designed economic life in terms of pressurisation cycle, whichever is earlier.

Pressurised aircraft are those that can fly at higher altitudes, generally above 10,000 feet. Narrow-body and wide-body planes used for commercial flights are pressurised aircraft.

Unpressurised aircraft rely on natural atmospheric pressure and can only fly at low altitudes, such as trainer planes. Generally, their altitudes are limited to below 10,000 feet.

"In the case of unpressurised aircraft, the decision will be on a

case-by-case basis and on a complete examination of the record of the aircraft being procured. Additionally, the aircraft intended to be imported shall have flown 50 hours during the last six months. However, the Director General of Civil Aviation would not allow such aircraft which are more than 25 years old," the draft CAR said.

There are more than 800 leased aircraft in the country that are used for scheduled and non-scheduled operations. In recent times, Indian airlines have been expanding their fleets and over 1,400 planes are on order. With the availability of aircraft becoming a challenge due to global supply chain issues, some carriers are opting for taking planes on lease for a short term.

The best sleeping position for heart patients: What research says

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Sept 05: A good night's sleep helps one recover-- both physically and mentally-- after a long and tiring day. Sleep also has many benefits-- it restores energy, boosts immunity, improves mental clarity, focus, and memory, regulates hormones, supports heart health, and reduces stress and inflammation.

A 2018 study titled 'Sleep and Cardiovascular Disease: Emerging Opportunities for Psychology' reads, 'Sleep plays a key role in both the development and progression of cardiovascular diseases (CVD). Specifically, short sleep duration and insomnia, alone or in combination, are associated with increased cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, after adjusting for other key risk factors. Inflammation, ANS dysfunction, and metabolic dysfunction represent plausible physiological mechanisms through



which disturbed sleep affects CVD'.

So, is there a sleeping position which is better suited for heart patients? Let's find out:

Sleeping on the left-side

Sleeping on your left side, also called the left lateral position, may help reduce acid reflux and thus be helpful for heart patients. Since gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is linked to higher risks of heart problems-- like

coronary heart disease-- minimising acid reflux can help support heart health.

But, a 2018 study titled "Lying position classification based on ECG waveform and random forest" found that sleeping on the left-side can slightly shift the heart's position due to gravity, thus affecting its electrical activity. And so, people who have heart health issues, this can trigger

complications or worsen symptoms.

Sleeping on the right side

The 2018 study "Lying position classification based on ECG waveform and random forest" further highlighted that he heart is more stable and ECG changes are minimal in a person when they sleep on their right-side.

According to Healthline, 'Sleeping on your right side may be the best option for people with heart failure. Although some people think sleeping on your right side could restrict blood flow back to the heart, there's not enough evidence to prove that it's harmful.' It also states, 'If you have an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), you may find it more comfortable to sleep on the opposite side that it's implanted. Most ICDs are located on the left side'.

Sleeping on the back (Supine Position)

Sleeping on the back, also called

the supine position, is generally not advised for heart patients as it can lead to airway obstruction, thus adversely affecting people with sleep apnea. This could lead to decreased oxygen levels during sleep, which can be fatal in certain cases.

An article on the American Heart Association's website highlights sleep apnea is worsened in people who sleep on their backs, thus causing increased cardiovascular risks.

Meanwhile, a 2025 study also shows that positional obstructive sleep apnea mainly happens in people who sleep in the supine position (on their backs), with remarkable cardiovascular risks.

Sleeping on the stomach (Prone Position) People who have heart issues are generally discouraged from sleeping on their stomachs. While it isn't directly linked to heart attacks, this position can lead to difficulty in breathing and

even put pressure on the spine, thus indirectly affecting one's cardiovascular health. According to Healthline, sleeping on the stomach can also negatively impact the spinal alignment, which can cause neck pain and discomfort, thus disrupting one's sleep -- which is important for maintaining good heart health.

So, which is the best sleeping position to protect your heart?

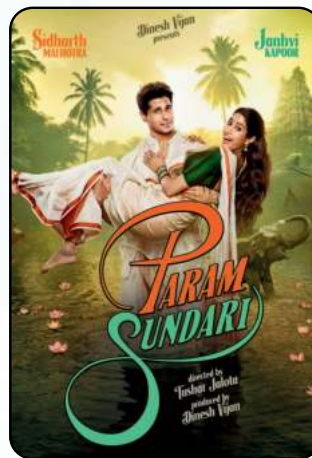
While these research can give a fair idea about the sleep positions one should have or avoid for better health, heart patients should consult their doctor before following any particular one.

Disclaimer: The information presented in this article has been compiled from multiple media and research sources. This content is intended for general awareness and should not be taken as medical advice or a definitive scientific conclusion.]

Saturday, 6th September 2025



BAAGHI 4 (A)
HINDI -10:20 AM, 04:20 PM
HINDI ATMOS -12:50 PM, 06:50 PM



PARAM SUNDARI (U/A13+)
HINDI -03:00 PM



THE CONJURING LAST RITES (A)
 ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 10:00 AM, 04:00 PM
 ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES -07:30PM
 HINDI -01:30 PM



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



LOKAH CHAPTER 1 CHANDRA (U/A16+)
MALAYALAM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
11:50 AM



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