



Kashmir's Rs 1,623 Crore Flood Plan Hits Roadblock

Management plan for Jhelum faces delays over financial, technical disputes

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sept 08: Despite recurrent flood threats in Kashmir, two critical components of the Rs 1623 crore comprehensive flood management plan for Jhelum River remain untouched. The delay in executing work on these components arises from additional financial implications triggered by alterations recommended by the Central Water Commission (CWC), following conflicting assessments in two separate studies regarding their efficacy. As a result, the ambitious project—meant to safeguard lives and infrastructure from future flood disasters—finds itself mired in financial and technical gridlock.

Details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River



Development and Ganga Rejuvenation approved Phase-II (Part A) of the flood management project for the Jhelum River and its tributaries in March 2022.

The Union Ministry recommended the project for inclusion under the Flood Management Project (FMP) component of the Flood Management Project & Border

- Critical flood components remain unexecuted
- Discrepancies delay Rs 1280 cr project
- Additional Rs 300 cr funding needed
- Diverging study reports cause project gridlock
- Authorities assessing revised implementation plans
- Kashmir flood prevention remains a challenge

Areas Programme (FMPBAP) for the period 2021–26, with 90 percent central funding and 10 percent Union Territory funding.

After Union Government's approval, the administrative council gave its go-ahead to the project in July 2022.

Two key components—resectioning of the Flood Spill Channel (FSC) and its linked

components, and widening of the Outfall Channel (OFC)—were conceived as part of the project, with a combined financial implication of up to Rs 1280 crore.

However, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department Kashmir did not initiate work due to differences in findings between two studies conducted by the [More on P6](#)

AIIMS Awantipora site chosen on political grounds, not feasibility: CM

'Location was not backed by thorough ground assessment'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Sept 08: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that the site for setting up the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Awantipora was selected on political considerations rather than on the basis of feasibility.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to the under-construction campus at Awantipora, CM Omar Abdullah, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the decision to establish AIIMS at the current location was not backed by thorough ground assessment.

"Unfortunately, the site was chosen on the basis of politics, and it was never checked whether this location was actually feasible or not," Omar said.

He pointed out that soon after the project was finalized, the army raised security-related concerns, which delayed the process by almost a year. This, he said, led to a change in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and subsequently caused cost escalation. "The project lost



valuable time in the initial stage due to these complications," Omar added.

Despite these challenges, the Chief Minister said that work was later started and it picked up pace over the last one year. "According to AIIMS authorities, the institute will be fully functional by the end of 2026, while the OPD services and MBBS classes are expected to begin by April 2026," he said

During his visit, Omar Abdullah also reviewed the ongoing construction and available facilities at the site, expressing hope that the project would be completed within the revised timelines.

On the Hazratbal incident, Omar condemned the arrest of several people in connection with the issue. He described the episode as "unfortunate" and criticized the [More on P6](#)

KULGAM ENCOUNTER

Foreigner among 2 terrorists killed, 2 soldiers martyred

DGP Prabhat visits 'Ground Zero,' top Police, Army officers monitor operation

Umairsar Gull Ganie

Kulgam, Sept 08: Two terrorists, including a foreigner, were killed while two Army soldiers also lost their lives in an encounter in the Guddar forest area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that following a "specific intelligence input" about the presence of terrorists, a joint team of Police, Army's 9 Rashtriya Rifles, and the Central

Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a cordon-and-search operation in Guddar area this morning. "The search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists opened fire on the security forces," he said.

The official added that one Pakistani and one local terrorist have been killed and the operation is on. "Three soldiers sustained injuries in the encounter and were shifted to an Army hospital, where two of them succumbed," he said.

"Despite heavy rain and dense foliage, [More on P6](#)

Our shared responsibility to protect Mother Earth: LG Sinha

Calls for promoting culture of environmental awareness



KT News Desk

Jammu, Sept 08: "Our youth must drive development that meets societal needs without compromising ecosystems and optimize the use of resources

through modern innovation. We need to adopt a multi-dimensional approach to make the earth better for the future generations," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday. [More on P6](#)

LG thanks PM, Union Min for 50 MBBS seats for SMVDIME

KT News Desk

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, J.P. Nadda for sanctioning 50 MBBS seats for newly established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME). In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri [More on P6](#)

J&K receives excess rainfall of 41% in 3 months

MeT predicts briefs spells of rains till Sept 12

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Sept 08: Amid frequent flood threats Jammu and Kashmir has received an excess rainfall of 41 per cent from June to September this year.

According to the Meteorological department (MeT) data, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), five stations in Jammu region have recorded the large excess rainfall from June 01, 2025 to September 03, 2025. The stations include Udhampur, Samba, Rajouri, Ramban and Doda. (Areas where rainfall exceeds 60% above the normal are categorized as experiencing

'Large Excess Rainfall'.)

The large excess rainfall came at a time when the region experienced back-to-back years of deficit rainfall.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir experienced its driest year in five decades in 2024, witnessing a significant deficit of 29%. In 2023, J&K recorded 7% deficit, in 2022 16% deficit, 2021 saw 28% deficit and 2020 experienced 20% deficit.

The data reveals that Srinagar & Jammu, summer and winter capitals of Jammu and Kashmir, are among the five stations where excess rainfall has been recorded during the period. The other three [More on P6](#)

High Court donates over Rs 54 lakh to CM's Relief Fund



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 08: In a gesture of solidarity and compassion, the High Court on Monday handed over a cheque of Rs 54,40,500 to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for the rehabilitation and welfare of those who have suffered due to recent

devastating floods in the region.

The judiciary took this noble step with an aim to support the people affected by the recent devastating floods in the region.

The cheque was formally presented to the Chief Minister, with an assurance that the contribution, though modest, reflects the [More on P6](#)

CM launches promotional video of Kashmir Marathon

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 08: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a meeting to review preparations for the upcoming Kashmir Marathon-2025, a flagship sporting event aimed at promoting sports, fitness, tourism, and Kashmir's vibrant culture.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM, Nasir Aslam Wani; Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, Dheeraj Gupta; Additional Chief Secretary Tourism; Principal Secretary Finance; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Secretary IT, Information and GAD; and other senior officials.

Director Tourism, Kashmir made a detailed presentation on the preparations and proposed plan of activities for the marathon.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the marathon must go beyond being a sporting event to become a holistic cultural and tourism experience. He directed officials to tie up with hotels, restaurants, and local businesses to provide special packages for participants and visitors, allowing them to explore Kashmir's hospitality, cuisine and heritage during their stay.

Omar also suggested introducing 10 km and 5 km runs for local participants in addition to the full and half marathons. [More on P6](#)

MLA Doda Mehraj Malik detained under PSA

Admin justifies detention to Speaker, cites public order concerns; leaders condemn; CM calls it 'unjustified'

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sept 08: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Mehraj Malik from Doda was arrested on Monday and booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), marking the first instance in Jammu & Kashmir where a sitting legislator has been detained under the law.

Malik, who defeated BJP candidate Gajay Singh Rana by 4,538 votes in last year's Assembly elections, had initially supported Omar Abdullah during government formation.

The government later informed the Legislative Assembly Speaker about the detention of Malik.



According to intimation by District Magistrate Doda, Harvinder Singh, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Malik, who represents Doda-52 constituency, has been booked under the provisions of the J&K Public [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly Secretariat denies endorsing PSA

KT News Desk

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Secretariat on Monday clarified that it has not endorsed or played any role in the application of the Public Safety Act (PSA) against MLA Mehraj Malik. In an official statement issued here, the Secretariat stated, "It has been reported in some media outlets and on social media platforms, including X (formerly Twitter), that the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly Secretariat [More on P6](#)

Highway halt cripples Kashmir's fruit economy; growers say losses cross Rs 200 cr



Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sept 08: Kashmir's fruit economy has been brought to its knees with losses crossing Rs 200 crore as the Srinagar-Jammu

National Highway remains shut, leaving hundreds of trucks stranded and perishable consignments rotting on the road.

The situation has forced Asia's second-largest [More on P6](#)

Valley's apple industry hit

Mubashir Alam Wani

Kashmir's apple industry is facing one of its toughest seasons, as the recent ongoing long closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has paralysed the movement of fruit during the peak harvest period. As per the growers and traders, losses are mounting, with the railway link [More on P6](#)

Artisans fear extinction of Sozni embroidery as demand for handmade Pashmina declines

Veteran artist Mohammad Aslam Khan seeks govt intervention for its revival

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sept 08: The centuries-old art of Sozni embroidery on Pashmina and Toshe shawls is facing a steep decline, with artisans warning that the craft may soon disappear if urgent measures are not taken.

Among those raising alarm is 70-year-old Mohammad Aslam Khan, a resident of Kathidarwaza, Rainawari, who has been practicing Sozni for the last 55 years.

Khan, regarded as one of the senior craftsmen in his locality, says that the demand for



authentic handmade embroidery has drastically fallen due to machine-made imitations,

lack of government support and exploitation by middlemen.

Notably, veteran artisan

Mohammad Aslam Khan's picture was used as the cover picture in a book 'Shawls and Shawlbags of Kashmir - Legends of Unsung Heroes' by Dr-Abdul Ahad.

"I inherited this art from my uncle, Mohammad Subhan Khan, and his student, Ali Mohammad Khan. For generations, our family kept this tradition alive, but most of my relatives have now left it as they found other sources of livelihood. Only a few of us continue, but even though we are struggling," Khan told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). [More on P6](#)

IMCT visits Kulgam, Shopian districts

Chairs review meeting, takes stock of relief measures

KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM/SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 08: The Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) deputed by the Union Government Monday visited Kulgam and held a review meeting to take stock of relief, rehabilitation and restoration measures in the aftermath of recent floods in the district.

The team comprised of Col. K.P. Singh, Joint Secretary & Advisor (Ops & Comm), NDMA; Navin Kumar Chau-raisa, Regional Officer, MoRTH Jammu; Arti Singh, Deputy Director Ministry of Power; Dr Vikram Singh, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Shachi Jain, Director Ministry of Jal Shakti; Kandarp V Patel, Deputy Secretary FCD and Rakesh Kumar, Under Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development.

During the meeting, the team took detailed assessment and review of damages caused by recent floods, cloudbursts, and landslides in the district.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan; Senior officers of district administration and engineers from key departments like PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, Irrigation & Flood Control, KPDCI, PMGSY, and senior officers of Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, FSC, and Revenue departments.

During the meeting, the



Deputy Commissioner presented a overview of the recent flood situation in the district.

Addressing the officers in the meeting, the IMCT said that the observations and recommendations as well as damage report will be shared with the Union Government to ensure immediate relief as well as long-term resilience planning for the district.

Later, the IMCT team also visited various flood affected areas of the district including Khudwani and Qaimoo to gather on-ground assessment of the damages caused. The team also interacted with the general public and took stock of their demands and suggestions.

They assured the locals that these observations and suggestions will be shared with the Government of India to ensure immediate relief as well as long-term resilience planning for Kulgam district.

The Inter-Ministerial

Central Team (IMCT) deputed by the Union Government held a review meeting to assess the damages caused by recent floods and incessant rainfall across district Shopian as well as relief and rehabilitation measures carried out by district administration.

Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta, presented a detailed assessment of damages suffered in Shopian district before the IMCT members which included senior officers from NDMA, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Jal Shakti, MoRTH, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Power and Finance.

During the meeting, DC Shopian gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation covering the disaster preparedness framework. He informed the team that Shopian, spread over seven tehsil, although comparatively less vulnerable to floods than other districts,

has suffered damages to public infrastructure including Roads, Bridges, Water Supply Schemes, Power assets and standing crops and houses of lower riparian villages in Zainapora sub division.

DC Shopian also briefed on immediate restoration of services which were disrupted during floods and relief and rescue measures carried out in the district.

DC Shopian informed the IMCT that in Shopian district, 2 out of 6 major 33 KV lines, 16 feeders, 13 transformers and 19 electric poles were affected and have been restored; 55 out of 92 drinking water supply schemes were impacted and all have been restored, 25 roads were damaged of which 24 stand restored and 1 is under restoration besides PMGSY road length of about 860 metres was damaged.

The DC also apprised the IMCT that Mughal Road at KM 24 witnessed severe damage due to sliding and efforts are on to keep it open 24*7.

It was further informed that 28 villages in low lying areas covering 4284 hectares with a population of 17,200 were impacted, 4 villages namely Hydergund, Zainapora, Melahura/Wandina and Reshipora were directly hit, 21 shelter sheds were established, 129 families evacuated and 644 persons rescued.

The DC also briefed that 11 residential houses have been damaged while crop and orchard losses are being assessed.

Midterm review meeting on HADP commences at SKUAST-K

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 08: The UT-level Apex Committee for the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) convened Monday for a three-day midterm review (2023-2025) meeting at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir here.

The meeting aims to evaluate the progress of the Rs 5012 crore program and strategies for the remaining period.

The meeting was presided over by Chairman, Apex Committee, Dr Mangla Rai, renowned agriculture scientist and former DG ICAR.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture

Production Department, Shailendra Kumar and other committee members including Dr PK Joshi, Secretary NAAS; Dr HS Gupta, former Director IARI; Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Vice Chancellor SKUAST-J, Dr BN Tripathi and Dr. JP Sharma, former VC SKUAST-J.

The meeting is also being attended by key stakeholders, including directors from various line departments, directors and deans from SKUAST-K, Principal Investigators (PIs) of the 29 HADP projects, and other senior officials from SKUAST-K.

In his remarks, Chairman Dr. Mangla Rai presented several suggestions to further enhance the program's implementation

and impact.

ACS, Shailendra Kumar, during the meeting talked about the various initiatives taken by the APD. He said HADP is reaching out to people and uplifting farmers. Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, while welcoming the apex committee members, gave an overview of the HADP and the meeting's objectives.

Mission Director HADP, Sandeep Kumar, presented a comprehensive two-year progress report on the program's initiatives before the committee.

The Apex Committee is the governing body of HADP responsible for overseeing the implementation of the program through comprehensive

agricultural development strategies aimed at transforming the agricultural sector and improving the socio-economic conditions of farmers. The committee will continue its deliberations over the next two days to ensure the successful achievement of all HADP goals.

Earlier in the day, the committee members led by Dr Mangla Rai, conducted a field visit to Ganderbal. They visited FPO Facilitation Centre for Aromatic Plants and Medicines at Nunar, as well as the Faculty of Forestry, SKUAST-K. The visit was aimed at assessing the progress and potential of these initiatives in promoting high-value agriculture and rural development.

CEO Jammu tours schools to assess post-flood preparedness

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 08: Chief Education Officer (CEO) Jammu, Ajeet Sharma on Monday conducted an extensive tour of schools across the four Zones of Marh, Akhnoor, Jaurian, and Khour to review preparedness for the safe reopening of institutions after the recent spell of heavy rains and floods. He was accompanied by Deputy CEO Jammu (HQ Akhnoor), Sardar Harjeet Singh.

The recent rains and floods caused damage to school infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, prompting a thorough review to ensure the safe resumption of classes and continuity of learning.

During the visit, CEO Jammu

inspected the following institutions: HSS Jhiri (Zone Marh), HSS Boys Akhnoor, HSS Girls Akhnoor, HSS Sohal (Zone Akhnoor), HS Dhok Khalsa (Zone Jaurian), HSS Pallanwala (Zone Khour), MS Platan (Zone Khour), HSS Khour (Zone Khour), MS Thallian (Zone Jaurian), and HSS Jaurian (Zone Jaurian).

The CEO interacted with Heads of Institutions and staff members, issuing on-the-spot directions to address safety, infrastructure, and academic concerns.

At HSS Jhiri, the Head of Institution was instructed to conduct classes only in the safe portions of the building, with repairs to be carried out immediately and a safety certificate obtained before reopening

the affected portions.

At HSS Pallanwala, where part of the school building is being used as a camp for border migrants, the CEO directed the management to make suitable arrangements to ensure smooth functioning of classes in the remaining portion of the premises.

He further instructed all staff members to continue online teaching until offline classes fully resume so that students' learning is not disrupted. He also encouraged Heads of Institutions to motivate students of Classes 1 to 8 to actively use the SwiftChat application, a chatbot-based learning tool provided by J&K Samagra Shiksha under Vidhya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), to support continuous learning.

NOTICE

I Want to correct my fathers name and Mothers Name in my passport bearing no. F1505663 Fathers Name from Mohd Ayub Badyari to Muhammad Ayub Badyari and Mothers name from Naseema Wangnoo to Naseema as per my matriculation certificate Now i want to correct the same. In this regard if anybody have any objection he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 7 days after that no claim shall be entertained

Ahmed Badyari
S/o Muhammd Ayub Badyari
R/o H.B PIANO Dal Lake Srinagar



Central Bureau of Investigation. Government of India, Anti-Corruption Branch, Srinagar.

Near Guest House No.6, Near MLA Hostel, MA Road, Srinagar-190001.
Phone/fax: 0194-2455514, email :- hobacsg@cbi.gov.in

No. 166/PA/Misc/CBI,ACB-Srinagar

dated.08-09-2025.

MESSAGE

DO NOT PAY BRIBE TO ANYONE, IF ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS PERFORMING PUBLIC DUTIES DEMANDS BRIBE FROM YOU OR IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE CORRUPTION OR IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CORRUPTION, PLEASE MAKE A COMPLAINT TO DIG, ANTI-CORRUPTION BRANCH, CBI SRINAGAR LOCATED NEAR MLA HOSTEL SRINAGAR ON PHONE NO'S (LAND LINE) 0194-2455514 AND (MOBILE NO.) 9419900977. YOU CAN ALSO SENT YOUR COMPLAINT ON EMAIL ID-HOBACSGR@CBI.GOV.IN. IDENTITY OF THE INFORMER WILL BE KEPT SECRET AND NOT DISCLOSED. SAY NO TO CORRUPTION. BE A LEADER TO ERADICATE THE MENANCE OF CORRUPTION. ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST.

Sd/- (Raman Kumar Meena) IPS DIG & Head of the branch, CBI ACB Srinagar

DIT/KM/8/25

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE QAZIGUND

Email: gdc.qazigund@jk.gov.in Website: www.gdcqaziund.in Cell No: 9419093709

Ph. No: 01931-295143 No. GDC/QZD/25/220 Date: 06/09/2025

CORRIGENDUM

Notice inviting e-NIT No: GDC/QZD/01 of 2025, Dated 01/09/2025

Notice inviting tenders for Running of College Canteen at GDC Qazigund. following corrigendum is published:

Tender Schedule	Published in local newspapers	To be read as
ENIT NO	GDC/QZD/25/01, Dated.30/08/2025	GDC/QZD/01 of 2025, Dated 01/09/2025
Date of issue of Tender Notice	30-08-2025	01-09-2025
Period of downloading; of Tender Document	From 30-08-2025 to 08-09-2025 up to 6 pm	From 01-09-2025 to 10-09-2025 up to 6 pm
Bid Submission Start Date	30-08-2025 from 7 pm	01-09-2025 from 6 pm
Bid Submission End Date	08-09-2025 up to 4 pm	10-09-2025 up to 4 pm
Date (gowning of Technical Bid (In case of holiday the Bid shall be opened on Next Duy)	09-09-2025 after 10 am	11-09-2025 after 10 am

Note: - Accurate dates have been published online on jktenders.gov.in. And all other terms and conditions shall remain unaltered.

DIPK-6012/25
DATED: 08-09-2025

PRINCIPAL

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NITNo.25 OF R&B/QAZIGUND/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/2475-90 DATED:08-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works: -

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Basic Cost (In Rs)	GST Amount (In Rs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (InRs)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Position of AAA	Class of Contractor
1.	Re-Construction of Damaged School Building at Govt. Middle School Malikpora Manzmo.	1762879.57	1493965.74	268913.83	800/=	35258/=	45 Days	UT Capex Budget(Tribal) 2025-26	Order No.27 CEOA of 2025 Dated: 26-08-2025	BEE & CEE Class

Position of TS: Accorded

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08.09.2025
		From 10.09.2025 To 19.09.2025 (11:00 AM) (04:00 PM)
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	19.09.2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 10.09.2025 To 19.09.2025 (11:00 AM) (04:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 20.09.2025 (11:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD)

infavour of Executive Engineer R&B Division QAZIGUND[TenderInvitingAuthority](NameofWorktobementioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND (Tender receiving Authority).

2. AlltheBiddershavetosubmitEarnestMoney/BidSecurity(EMD@2%ofAdvertisedCost)intheshapeof CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour ofExecutive Engineer R&B Division QAZIGUND (Tender receiving authority) within 03 DaysbeforefixationofContractandshallbereleasedaftersuccessfulcompletionofDefectLiabilityPeriod(DLP)ofthe work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

The bidders are requested to quote their rates excludingGST. GST @18Percentshall be added tothe contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.

5. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.inand conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.

6. Thebidsfortheworkshallremaininvalidforaperiodof120days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

7. The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period beforeissue of letter of intent.

c) SuccessfulBidderfailstoexecutetheagreementwithin28daysafterfixationofcontract.

d) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

8. The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement as laid down in NIT

9. Performance Security shall be released after DLP is over successfully.

10. All other terms and conditions are assumes laidinPWDForm25.

No. 2475-90

DATED:08-09-2025

DIPK-5996/25
DATED: 08-09-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PW (R&B) Division QAZIGUND

NH closure sparks mutton shortage in Kashmir

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 08: As the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway remained closed for another consecutive day, the Kashmir Valley is on the verge of facing an acute mutton shortage, with dealers warning of complete stock exhaustion from Tuesday-Wednesday onwards.

Dealers said the crisis has already forced the likely postponement of multiple events, including several weddings and other key functions.

"This is an extremely alarming situation, and if the government does not take it seriously, we might face an acute shortage of mutton across Kashmir," Mehraj-Ud-Din Ganai, General Secretary of the Mutton Dealers Association said.

He added that if supplies do not reach within the next 24-48 hours



via the Mughal Road, there will be zero availability of mutton across the valley.

Despite government assurances of routing essentials through the

Mughal Road, trucks are repeatedly halted at Lakhanpur, Nowshera, Surankote and Poonch for several days, resulting in heavy financial losses.

"The stoppages and continuous

halts are killing our livestock and crippling our trade," Ganai said, adding that over the past week, mutton dealers have faced losses exceeding Rs 15 crore.

"We appeal to the administration to intervene immediately and ensure hassle-free passage of vehicles through the Mughal Road," he added.

Notably, mutton is a key component of Kashmir's food culture, with weddings and other functions heavily dependent on its availability. Moreover, the Srinagar-Jammu Highway—the valley's only all-weather road link with the rest of the country, has been hit by multiple landslides and damage in Udhampur and other areas following heavy rains over the past two weeks, while restoration work is underway—(KNO)

Students skipping regular classes: DSEK

Orders strict enforcement of student attendance in all Govt, private schools

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 08: School Education Department (SED) Monday said that students of 11th and 12th standard in Kashmir division were skipping regular classes and the trend was spreading to lower classes.

The department said that the irregularity was impacting the objective of student development as envisioned by NEP 2020.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) G N Itoo ordered strict vigilance regarding regular attendance of students in all high and higher secondary schools.

DSEK in a circular issued in this regard said that the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) envisions education not merely as academic instruction but as a holistic journey nurturing students' intellectual curiosity, emotional intelligence, creative expression, ethical awareness and social skills.

"To realize this vision, especially through experiential learning and collaborative projects, regular class attendance is not only essential but the backbone to achieve competency-based learning, critical hands-on activities, teacher interactions and peer engagement, which NEP 2020 aims to cultivate among students," reads the circular.

DSEK said, "It has been observed that a number of students of classes 11th and 12th are skipping regular classes and the trend is spreading to class 9th and 10th. This is a matter of serious concern as it will impact to achieve the objectives of student development as envisioned by NEP 2020."

The directorate also said that regular school attendance is mandatory and the school curriculum is designed to provide comprehensive learning and missing classes can



create significant gaps in a student's effective learning.

"To ensure that the goals of NEP 2020 with regard to holistic development of students are achieved, it is enjoined upon all stakeholders to ensure strict enforcement of student attendance in all government and private recognised schools through VSK attendance Chatbot, Aadhaar based attendance," DSEK said.

Itoo further said that principals must ensure that practical classes in science subjects are conducted regularly as these are crucial for hands-on learning.

"All Principals and faculty shall take proactive measures to ensure students attend regular classes and create an engaging, academically enriching environment in schools in line with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which emphasizes on experiential learning," it reads.

The director directed all joint directors, Chief Education Officers (CEOs), cluster heads, and Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) to personally monitor compliance of circular instructions. "Non-compliance with the above instructions shall be viewed seriously and may attract disciplinary action as warranted."—(KNO)

Mounting vegetable prices across markets

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 08: In Kashmir's bustling marketplaces, once affordable and easily available vegetables have now become a luxury as prices soar sharply. The recent memories of rotten mutton and their lingering impact continue to cast a shadow over the region, and now even vegetables, which were once staples, are out of reach for many Kashmiris.

The public's fondness for mutton has turned into frustration, and people are now approaching vegetable markets with a sense of despair.

Locals said that outrage



over rising prices has transformed into open anger, with the cost of essential items increasing dramatically. For instance, live chicken, once affordable at Rs 120-130 per

kilogram, is now selling for over Rs 200 per kilogram.

"Even chicken, which used to be a fallback option, is now beyond the reach of the poor," said Shahzada, a

resident of Bemina. She added that vegetable prices have also surged, with items like onions, tomatoes, potatoes, and beans being sold at double or more their previous rates, making simple meals feel like a luxury.

"They've turned vegetables into status symbols," joked a shopper in Batamalo, though the humour was tinged with irony.

Another resident said that it is not just the high prices, but that they have "weaponised" kitchens, leaving common people struggling.

Dealers said the sharp price hikes were due to disrupted supply chains and

increased transportation costs, worsened by recent highway blockages. However, locals also accuse the Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department of being a "mute spectator", saying the department has become ineffective, merely issuing orders and polishing the government's image while people are left to cope with soaring prices on their own.

"This department only issues orders and tries to project an image of efficiency. On the ground, they are silent while our kitchens burn," said Bilal Ahmad, a resident of Srinagar—(KNO)

Water crisis persists in Srinagar

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 08: Srinagar city is currently grappling with an unprecedented water crisis, as residents across multiple localities continue to face severe shortages despite repeated assurances from authorities.

From Batamalo and Khanyar to Lal Bazaar, Nawa Kadal, Bemina, and parts of the outskirts, including Bagh-e-Methab, people are enduring long waits for water tankers or resorting to unsafe, muddy water sources.

On September 5, 2025, officials said the disruption was due to recent flood-like conditions in the valley, which caused increased cloudiness in water sources and affected supply from several treatment plants.

The district administration of Srinagar had also announced a dedicated helpline to assist residents and assured that water supply would be restored that very day. However, days have passed, and little has changed.

Ambreena Anjum, Superintending Engineer (SE),

Srinagar-Ganderbal, had previously claimed that water supply in the affected areas would resume that night. Yet, the problem persists, with taps remaining dry long after.

When contacted on September 5, the PHE exchange helpline officials reiterated that supply would be restored "by late evening", a promise residents now see as routine and unfulfilled. "We have multiple complaints. Requests for tanker services are pending, and it's impossible to send tankers everywhere," said an official after KNO asked about the ongoing water shortage in one of the affected areas.

The crisis has already led to protests. Last month, residents of Batamalo blocked the main road, accusing authorities of ignoring their suffering. "We have been without water for weeks. Our children go to school without bathing, and our kitchens are dry. How long should we wait?" questioned Ghulam Rasool, a local.

Residents also allege

favouritism in tanker distribution. "Tankers are sent selectively, often to VIP zones, while common people suffer. Even when tankers arrive, they cannot serve hundreds of households with a single round," said a woman from Lal Bazaar. In several uptown areas, including Bemina and Hyderpora, residents report that muddy, foul-smelling water has been flowing from taps for weeks. "This is untreated water, unfit even for washing clothes, let alone drinking. We are being pushed towards diseases," said Mohammad Ashraf of Bemina.

Despite repeated assurances, residents remain unconvinced. "Every time, they promise water by evening, but the evening passes, and the taps stay dry. Authorities are testing our patience," said Nazir Ahmad of Nowhatta.

When contacted, PHE Chief Engineer Er Rakesh Gupta said he would personally speak with the exchange officials and officers, promising to take steps once he fully understands the situation—(KNO)

Western Command launches 'Operation Rahat' in flood-hit regions

KNO

Jammu, Sep 08: Following the recent floods, the Indian Army's Western Command has launched Operation Rahat to provide assistance and relief to and disaster hit areas in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh.

Since August 26, the Army has carried out 82 missions with the deployment of 59 columns, including 17 Engineer Task Forces. These efforts have focused on evacuation, medical aid, and restoration of infrastructure. Over 6,000 citizens have been evacuated across the three states, including 300 personnel from the PMF.

"Medical support has been provided to more than 13,000 individuals, including critically ill patients requiring emergency transport," it

added.

"The Army has delivered 48 tons of essential supplies, including rations, medicines, and drinking water, through both air-drops and ground convoys. Aviation assets deployed in the operation include 3 ALHs, 6 MI-17s, 6 Cheetah helicopters, and 1 Chinook, which have collectively flown over 250 hours of sorties to support relief missions," it said.

In coordination with civil administration, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the Army has focused on restoring connectivity and essential infrastructure.

Engineering teams have worked on diverting floodwaters, repairing bridges, restoring washed-away roads, and strengthening embankments. At Madhopur

Headworks, teams remain deployed to support urgent restoration efforts.

"Notable measures in Jammu & Kashmir include laying over 2 kilometers of optical fiber cable in Bhagwati Nagar to restore mobile connectivity on August 27 and constructing a Bailey bridge at Jammu Tawi within 12 hours on August 29 to reopen a key route," it added.

Medical camps and community kitchens have been established across affected districts to provide first aid, preventive care, and cooked meals to stranded populations. Flood Control and Water Monitoring Cells have been set up at headquarters to track water levels at critical points, including Ranjit Sagar and other major dams, ensuring timely deployment of resources—(KNO)

SCBA for flood relief in JK, other states

KNO

New Delhi, Sep 08: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has appealed to its members to contribute towards relief for victims of the recent Monsoon floods that have severely affected Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Uttarakhand.

In a circular, SCBA Secretary Pragya Baghel has stated that the floods have escalated from a regional to a national disaster, leaving people in affected areas without basic necessities such as food, shelter, and medical care.

The Executive Committee

of SCBA urged members of the Bar to contribute generously to the "SCBA Calamity Relief Fund," which will be used exclusively for the relief of flood victims.

The circular said that there is the urgent need for support in these states where flash floods have disrupted normal life and affected thousands.

SCBA President Dr. Vikas Singh and the Executive Committee appealed to all members to rise to the occasion to provide maximum relief in the form of food, shelter, and medical aid to those impacted—(KNO)

Young Scientist India 2025...

Army Goodwill school bags top 3 positions

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 08: The Young Scientist India competition is one of the country's most prestigious national-level platforms, dedicated to fostering creativity, innovation, and scientific thinking among school children.

The 2025 edition witnessed an overwhelming response with more than 1200 applications from 22 states. After a rigorous selection process, only 175 students qualified for the national stage. From this group, 21 toppers were shortlisted, and finally, 6 winners emerged as the brightest young innovators of India.

In this remarkable journey, Army Goodwill School, Wuzur carved a place of pride. A total of 07 students from the school's Innovation Club earned the honour of being selected for the Grand Finale Exhibition. Among them, 3 students advanced further into the prestigious Top 21 category. The highlight of this achievement was when one of the student Master Rishi Pandit, secured a coveted position in the top 3, bringing home a trophy and cash award of Rs 15,000.

The grand finale of the event was graced by Dr. Thiru Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Minister for School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, whose presence further inspired and encouraged the young innovators.

This outstanding success is a testament to the determination and talent of the young minds of AGS Wuzur. Equally, it reflects the constant guidance, encouragement, and support extended by the school management and also of Bharati Airtel Foundation, whose dedicated efforts have played a vital role in nurturing the innovative spirit of students. The achievement of AGS Wuzur at Young Scientist India 2025 is not just a moment of pride for the school but also a beacon of inspiration for the entire region, highlighting the potential of young innovators to shape a brighter future for the nation.

Special flood relief train operational in Jammu

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

Jammu, Sep 08: A special flood relief train started operations in the Jammu division on Monday, running between Katra and Sangaldan for five days to assist people affected by recent rains and floods, officials said.

An official said that the train has been pressed into service to carry both passengers and essential relief material to flood-hit areas.

"On its first run, over 1,500 passengers availed the facility, while nearly 1,200 tonnes of food supplies, including wheat and rice, are scheduled to be distributed at various stations along the route," he said. Senior Divisional



Commercial Manager (DCM) Jammu Division, Uchit Singh, said that the first consignment of 4 tonnes will be delivered on September 9. "The service will continue for five days, ensuring both connectivity and timely relief support," he said—(KNO)

Salman Khan begins shooting for 'Battle of Galwan' in Ladakh

RAJA SYED RATHER

Leh, Sep 08 (KNO): Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has arrived in Ladakh to begin shooting for his much-anticipated film, Battle of Galwan, set against the breathtaking landscapes of the region. A photograph of the actor from the sets has gone viral on social media, fueling excitement among fans.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), directed by Apoorva Lakhia, the film is a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of Indian soldiers during the June 15, 2020, Galwan Valley clash between

Indian and Chinese forces.

Salman Khan is playing the role of Colonel Bikkumalla Santosh Babu, who led his troops with remarkable bravery and was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, the nation's second-highest wartime gallantry honour.

Producers of the film said Salman Khan is the "perfect fit" for the role, combining his trademark intensity with emotional depth.

This project is a heartfelt tribute to the nation's heroes, and Salman's presence takes it to another level," Apoorva Lakhia said in a statement—(KNO)



EDITORIAL

How long shall Kashmir depend on single vital route for supplies

Over a week-long closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) amid on-going heavy rains has exposed the fragile supply chain of Kashmir. This has led to a sharp spike in food prices and deepening the hardships faced by residents. As the valley's primary all-weather road remains blocked at multiple points due to landslides and shooting stones, essential commodities like vegetables, poultry, mutton, and fruits have become increasingly scarce and expensive. The immediate consequence is a surge in prices, with residents reporting vegetables

costing nearly double. Locally grown items like Haakh and beans are now unaffordable for many, and even imported fruits like apples and bananas are selling at 30-40% higher prices. Poultry and eggs have also seen steep increases, with chicken prices hitting around Rs 200 per kilogram and eggs soaring to Rs 240 per tray. Mutton, already costly, has reached nearly Rs 1,000 per kilogram, further burdening households, especially amid the ongoing marriage season, which heightens demand and scarcity. This crisis underscores a broader issue: dependence on a single vital route

for supplies. With trucks stranded and livestock unable to reach markets, traders are forced to sell limited stocks at inflated rates, creating a perfect storm of supply shortages and profiteering. Residents are calling for urgent government intervention, demanding market regulation to prevent hoarding and black marketing, which only worsens their plight. Authorities have begun monitoring markets and conducting checks, but experts point out that enforcement is limited to packaged goods with MRP labels. Without a standardised rate list for bulk items, controlling

prices in open markets remains challenging. Trade bodies have urged traders to exercise restraint, and officials from the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department have assured the public that stock levels are sufficient and that measures are in place to stabilise prices once supplies resume. This situation highlights the critical need for better infrastructure resilience and diversified supply routes. Relying solely on NH-44 leaves Kashmir vulnerable to disruptions, which have severe social and economic repercussions. Until the highway reopens, residents will

continue to suffer from inflated prices and limited access to essentials. This demands strategic planning and proactive market regulation. The ongoing crisis reveals how infrastructure failures can rapidly translate into economic distress for ordinary people. The government must act decisively, not only to restore the highway but also to implement sustainable measures that protect consumers from exploitation during such emergencies. The people of Kashmir deserve assurance that their basic needs will be safeguarded, whatever the weather or roadblocks ahead.

India: A Global Bioeconomy Powerhouse

In 10 years, grew from USD 10 billion to USD 165.7 billion

Press Information Bureau

Over the past decade, India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing bioeconomy in the world. From just USD 10 billion in 2014, the sector expanded to USD 165.7 billion in 2024, contributing 4.25% to the national GDP of USD 3.89 trillion. With an ambitious target of USD 300 billion by 2030, bioeconomy is steadily becoming a cornerstone of India's sustainable growth and innovation, driven by advancements in biotechnology, agricultural innovation, bio-manufacturing, and healthcare.

According to the World Economic Forum, bioeconomy uses renewable resources like plants, animals, and microorganisms to produce food, energy, and industrial goods. It helps cut emissions, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and support sustainability. With innovations such as gene editing and bioprinting, bioeconomy is creating solutions that protect the planet while driving economic growth and human well-being.

Marking the first anniversary of the BioE³ Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment), on 25th August 2025, Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh launched the BioE³ Challenge for Youth and the country's first National Biofoundry Network, calling these initiatives vital to making biotechnology a driver of India's economy, environment, and employment.

Key Drivers of India's Bioeconomy Success India's BioEconomy, valued at \$165.7 billion in 2024, is powered by four major sub-sectors. Each reflects India's strength in science, innovation, and sustainability.

BioIndustrial

The BioIndustrial segment, representing nearly half of the total BioEconomy, is valued at \$78.2 billion in 2024. Its dominance reflects the growing adoption of bio-based solutions across sectors such as biofuels, chemicals, bioplastics, and enzymatic applications in various industries. The push toward sustainability and green technology has positioned this segment as a cornerstone of India's BioEconomy. It uses biosynthetic processes and recombinant DNA technology, with applications from beverages to detergents. This highlights India's growing shift towards a green and circular economy.

BioPharma and BioMedical

With a significant 35.2% share, valued at \$58.4 billion, this segment is crucial to healthcare and medical innovation. This sector develops pharmaceuticals, medical devices, diagnostics, biologics, and lab-grown organoids. It focuses on areas like cancer immunotherapy, gene editing, precision medicine, and MedTech solutions. India is recognized globally for affordable biopharmaceuticals.

BioAgri

Contributing 8.1% to the total BioEconomy, valued at \$13.5 billion, BioAgri centres on agricultural biotechnology. This subsector drives agricultural biotechnology. It covers genetically modified crops, precision farming, and bio-based products. A key success story is Bt Cotton, which has boosted yields and improved sustainability.

BioResearch and BioIT (BioServices)

The BioIT and Research Services segment holds a 9.4% share of India's BioEconomy, with a value of \$15.6 billion. It covers contract research, clinical trials, bioinformatics, biotech software, and bioeducation. This segment highlights India's growing position as a global hub for research and development services, providing cost-effective solutions in drug discovery, data management, and related fields.

Together, these subsectors showcase how India's BioEconomy is expanding



rapidly—linking healthcare, agriculture, industry, and research to create jobs, boost sustainability, and provide affordable solutions for the world.

Climate Change Mitigation Potential of the Bioeconomy

The bioeconomy has strong potential to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable practices. It supports cleaner farming methods, carbon storage in agriculture, balanced diets, and forest restoration. At the same time, it encourages recycling, reduced food waste, bioenergy use, and greener industrial processes. By combining these approaches, the bioeconomy helps lower emissions while advancing sustainability and resource efficiency.

Contribution of Key States

As in 2024, Maharashtra leads India's Bioeconomy with a value of \$35.45 billion, representing 21.4% of the total Bioeconomy value of \$165.7 billion. Karnataka follows closely with \$32.4 billion (19.5%), while Telangana contributes \$19.9 billion (12%). Gujarat adds \$12.9 billion (7.8%), Andhra Pradesh \$11.1 billion (6.7%), Tamil Nadu \$9.9 billion (6%) and Uttar Pradesh contributes \$7.7 billion (4.7%) respectively. The "Others" category, which includes various smaller states, totals \$36.4 billion, accounting for 21.9% of the Bioeconomy value.

The regional distribution of India's BioEconomy highlights the dominance of the Southern region, which contributed 45.4% (\$75.2 billion), reflecting its strong biotechnology base and innovation ecosystem. The Western region followed with 30.3% (\$50.2 billion), supported by major industrial hubs. The Northern region accounted for 18.5% (\$30.6 billion), showcasing steady growth in biotech enterprises. Meanwhile, the Eastern region contributed 5.8% (\$9.7 billion), indicating emerging opportunities and potential for expansion. This regional spread underscores the pivotal role of the South and West, while also pointing towards the growing significance of the North and East in shaping India's Bioeconomy.

BioE3 Policy to Boost Biomanufacturing

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) on 24 August 2024 for India's first biotechnology policy, the BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment). The policy focuses on fostering high-performance biomanufacturing and lays down the framework for the Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry Initiative. This initiative aims to promote green growth by shifting from consumptive manufacturing to regenerative and sustainable practices.

At an interactive meet of DBT and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) with industry stakeholders, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that India now accounts for 21 of the 121 Bio-Companies globally, positioning the country among the early movers in institutionalizing biomanufacturing policy. He emphasized that biomanufacturing is central to India's vision of self-reliance, adding that "BioEnablers are the foundation of India's next wave of biotechnology-led growth."

To drive this growth, 21 advanced BioEnabler facilities have been launched across the country, offering shared infrastructure for startups, SMEs, industries, and academic institutions. Their focus areas include microbial biomanufacturing, smart proteins, sustainable agriculture, functional foods, carbon capture, marine biotechnology, and next-generation cell and gene therapies.

Nationwide BioE3 Challenge to Drive Youth-Led Biotech Solutions

The BioE3 Challenge for Youth is a nationwide programme launched by Dr. Jitendra Singh to encourage young innovators under the theme "Design Microbes, Molecules and More". Organised by the Department of Biotechnology, it invites participation from school students (Classes 6-12) and university students, researchers, faculty, startups and Indian nationals. The focus is on developing safe biological solutions to address challenges in health, agriculture, environment and industry.

Starting from October 2025, the challenge will be announced on the first of every month. The ten best entries each month will receive a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh along with recognition and mentoring. In addition, 100 participants will be selected for funding support of up to Rs 25 lakh through BIRAC to convert their ideas into proof-of-concept solutions. These participants will also get access to incubation facilities and infrastructure at BRIC+ institutions across India.

By empowering young talent and promoting grassroots innovation, the BioE3 Challenge aims to build a culture of problem solving and creativity while contributing to India's journey towards a sustainable and self-reliant bioeconomy.

SIGNIFICANT BIOTECH MILESTONE OF 2025

India Increased its Influence in Global Vaccine Access

India has consolidated its position as a top vaccine manufacturer. According to the WHO Global Vaccine Market Report, the Serum Institute of India's share of the global vaccine market, excluding COVID-19 vaccines, rose from 19% in 2021 to 24% in 2024. This was driven by higher production of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), measles-rubella (MR), and tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccines.

The global vaccine market is highly concentrated, with 10 manufacturers supplying over 80% of vaccines. Three of these are

Key takeaways

- India's bioeconomy grew from USD 10 bn (2014) to USD 165.7 bn (2024), targeting USD 300 bn by 2030
- Four key subsectors: BioIndustrial (47%), BioPharma (35%), BioAgri (8%), and BioResearch (9%)
- Achieved 20% ethanol blending in 2025, five years ahead of target, boosting farmer income and forex savings.
- India is a global vaccine hub, with Serum Institute's share rising to 24% in 2024

Serum Institute, Bharat Biotech, and Biological E—are from India. Indian firms supplied 40% of WHO's vaccine purchases, with a large share used domestically. About 20% of India's vaccine exports went to the WHO African Region.

India Achieved 20% Ethanol Blending Ahead of Target

India has achieved 20 per cent ethanol blending (E20) in petrol in 2025, five years ahead of the original target. This is a steep rise from 1.5 per cent in 2014 and reflects the country's progress towards building a sustainable bio-economy. The blending initiative, launched as a pilot in 2001, has accelerated in recent years through comprehensive policy reforms that unlocked ethanol production potential.

The programme has delivered multiple bio-economy benefits:

Farmer income security: Between Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2014-15 and June 2025, farmers received Rs 1,21,000 crore for ethanol feedstock, eliminating sugarcane arrears and improving the viability of maize cultivation.

Annual impact: At 20 per cent blending, it is expected that payment to the farmers in this year alone will be to the tune of Rs.40,000 crore and forex savings will be around Rs. 43,000 crores.

Energy independence: Till July 2025, ethanol blending substituted 245 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil and conserved Rs 1,44,087 crore in foreign exchange, significantly strengthening energy security.

This achievement underscores the role of ethanol blending in integrating energy, agriculture and sustainability, thereby contributing to India's bio-economy.

Precision Medicine and Preventive Care

Healthcare is shifting towards personalized and preventive care. India launched Nafithromycin, an indigenous antibiotic targeting antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which addresses Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia caused by drug-resistant bacteria. New vaccines include a quadrivalent influenza vaccine and a 14-valent PCV. Gene sequencing is enabling tailored treatments in oncology and immunology. CAR T-cell therapies are creating new options for blood cancer patients. AI-driven diagnostics and remote monitoring are transforming healthcare delivery.

Bioeconomy's Global Impact by 2050

The Bioeconomy contributes significantly to many economies. Italy and Spain have a 22% GDP share, while the US and China record 5% and 4%. India's share is 4.25%. By 2050, the global Bioeconomy is projected to grow from \$4 trillion to \$30 trillion, about 12% of world GDP. According to PwC's The World in 2050 report, emerging markets like India, China, and Indonesia will drive this growth.

By 2050, the global BioEconomy is

expected to expand significantly, with its contribution to the world economy growing from approximately \$2.9 trillion in 2020 to \$30 trillion. Representing nearly 12% of the projected global GDP of \$228 trillion.

India's Bioeconomy could range between \$1.4 trillion and \$2.7 trillion by 2050, up from \$165.7 billion in 2024. With India's GDP projected at \$22 trillion, the sector's contribution may range from 6.5% to 12%. This growth is poised to play a critical role as India and other nations work toward achieving net-zero carbon emissions, with sustainability initiative expected to drive economic growth and create millions of high-quality jobs.

India Plans to Develop its Bioeconomy to \$300 Billion by 2030

India's Bioeconomy is set to double from \$151 billion in 2023 to \$300 billion by 2030, with a CAGR of 12.3%. BioMedical is expected to reach \$128 billion. BioAgriculture could grow to \$39.3 billion. BioIndustrial is projected at \$121 billion, while BioServices may rise to \$42.4 billion. This growth highlights the Bioeconomy's role in innovation and sustainable development.

India's Biotech Startup Ecosystem reached 13,000 in 2025

India's biotech startups grew from 5,365 in 2021 to 13,000 in 2025, an 142% rise. Growth has been steady since 2016, with a sharp rise after 2020. BIRAC support programmes and increased investments have fuelled this momentum. Startups have developed over 800 products and raised \$600 million in follow-on funding.

FDI in MedTech sector rose from \$370 million in 2022 to \$618 million in 2024. Although funding fluctuated, the ecosystem remains vibrant. Domestic innovation and global collaborations position India as a key player in biotech and health-tech.

Conclusion

As a dynamic and rapidly expanding sector, India's bioeconomy reflects the country's preparedness to lead in the era of sustainable growth. From ethanol blending and vaccine leadership to breakthroughs in precision medicine and biomanufacturing, the sector reflects the nation's ability to turn challenges into opportunities. With an ambitious target of reaching USD 300 billion by 2030 and projected growth of up to USD 2.7 trillion by 2050, India is set to emerge as a global bioeconomy powerhouse. The continued focus on biotechnology, green energy, and youth-led innovation ensures that the bioeconomy will play a central role in achieving the twin goals of economic prosperity and environmental stewardship, making India a model for the world in building a sustainable future.

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DC Jammu directs measures to ease traffic in city

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 8: Deputy Commissioner Jammu has directed stakeholder agencies to ensure smooth vehicular movement and public safety amid the ongoing Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway works at the Kunjwani, Satwari and Narwal-Kunjwani stretches.

The directions were issued to officers from NHA and other concerned authorities by the DC during an inspection of the area.

GCOE Jammu celebrates Int’l Literacy Day

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 8: Government College of Education (GCOE) Jammu celebrated International Literacy Day with great enthusiasm, highlighting the importance of Education and Literacy in today's society. The event was graced by Prof. Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal GCOE Jammu and Professor Dr. Renu Nanda, Current State Commissioner, Rangers-Bhartiya Scouts and Guides Jammu and Kashmir Unit as the Chief Guest.

The celebration featured series of activities i.e. Essay Writing Competition, Storytelling Competition, Creating Wall of Fame, Creating Book Bank and enrolling volunteers for Rover Ranger Unit in College. Students showcased their literary skills and creativity and participated with great zeal.

In the Essay Writing Competition Tanshiq Sumbaria stood first, Peehu and Manvi Sharma stood second while Simranjeet Kaur stood third, whereas in the storytelling Competition Mrinalini and Saiyushi secured first position. In a very unique concept, the Wall of Fame was created and

He inspected several points of the project from Qasim Nagar and Narwal up to Satwari.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the public that the measures decided today will be implemented within seven days and people can expect smoother and safer traffic flow.

He was accompanied by SSP Joginder Singh; SSP Traffic Jammu Farooq Qaiser; ACR Dr Rajesh Kumar; SDM Jammu South Manu Hansa and Tehsildar Jammu South Arti Bhardwaj.

Students actively participated.

During the event, Professor Dr. Renu Nanda encouraged the efforts of the students and emphasized the significance of literacy in personal and societal development. Following the competitions, she inaugurated the Rover Rangers unit at GCOE Jammu, marking a new chapter in the college's commitment to community service and youth development.

Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar appreciated the efforts of NSS Team and she stated that "establishment of the Rover Rangers unit is expected to provide students with opportunities to engage in community service, leadership development, and skill-building activities".

Professor Nanda also awarded the Rangers for their activities, recognizing their contributions to the community. Prof. Satish Sharma and Dr. Shalini Rana were the Judges on the events.

The entire programme was conducted by Dr. Shubhra Jamwal NSS PO and her team Prof. Deepali Devi, Dr. Ambica Sharma and Dr. Rajinder Kour, Dr. Devinder Kour, Dr. Sushma Bala and Dr. Rakesh Bharti were present on the occasion.

Ayush Deptt Doda organizes medical camps

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 8: Ayush Department Doda successfully organized a series of medical camps across the district Monday.

On the directions of Health Secretary J&K, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh and the Directorate of Ayush J&K, the camps were held at six Ayush Health and Wellness Centres located at Neota Bhaderwah, Udyanpur, Thandapani, Dongroo Thatthri, Trown, and Goshti Chirala. The camps were held under the supervision of District Ayush Officer Dr. Ajay Kumar Tickoo.

A total of 529 patients were examined by Ayush Medical Officers and provided with free Ayush medicines. The

medical teams also distributed awareness material and delivered health talks focusing on the importance of personal hygiene, safe drinking water and preventive healthcare practices, especially in the aftermath of recent rains and floods.

In addition to treatment and medicines, the Ayush teams emphasized the role of Ayurveda, Yoga and other traditional systems of medicine in strengthening immunity and improving overall well-being. The initiative aimed not only to provide immediate relief to patients but also to promote long-term health awareness in the community.

The Ayush Department reaffirmed its commitment to bringing healthcare services to the doorsteps of people in rural and far-flung areas.

DC Kathua reaffirms commitment to rehab efforts

Relief Camp held at Ghatti to support flood-hit families

KT News Desk

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 8: To provide timely succor to calamity-affected households, the district administration Kathua Monday organised a relief distribution camp at Manhas Mohalla Ghatti which was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma.

Families that suffered losses due to incessant rains and flash floods were provided relief material comprising dry ration, blankets, mattresses and tents to ease their immediate difficulties.

Interacting with locals, the Deputy Commissioner said the administration is afoot to reach out to all affected families, even in the remotest corners of the district to provide immediate relief and support for rehabilitation under SDRF norms.

The DC disclosed that out of approximately 1200 partially or fully damaged houses reported across the district due to incessant rains and landslides. The administration has already extended financial assistance to over 500 families under SDRF,



while the process is on to clear remaining cases.

He further informed that machinery has been pressed into service to retrieve remains from damaged properties, enabling affected households to begin restoration where possible. He said such relief camps are being organised at subdivision levels, while parallel efforts are underway to restore road, power and drinking water connectivity disrupted by rains

and floods.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that early restoration of essential services, timely disbursement of relief assistance and addressing public grievances remain top priorities of the administration.

ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh and other revenue officials were present during the camp and also interacted with the affected families to take stock of their concerns.

Kishtwar: DLTC approves 42 cases under JK REGP

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 08: The District Level Task Force Committee (DLTC) under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JK REGP) met Monday to discuss the loan proposals processed by the implementing agency J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal.

The Committee meticulously reviewed the applications proposing businesses such as Grocery Stores, Readymade



Garment shops, tile manufacturing units and other enterprises. Out of 60 cases presented, 42 were approved, while 18 applicants did not turn up for the interview.

The total sanctioned amount stands at around 3.87 crore (3,87,00,000), with a subsidy

of 1.35 crore (1,35,00,000) to be provided to the beneficiaries.

The establishment of these units is expected to generate new employment opportunities, thereby contributing significantly to Kishtwar's economic growth and providing livelihood support to local residents.

3-day training prog commences at BGSBU Rajouri

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 08: A three-day District Process Lab Training Programme, under the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan, commenced Monday at Baba Gulam Shah Badshah University. The training programme, being held from September 08 to 10, is designed to build the capacity of field staff to strengthen governance and development initiatives in tribal areas.

The programme was inaugurated in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the shared responsibility of all stakeholders in uplifting tribal areas. He emphasized that meaningful outcomes can only

be achieved through concerted efforts and collaboration to bridge gaps in key development indicators.

Reiterating the district's vision for tribal empowerment, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to create self-reliant, resilient and inclusive communities across all 104 tribal villages of Rajouri. He underlined that ensuring every household benefits from government schemes will significantly improve governance outcomes and foster holistic tribal development.

The training programme places special focus on capacity-building through skill development workshops, interactive sessions, and the implementation of the Dharti Aabha Plan for sustainable and inclusive tribal growth.

It also emphasizes grassroots participation by involving Aadi Karmayogis, Aadi Sahyogis and Aadi Saathis in the effective execution of welfare schemes and programmes.

Serving as a platform to align strategies and build the capacities of frontline staff, the three-day District Process Lab is expected to ensure last-mile delivery of services and promote inclusive growth in tribal areas.

The event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Auqil Nuaid; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Sheraz Chowhan; District Social Welfare Officer, Abdul Raheem; Chief Agriculture Officer, Madan Gopal Singh; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Manohar Rana and other officers and officials.

Capacity Building workshop organized

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 8: To mark the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, the Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing (DEERS) – EIACP Hub, J&K, in collaboration with the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Jammu organized a One-Day Capacity Building Workshop here at Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA), SIDCO Industrial Complex.

The programme began with a plantation drive led by dignitaries of the event. The programme was attended by ESC Jammu/Coordinator EIACP Programme of MoEF&CC Dr. Rajan Singh; President BBIA Lalit Mahajan; Vice President Ajay and General Secretary Viraj, Functional Manager Bharat Bhushan; Functional Manager Pankaj Singh Jasrotia; Functional Manager Amit Kumar Digra; Industrial Promotion Officer Rajeshwar Singh; Range Officer DEERS Anil Sharma; Programme Officer EIACP Dr. Kirti and owners of Industrial Units.

The Coordinator Dr. Rajan Singh delivered the welcome address and explained about the air quality which is closely linked to the earth's climate and ecosystems globally and importance of the day.

The workshop commenced with an enlightening lecture by Divisional Nodal Officer, NPCCHH DHS Jammu Dr. Rashmi Sharma, highlighting the serious health implications of air pollution,

including respiratory disorders, cardiovascular diseases and increased vulnerability to climate related illnesses.

Associate Professor, Central University of Jammu Dr. Ankit Tandon spoke on "Targeting Clean Air for Blue Skies: Role of Industries in Mitigating Aerosol Pollution", stressing that aerosols were one of the main causal agents of air pollution. He emphasized that construction, vehicular, biomass burning etc. emissions contribute significantly to air pollution and climate change, leading to rising temperatures, extreme weather events and ecosystem degradation.

The Speakers further highlighted that Air pollution is contamination of the both indoor and outdoor environment and it can be due to any chemical, physical or biological agent that modifies the natural characteristics of the atmosphere. Household combustion devices, motor vehicles, industrial facilities and forest fires are common sources of air pollution. Pollutants of major public health concern include particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. Outdoor and indoor air pollution cause respiratory and other diseases and are important sources of morbidity and mortality. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Kirti PO underlined the need for collaborative efforts to reduce air pollution, build climate resilience and ensure sustainable development.

DLIC approves 200 cases under Mission YUVA

KT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 8: Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan Monday chaired the meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under the ambitious Mission YUVA initiative. The meeting was convened to evaluate applications and extend financial support to local youth for establishing viable business ventures, thereby giving a major push to self-employment in the district.

The Committee undertook a detailed block-wise review of applications received under Mission YUVA, scrutinizing them for eligibility and project feasibility. A roadmap was also charted to empower the district's youth with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC Ravinder Anand; Assistant Director Employment & Career Counseling Officer Amit Kumar; Lead District Manager Ramban and other concerned officers.

As many as 200 applications, verified by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU), were placed before the committee. After comprehensive

evaluation, based on eligibility norms, project feasibility and socio-economic background of applicants, all 200 cases were approved for financial assistance and mentorship support under the Mission.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner termed Mission YUVA "a ray of hope for the youth" and said that by providing access to credit facilities and handholding support, the Government aims to nurture entrepreneurship and reduce dependency on government jobs. "The district administration is committed to reaching every eligible youth and fostering a culture of self-reliance," he added.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the District Nodal Officer JKEDI and the General Manager DIC to fast-track preparation and verification of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to ensure pending applications are processed without delay.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner informed the Deputy Commissioner that so far 907 cases have been approved under Mission YUVA in Ramban district.

IIM Jammu signs tripartite MoU to launch MSME Health Clinic

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 8: The Indian Institute of Management, the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) and the Directorates of Industries and Commerce Government of Jammu & Kashmir signed a landmark Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Monday at the Board Room, Jagti Campus to establish the Jammu & Kashmir MSME Health Clinic (JKMHC) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program.

The formal signing ceremony included detailed presentations on the scope, funding structure and implementation of the roadmap of the initiative.

The MoU signing ceremony was graced by Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; Sudershan Kumar, Managing Director, JKTPO; Arun Kumar Manhas, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Government of J&K and Khalid Majeed, Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, Government of J&K.

From the Directorate of Industries and Commerce and

JKTPO, the ceremony was attended by Imran Mehmood, FA-/CAO, JKTPO; Naser Ali, Joint Director, M&P, Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Jammu; Sourabh Sharma, General Manager, JKTPO and Vishal Ray, Faculty, JKTPO. Also present were senior faculty members of IIM Jammu, including Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean, Faculty and Research; Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy; Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Media and Publication Division; Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education & Consultancy; Prof. Pranab Ranjan Das, Chairperson, SBDU; Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Associate Professor; Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Associate Professor and Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Director, IIM Jammu Prof. B. S. Sahay remarked that hosting the PMU at IIM Jammu will enable a strong knowledge-driven and research-based framework to address real-world challenges faced by MSMEs. He underscored that this collaboration aligns with the vision of Viksit



Bharat @2047, as articulated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji and reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to nation-building through capacity development, innovation, and entrepreneurship support. He also proposed active involvement of IIM Jammu's students in live projects with industries across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, providing them with valuable hands-on exposure and opportunities to contribute innovative solutions towards the progress and development of the region. This initiative, integrated into the course curriculum and evaluation process, will not only prepare students to become industry-ready professionals but also empower faculty to drive impactful research,

consultancy, and knowledge creation in the MSME sector.

Managing Director, JKTPO Sudershan Kumar emphasized JKTPO's role in enhancing global market access for local enterprises through branding, promotion and trade facilitation, particularly for traditional industries such as handicrafts, carpet weaving and horticulture.

Director, Industries & Commerce Jammu Arun Kumar Manhas stated that the MSME Health Clinic will act as a transformative support system, ensuring that small businesses adapt and thrive in a rapidly evolving economic landscape.

Dean, Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu Prof. Jabir Ali stated that this initiative provides a unique opportunity to integrate rigorous academic research

with field-level interventions for MSME development. He emphasized that insights generated from this program will not only help rehabilitate distressed units but also contribute toward policy design and knowledge creation in the MSME sector.

The Jammu & Kashmir MSME Health Clinic will serve as a dedicated institutional mechanism to identify early signs of stress in MSMEs and provide tailored solutions through financial and non-financial interventions. A Project Management Unit (PMU), to be hosted at IIM Jammu, will comprise experts in branding, marketing, finance, technology and strategy, supported by young professionals and data analysts.

The primary objective of establishing the Jammu & Kashmir

MSME Health Clinic (JKMHC) under the RAMP Programme is to create a proactive mechanism for the early identification and prevention of stress in Micro and Small Enterprises (MSMEs). This initiative aims to provide both financial and non-financial support to MSMEs that exhibit signs of stress and are on the verge of slipping into sickness. It is designed as a preventive measure to address the developmental needs of MSMEs, focusing on diagnostic and clinical support exclusively for enterprises showing early signs of stress.

The program has been structured to run over a two-year duration from FY 2024-25 to FY 2026-27, with a total outlay of 30.64 crore. It will cover nearly 959 identified MSMEs across Jammu & Kashmir and will be implemented in three distinct phases. Phase I will focus on diagnostic studies and identification of vulnerable enterprises, Phase II will implement financial and non-financial interventions and Phase III will establish long-term monitoring and sustainability frameworks.

Financial interventions under the program will include working capital loans, technology

upgradation subsidies, warehouse receipt financing and export promotion grants, while non-financial interventions will emphasize capacity building, skill training, quality certification and strategic mentoring.

The signing of this MoU marks a significant step in strengthening the MSME ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir. By combining academic expertise, government support, and trade promotion mechanisms, the initiative seeks to create a scalable and sustainable model over a clearly defined two-year duration with a total outlay of 30.64 crore, transforming distressed enterprises into resilient contributors to the regional and national economy.

With IIM Jammu as the knowledge partner and host of the Project Management Unit, the initiative draws upon the Institute's strengths in research, innovation, and executive training. This collaboration not only reinforces IIM Jammu's position as a leading national institution committed to inclusive development but also showcases its growing role as a catalyst for industry-academia-government partnerships in the region.

‘A man of iron will’: NC pays tributes to ‘Sher-e-Kashmir’

Will never forget
Sheikh Abdullah's
sacrifices: CM's Advisor

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 08: National Conference (NC) leaders led by its president Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President & Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday paid tributes to

party founder "Sher-e-Kashmir" Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah on his 43rd death anniversary.

The party leaders, along with scores of workers, visited Sheikh Abdullah's mausoleum in Naseem Bagh, Hazratbal, where Quran Khawani, floral tributes and Fatiha Khawani were held.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor to CM, Nasir Aslam Wani, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),

said that the party has been remembering its leader for generations. "We cannot forget his (Sheikh Abdullah's) sacrifices. Today, we pay our homage to the leader. The very identity of the people here is rooted in the vision and struggle of Sher-e-Kashmir," he said.

Wani further said the National Conference would continue to observe the day in Sheikh Abdullah's memory, regardless of

its status as an official holiday by the government. "It is our responsibility to remember him and the many elders who laid down their lives for our future. This party was built on the foundation of public service, not a quest for power. Our sincere prayer is that Allah blesses us with the strength to serve our people in the most dedicated way," he said.

Tributes were also paid at Sher-i-Kashmir Bhawan in

Jammu and other district head-quarters across J&K and Ladakh.

The party hailed Sheikh Abdullah as "a man of iron will and unwavering dedication to the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh".

Describing "Sher-e-Kashmir" as a towering figure in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, the National Conference rank and file said he transformed the region from a feudal, colonial

society into a progressive, democratic, and secular one. The party leaders referred to him as a political colossus and a father figure whose legacy still defines the region's aspirations.

The NC also highlighted the secular composition of the first cabinet under Sheikh Abdullah's leadership, which included leaders like GL Dogra, Sardar Budh Singh, Kushak Bakula, and DP Dhar, underscoring his

inclusive vision.

"Sheikh Sahib's political journey was not a quest for power, but a lifelong struggle for dignity, justice, and empowerment of the common people," the statement reads. "His spirit of tolerance and mutual respect continues to guide us today."

"We are committed to the ideals Sheikh Abdullah stood for: unity, equality, and a just society for all," the NC said. (KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir's Rs 1,623

Pune-based Central Water & Power Research Station (CWPRS) and EPTISA, a multinational engineering company specializing in engineering, consultancy, information technology, and institutional development.

Given divergences, the matter was referred to the CWC, which nominated the Member (River Management) as the nodal officer to recommend a way forward.

After holding 11 meetings with various stakeholders, the CWC forwarded its recommendations to the J&K government on December 23, 2024.

Officials told KNO that the alterations recommended by the CWC would have an additional financial implication of Rs 300 crore. "We need to get approval for additional funding before executing work on these two components," an official said.

He added that around 20 bridges crossing the Flood Spill Channel (FSC) may have their foundations exposed due to excavation up to 2 meters deep. "Extra cost will be required to strengthen their foundations," he said.

When contacted, Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, Javed Rana said they are examining the project.

He said that nothing was done in the past 11 years for prevention of floods in Kashmir. (KNO)

AIIMS Awantipora

manner in which a plaque bearing the national emblem was installed inside the revered shrine.

"The person who made the first mistake has not yet apologized, and I still do not understand why such a step was taken," Omar said, questioning the rationale behind the move.

He recalled that the Hazratbal shrine was inaugurated by his grandfather, the late Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, who, despite his stature, never felt the need to install any such plaque inside. "The erection of a plaque inside Hazratbal was not a good decision," he added.

On the arrest of Doda MLA Mehraj Malik, Omar Abdullah refrained from making direct remarks, saying he would first seek full details before commenting as he has no information about Malik's arrest. (KNO)

J&K receives excess

stations include Anantnag, Pulwama and Reasi. (Areas where rainfall exceeds 20% to 59% above the normal are categorized as experiencing 'Excess Rainfall'.)

Seven stations including Budgam, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Baramulla, Kulgam, Kathua and Poonch recorded a normal precipitation in this season, the data reveals. However, it shows that the two stations including Kishtwar, Kupwara and Shopian have recorded a deficit rainfall of 33 per cent, 20 per cent and 57 per cent respectively.

Meanwhile, the weatherman has predicted more spells of rain and thunder till September 12th.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that generally cloudy weather was expected today with one or two spells of light rain and thunder at many places of J&K with possibility of brief moderate showers over isolated districts of Jammu division.

From tomorrow, he said that generally hot & humid conditions are expected with brief spells of rain and thunder at a few places till September 12th evening.

He also said that a fresh spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower is expected at many places of J&K towards early morning and morning hours on September 13. (KNO)

Our shared

Delivering a keynote address at Foundation Day ceremony of University of Jammu, the LG called upon university to leverage innovation and cutting-edge technology for conservation, integrating sustainability in education and preparing students to address emerging challenges to build Viksit Bharat.

He urged the faculty members to guide and lead youth in their responsibility to balance nature with development. It is our shared responsibility to protect Mother Earth and promote the culture of environmental awareness at all levels of society, he added.

Extending his heartiest congratulation to the Vice Chancellor, faculty members, non-teaching staff and students on University's foundation day celebration, the Lieutenant Governor urged to set new and challenging goals and pursue them with a renewed sense of zeal and enthusiasm.

"Today's occasion is also an opportunity for self-analysis, self-exploration, and self-introspection. I am proud of the exceptional accomplishments of our universities in the recently released NIRF-2025 Rankings. While on one hand these rankings should be seen as a revolution, a transformation in the higher education landscape of Jammu Kashmir, on the other, we should critically evaluate our rankings and go back to the drawing board to set new goals," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the process of change in the campus should continue uninterrupted so that the students remain determined, eager to

learn and do something new and have the passion to face the future challenges.

"Real world experience bridges the gap between theory and application. Classroom must be transformed into a thinking room, a room full of curiosity and creativity. Experience-based, interdisciplinary, life-skills & project-based education should be our focus to prepare youth for the unpredictable world," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor exhorted the University to start short-term professional programs to deal with climate challenges and research on floods and landslides.

"Today the whole world is affected by natural disasters. There was massive destruction of infrastructure and loss of lives in Jammu Kashmir. The Government of India is fully committed to ensure that normal life resumes once again and the affected people are rehabilitated properly.

Once the road connectivity is completely restored, the university administration must send groups of students to serve in different areas and prepare a team of volunteers who will assist and help the district administration in relief and rehabilitation of families affected due to recent natural calamities in the UT," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the Alumni of the University of Jammu and called upon them to make their valuable contribution to the progress of the University.

NSS and NCC Volunteers, retired teaching and non-teaching staff of the Jammu University were also felicitated on the occasion.

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (Northern Region Transmission System – II) handed over PA System and Streetlights to University of Jammu under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, former Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director, PowerGrid; Dr Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies; Prof. J.P. Singh, Dean Academic Affairs; Dr Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, distinguished alumnus, faculty, staff and students of Jammu University were present.

LG thanks PM

Narendra Modi Ji and Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri J.P. Nadda Ji for sanctioning 50 MBBS seats for newly established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME).

This decision not only fulfills the resolve of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board to provide world-class Medical Education in J&K but also our objectives to improve healthcare access, increasing highly skilled medical professionals in underserved areas. The Shrine Board in its 71st Meeting held on 19th August 2023 had granted in-principle approval for establishment of a 50-seat Medical College at Kakryal, with a long-term plan for up-gradation to a 100-seat Medical College subsequently.

Our aim is to help more MBBS aspirants to study in the UT and we have made significant strides in this area by increasing MBBS seats in the past few years. These achievements will ensure greater access to specialized care and build a stronger healthcare system".

Foreigner among

the operation continued throughout the day and is expected to go on through the night. There is a possibility of more terrorists. Searches are on and the operation will continue until the area is fully cleared," the official said.

The Kashmir Zone Police wrote on X: "Based on specific intelligence, an encounter has started in the Guddar forest of Kulgam. SOG of J&K Police, Army and CRPF are on the job. Further details to follow."

Meanwhile, Chinar Corps said that two terrorists were killed in the encounter while a Junior Commissioned Officer sustained injuries. Security forces are working to ascertain the identities of the slain terrorists as the operation continues.

"Vigilant troops observed suspicious movement and upon being challenged, terrorists opened fire, prompting a fierce exchange of gunfire. During the encounter, two terrorists were eliminated while a JCO was injured," it said on X.

Later in the evening Army wrote on X: "Chinar Corps honours the supreme sacrifice of the bravehearts, Sub Perbhat Gaur and L/ Nk Narender Sindhu, in line of duty for the Nation. Their courage and dedication will forever inspire us. IndianArmy expresses deepest condolences and stands in solidarity with the bereaved families. Operation continues."

The operation is being monitored by senior police and Army officials. Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, Nalin Prabhat, also visited the site of the ongoing encounter in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. (KNO)

MLA Doda Mehraj

Safety Act, 1978.

The communication states that the action was taken on grounds of his activities being "prejudicial to the maintenance of public

order."

"After examining relevant materials, reports, and circumstances, authorities concluded that the continuance of such activities posed a 'grave threat' to peace, public order and tranquillity in the district," it reads.

The government said preventive detention under the PSA was found necessary "in the interest of maintaining public order and safeguarding law and order in the region".

The arrest has drawn criticism from political leaders across the region.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah voiced his opposition through social media, calling the detention unjustified. "There is no justification for detaining Mehraj Malik under PSA. He's not a threat to public safety, and using this discredited law against an elected representative is wrong. If the unelected government can use its powers against an elected representative like this, how can the people of J&K continue to have faith in democracy?" he wrote.

Reacting to the arrest, Arvind Kejriwal, National Convenor and Chief of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), said, "Is it a serious offense to request a hospital for one's constituency that an elected MLA is imprisoned? Mehraj Malik is a committed leader of the AAP. He will continue to represent the people and fight for their rights. Jail, threats, or conspiracies will not deter any dedicated member of AAP."

People's Conference President and Handwara MLA Sajad Lone condemned the move, saying it undermines democratic processes. "We strongly condemn the use of the PSA against MLA Mehraj Malik. This is a soulless democracy," Lone said, adding that such actions reduce the people's mandate to a symbolic exercise.

He added that the will of the people remains subservient when elected representatives are denied the right to express their views, warning that such measures damage the credibility of democratic institutions in the region.

PDP leader and MLA Waheeda Parra also denounced the arrest, describing the use of PSA as a tool to silence political voices. "Draconian laws are being weaponised to crush dissent. Such authoritarian measures are no way to resolve political differences in a democracy," Parra said.

"Invoking the Public Safety Act (PSA) against MLA Mehraj Malik is unjustifiable. If an elected representative has erred, he must be questioned and dealt with under due process of law. That is how accountability works in a democracy," Srinagar MP, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi said.

The PSA, he said, intended for exceptional cases of grave security threats, has been repeatedly misused in Jammu & Kashmir to detain individuals on vague and arbitrary grounds. "It has effectively become a tool to silence voices. Such misuse erodes public trust in institutions and reduces a legal safeguard into an instrument of suppression. We strongly condemn the use of abusive language by Mehraj Malik, but this is not justice; it is repression," he added.

NC legislator Salman Ali Sagar said Malik's arrest under the PSA sets "a dangerous precedent" in Jammu and Kashmir. Terming the move as an attempt to "stifle democracy" and "silence dissent", he added, "Free speech and political voices must be protected, not suppressed.

Senior Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) leader and MLA from Langate, Sheikh Khurshheed, also condemned the detention of fellow MLA.

Addressing a press conference, Khurshheed urged the Lieutenant Governor to review the decision immediately and appealed to the Chief Minister to convene an all-party meeting to formulate a collective response.

"This decision is not just against Mehraj Malik, but against all the people of Doda who elected him through democratic means," Khurshheed said, demanding immediate revocation of the order.

The legislator said that any objectionable remarks or actions attributed to Malik should have been dealt with through judicial or parliamentary channels, not through draconian laws.

The MLA also raised serious questions over what he termed as 'discriminatory use' of the PSA in Jammu and Kashmir. "Is this law meant only for the people of J&K? Is there any other region in India where such action is taken against elected representatives?" he asked. (KNO)

J&K Assembly

has endorsed the slapping of provisions of the Public Safety Act 1978 on Shri Mehraj Malik, Hon'ble MLA (52-Doda Assembly Constituency), which is factually incorrect and baseless, as the Secretariat has no role in it."

The statement added, "However, in accordance with Rule 260 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, the Secretariat was obligated to inform all Hon'ble Members about the arrest/detention of the Hon'ble Member."

The Assembly Secretariat clarified that Rule 260 states: "As soon as may be, the Speaker shall, after receiving a communication referred to in Rule 258 or Rule 259, read it out in the House if in session or, if the House is not in session, direct that it be published in the Bulletin for the information of the Members."

CM launches

thereby expanding community engagement and encouraging youth participation.

Stressing the importance of sustainability, he called for efforts to secure a title sponsor for the mega event to ensure financial viability and greater brand visibility.

Taking into account the Delhi Marathon and Diwali festivities, Omar Abdullah instructed that the Kashmir Marathon-2025 be scheduled on November 2 (Sunday), 2025, instead of the earlier proposed 19 October date.

Director Tourism Kashmir briefed about the scale and structure of the event. The second edition will feature Full Marathon (42.19 km), Half Marathon (21.09 km), and a 10 km Run, covering iconic locations of Srinagar including Poloview, Rajbagh, Lal Chowk, TRC, Nishat Garden, and SKICC, offering participants the breathtaking autumn backdrops of Kashmir.

The event will be supported by a professional event management agency, responsible for logistics, branding, athlete facilities, and post-event management.

The marathon will also be featuring a Marathon Expo and a Gala Cultural evening, aimed at engaging athletes, tourists, and locals, while showcasing Kashmiri art, culture, and traditions.

Importantly, the event is being aligned with eco-friendly practices. The marathon will encourage youth involvement through school-level activities and fun runs, while NGOs and local volunteers will be engaged as "eco-volunteers" for route clean-ups and sustainability initiatives.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister launched the promotional video of Kashmir Marathon-2025 and was presented with his participation certificate from last year's edition, in which he himself successfully completed the half marathon.

Reiterating his government's commitment, Omar Abdullah said the Kashmir Marathon will be positioned as a world-class sporting spectacle that celebrates the Valley's scenic beauty, promotes tourism, and fosters a spirit of health, wellness, and community togetherness.

High Court donates

heartfelt support of the entire judicial fraternity. Collective action, the Court emphasized, is essential to rebuild lives and restore normalcy in the flood-ravaged areas.

The contribution symbolizes the concern and commitment of the institution towards the larger cause of public welfare. The floods, which left many families displaced and caused significant damage to property and livelihood, have deeply impacted the socio-economic fabric of the Union Territory. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the High Court has expressed its empathy with the affected families and assured that every possible effort will be made to stand by them in this hour of distress.

This gesture from the judiciary of the J&K and Ladakh not only highlights the spirit of compassion but also reinforces the message that during times of adversity, unity and shared responsibility can help overcome the greatest challenges.

Artisans fear extinction

Over his long career, Khan has trained more than 200 artisans in Sozni work. But despite this, he fears the younger generation is no longer willing to take it forward. "Sozni requires extreme patience and months of hard work. A single shawl can take years to complete. But today's youth prefer faster, more lucrative professions, while markets are being taken over by machine-made replicas," he explained.

Khan says that while genuine Sozni embroidery on real pashmina is unmatched in quality and cultural value, the artisans receive very little in return for their efforts. "Middlemen exploit the craft. They sell our work for high profits in national and international markets, while we barely get enough to sustain ourselves," he lamented.

Recalling his association with the government emporium in earlier years, Khan said that Kashmiri shawls once had a strong global presence. "There was a time when our designs traveled across continents and symbolized Kashmir's identity. Today, markets are flooded with fake products that misrepresent our culture. The government must restore those original patterns and revive this sector, otherwise it will disappear forever," he warned.

Khan particularly remembered the efforts of former Director of Handicrafts Mehmood Ahmad Shah, who had introduced initiatives to safeguard the industry. "He took some steps to promote artisans and ensure fair trade, but his transfer left those initiatives incomplete. That was a setback for us," he said.

Expressing his concern, Khan appealed to the government to act decisively. "It is now or never. If authorities don't step in, Sozni embroidery will survive only in memories. The legacy of generations deserves revival, respect, and recognition. Otherwise, the market of machine-made fakes will erase everything." (KNO)

Highway halt

fruit mandi in Sopore to suspend operations for two days.

The Kashmir fruit growers and dealers association president, Fayaz Ahmad Malik, @ Kaka Ji, speaking to the news agency — Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that hundreds of fruit-laden trucks are stuck on the highway.

"We are already staring at losses worth over Rs 200 crore. If the highway doesn't reopen, it may touch Rs 400 crore," he said. "We have decided to halt all trading activities on Tuesday and Wednesday to prevent further damage. We cannot afford more consignments to be wasted."

Malik said highly perishable produce, particularly Bagodosha pears and Gala apples, has suffered the worst damage. "We had already appealed to growers to stop harvesting and packing until the situation improves. Unfortunately, the stranded stock is deteriorating fast," he informed.

Growers across the valley are in despair. "It feels like 2022 all over again. We suffered huge losses then, and today we are staring at an even bigger disaster", Fayaz Ahmed, a grower from Sopore, said.

"What used to be sold at Rs 600 per box is now down to Rs 400", said Abdul Rashid, a grower from Rafiabab, adding that if authorities don't intervene immediately, the industry will collapse.

Authorities, however, have allowed partial movement of vehicles through the Mughal Road. "Six-tyre trucks have been permitted to move, but we are demanding permission for 10-tyre vehicles as well. Only then can the stranded load be cleared", Mandi president said.

Traders and growers have jointly appealed to the government to treat fruit trucks as a priority for movement, warning that prolonged disruption will devastate the sector that sustains lakhs of families across the valley.

"Kashmir's economy is horticulture-driven. If this highway remains shut, the backbone of our economy will break," the growers said. (KNO)

Valley's apple

even failing to provide the much-needed alternative to transport the perishable produce and other fruits, especially apples, out of the valley.

"The market is completely closed. For 15 days, the National Highway has been closed," Bashir Ahmad Basheer, Chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers and Dealers Union (KVFGDU), told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). "This is the beginning of the whole season and the loss has increased considerably. Fruit growers can't tolerate it."

As per the growers, September marks the peak time for harvesting apple varieties like Gala, Red Delicious, and other mid-season crops. According to Bashir, nearly 90 per cent of Gala apple varieties have already been harvested, and other varieties were nearing completion. However, with road blockages and with no railway movement support, the produce was piling up and on the verge of getting rotten.

"When there is a skid or delay, it is a loss for everyone. This is a highly perishable item, and the damage is already around 100 per cent in some areas," he said.

Bashir said growers had pinned their hopes on the recently expanded railway operations to ease the crisis but said that too has failed to make a difference. "The train service was expected to provide relief, but it is not operating as required. So that hope too is fading now," Bashir said.

Mughal Road Remains Underutilised
Bashir said that despite repeated pleas, the Mughal Road has not been fully opened for heavy fruit-laden trucks but for smaller trucks and other vehicles. "The Mughal Road could have served as a crucial alternative when the National Highway was blocked, but limitations have made it unreliable. At a time when every day counts, this route remains underutilised, adding to the losses of fruit growers," he said.

Call for Fast-Track Highway Repairs
The apex fruit growers' body has urged the government to work on the National Highway on a war footing and ensure 24x7 restoration so that the fruit can reach outside markets on time. "If work is carried out round the clock, it will save the season," Bashir said.

The delay is also affecting the quality of the fruit, leading to price drops in available markets. Freight costs have surged as well.

Ripple Effect on Economy
The apple industry is a vital and primary part of Jammu and Kashmir's horticultural and overall region's economy, supporting lacs of families. Bashir said prolonged disruptions were creating a cascading effect, with cold storages filling up, market commitments being missed, and growers unable to meet financial obligations.

"The effect means our society is in a bad situation. All of us are worried," Bashir said. "And if this continues, the entire season will suffer, and our sector will collapse."

The NH-44, the road link to Kashmir, has been repeatedly closed for traffic since August 26 after landslides triggered by rain damaged a portion of it. (KNO)

SC directs EC to accept Aadhaar as 12th ID proof in Bihar voter roll revision

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 08: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Election Commission to include Aadhaar as a 12th prescribed document for establishing the identity of a voter in special intensive revision (SIR) exercise of electoral roll in poll-bound Bihar.

At the moment for Bihar SIR, there are 11 prescribed documents which electors have to submit with their enumeration forms.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, however, clarified Aadhaar will not be a proof of citizenship and the commission can ascertain the genuineness of Aadhaar card number submitted by an elector for inclusion in the electoral roll.

Observing nobody wants the EC to include illegal immigrants in the electoral roll, the bench said it should be clear that only genuine citizens will be allowed to vote and those claiming to be genuine on the basis of forged documents will be excluded from the electoral roll.

The bench asked the poll panel to issue necessary directions



during the course of the day for acceptance of Aadhaar as a document for proof of identity.

The top court also sought EC's explanation on show-cause notices it issued to poll officials for not accepting Aadhaar card from the voters.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for poll panel, submitted 99.6 per cent of the 7.24 crore voters in the draft roll had submitted documents and petitioners seeking inclusion of Aadhaar as 12th document would not serve any practical

purpose.

The bench referred to provisions of Aadhaar Act of 2016 and the Representation of Peoples Act and said that it not a proof of citizenship but can be considered as a proof of identity.

On September 1, the top court, while hearing some applications filed by political parties for extension of deadlines, was informed by the poll panel that claims, objections and corrections in the draft electoral roll prepared in Bihar under the SIR exercise can be filed beyond

September 1 but these would be considered once the electoral roll is finalised.

It said claims and objections in the draft roll can be filed till the last date of nomination forms in each assembly constituency.

The top court also termed the confusion over the Bihar SIR as "largely a trust issue" and directed the state legal service authority to deploy paralegal volunteers to assist individual voters and political parties in filing claims and objections to the draft roll, which was published on August 1.

The poll panel, which opposed any extension of the September 1 deadline for filing of claims and objections as per the SIR schedule, had submitted that post the top court's August 22 order, till August 30, only 22,723 claims had been filed for inclusion and 1,34,738 objections had been filed for exclusion.

According to the June 24 schedule of the poll panel for the Bihar SIR, the deadline for filing claims and objections to the draft roll ended on September 1, and the final electoral roll will be published on September 30.

GST reforms: India poised to become global economic power, says Goyal

'Under PM Modi, India rises from fragile five to top five economy'

PIB

New Delhi, Sept 08: No matter how big the problem arises in the global situation, India stands together as a nation said Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, while addressing the 56th EEPC India National Awards today. He added that the country has the strength to overcome any crisis. Shri Goyal further emphasised that businesses should focus on swadeshi products, as this will not only help India's growth but also strengthen the country's financial security. He cautioned that recently it has been seen that any country can impose export controls or restrict important products from reaching India, which can create hurdles for businesses. Therefore, he said, there is a need to focus more on Atmanirbhar Bharat. He described it as a call to action that everyone must accept.

Goyal also recalled that on 15th August, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a clarion call for swadeshi products, stressing the importance of innovation. He said that India's 1.4 billion people, businesses and trade should focus on Made in India products. Businesses that are import dependent, he suggested, can look into products that can be procured and made in India.



The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In her address, she spoke about India's engineering exports and their advancement over the decades. She emphasised the importance of exports in strengthening the country's economy and enhancing India's global standing.

Goyal highlighted that India's strength relies on trade and the MSME sector, which form the backbone of the country's businesses. He said that India's self-confidence is so strong that it will only grow stronger and will not bow in front of anyone. Referring to EEPC's journey, he pointed out that in 1955 exports were at USD 10 million, while today they stand at USD 116 billion. With time, he said, the

engineering sector will grow further with bigger goals and greater strength.

The Minister said that he has full confidence that India, with the motto of "Zero Defect, Zero Effect," will grow bigger. He underlined the need to ensure that good quality products are made in India and sold across the world. He added that the world today considers India a trusted partner, and it is important to maintain that status. He also stated that India is a nation conscious of sustainability. As a responsible global citizen, India is mindful of Mother Nature, and with its NDC commitments under COP21 in Paris, India has ranked in the top three for consecutive years in global sustainability efforts.

PM to visit flood-hit Punjab today, State seeks Rs 20,000 cr relief package



PTI

Chandigarh, Sept 08: Punjab Cabinet Minister Aman Arora on Monday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce a relief package of at least Rs 20,000 crore for the flood-ravaged State during his visit. The Prime Minister will visit Punjab on September 9 to take stock of the flood situation.

"Even though the PM has not uttered a word yet for the flood-hit Punjab, he is our PM and I welcome him with folded hands for his visit. I also expect that he should be seen standing by Punjab during his visit," Mr. Arora told reporters in Chandigarh.

Referring to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's recent letter to the Prime Minister demanding Rs 60,000 crore of the State's funds, Arora said it is Punjab's right and it should be released.

A few days ago, Mr. Mann had written to Mr. Modi to release Rs 60,000 crore of the State's funds, which he claimed were "stuck" with the government of India while highlighting that Punjab was grappling with one of the worst flood disasters in decades. Noting that the

prevailing flood situation was even worse than the 1988 deluge, Mr. Arora said, "the Centre should announce a relief package of at least Rs 20,000 crore for Punjab."

He stated that over 4.50 lakh acres of crops have been damaged in the floods, besides loss of livestock and damage to houses.

There is going to be a challenge for farmers for growing the next crop as the silt is deposited in the flood-hit fields, Arora, who is also the president of the AAP's Punjab unit, said.

"We welcome your (PM) arrival but you should also announce release of State's Rs 60,000 crore and a relief package of Rs 20,000 crore in the hour of crisis," he said.

Punjab is currently facing one of its worst flood disasters in decades. The floods are a result of swollen Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers along with seasonal rivulets caused by heavy rainfall in their catchment areas in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides, heavy rains in recent days in Punjab also intensified the flooding situation, aggravating the challenges faced by residents.

Stock markets end higher in-line with firm global trends

PTI

Mumbai, Sept 08: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed with gains on Monday, tracking a firm trend in global markets amid hopes of a rate cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve later this month.

The 30-share BSE Sensex edged higher by 76.54 points or 0.09% to settle at 80,787.30 despite profit-taking by investors in the last hour of the session. The barometer opened higher and later jumped 460.62 points or 0.57% to a high of 81,171.38 as auto, oil and private bank shares advanced. However, selling in IT and FMCG shares trimmed gains at the flag-end.

The 50-share NSE Nifty ended marginally higher by 32.15 points or 0.13% at 24,773.15.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors rose the most by 3.97%. Mahindra&Mahindra jumped by 3.96%. Maruti, Adani Ports, Bajaj



Finance and UltraTech Cement were also among the gainers.

However, Trent declined 3.81%. Asian Paints, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, L&T, TCS, Power Grid and Sun Pharma were also among the laggards.

"The domestic market failed to sustain its early gains as a late-session sell-off reflected the prevailing 'buy-on-dips, sell-on-rallies' strategy, highlighting investor caution. Auto

and ancillary stocks continued to rally on expectations of demand recovery following GST rate cuts, while IT remained weak amid global uncertainties. "Globally, sentiment improved after soft US jobs data raised hopes of a Fed rate cut in September," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225

index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory. Markets in Europe were trading higher. U.S. markets ended lower on Friday.

The August non-farm payrolls report showed the American economy added just 22,000 jobs, while the unemployment rate rose to 4.3% from 4.2%.

This soft labour data has strengthened hopes of a rate cut by the U.S. Fed.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth 1,304.91 crore on Friday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DII) bought stocks worth 1,821.23 crore, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.88% to \$66.73 a barrel.

On Friday, the Sensex ended lower by 7.25 points or 0.01% at 80,710.76. The Nifty eked out gains of 6.70 points or 0.03% to 24,741.

Crucial to see jobs beyond exact title; focus on highly-adaptable skills: LinkedIn India Head

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 08: Working professionals need to view their roles not just by exact job titles, but as a collection of highly adaptable and dynamic skills that they can leverage in the AI era, according to LinkedIn India country manager Kumaresh Pattabiraman.

In an interview with PTI, Pattabiraman said professionals can navigate today's uncertainties by keeping an open mind, exploring new careers, roles, and locations, while embracing AI and community support.

"We do not see AI displacing workers at scale," he added.



Instead, AI is reshaping what jobs look like, and doing so very quickly, according to him. "So, as a professional today, it

would be smart not to think of your job as the exact title that you have, but instead as a set of highly-adaptable, evolving skills that

will help you achieve something in the workforce," Pattabiraman said, adding that professionals need to start thinking about dynamic skills as the new currency of work.

LinkedIn supports professionals on its network with features like 'Job Match' to help them zero in on better-fit roles, while AI coaching tools for interviews, negotiations, and appraisals aim to ease job search frustrations for young professionals entering today's workforce, the official pointed out.

India is the second-largest and fastest-growing market for LinkedIn, with its user count surpassing 16 crore, and

Pattabiraman believes it could become the largest for the professional networking platform in 2-3 years at the current growth rate.

The Microsoft-owned platform sees India as the 'signpost' for the global future of work, with Pattabiraman asserting that "by solving for India, we also solve for our 1.2 billion members globally".

"When it comes to how LinkedIn is helping professionals navigate these uncertain times, let's take the talent ecosystem as an example. Job seekers are applying to more jobs than ever and are hearing back less, and so it must be really frustrating as a job seeker who is taking all this pain and effort to apply to jobs.

Experts warn India's future at risk as young lungs deteriorating, struggle to breathe

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 08: Experts have cautioned that lung health in younger Indians is deteriorating rapidly, with nearly 81,700 new cases of lung cancer each year reflecting the magnitude of the threat.

Once thought of as diseases of old age, lung cancer, COPD and tuberculosis are now being seen earlier in life, raising fears of a demographic and economic disaster.

The young who run at dawn in smog, the professionals who commute long distances through choking traffic, and the students sitting in polluted classrooms are breathing toxic air into their lungs every single day, experts noted.

This invisible injury will surface in their most productive years, when the country needs them most, they said.

The crisis is not confined to outdoor pollution. Evidence shared

by experts at RESPICON 2025, the eighth National Conference of Respiratory Medicine, Interventional Pulmonology and Sleep Disorders, held on Saturday, showed that kitchen smoke and indoor biomass fuels are significantly raising lung cancer risk among non-smoking women, a danger often overlooked in public debates.

Children, too, continue to bear the burden — pneumonia still accounts for 14% of

global under-five deaths, and repeated infections driven by polluted air are undermining childhood health and immunity.

"What alarms us is how visibly the youth — the very segment that should be the strongest — are showing the scars of toxic air. If young Indians cannot breathe freely today, the nation's future suffocates with them," Dr Aditya K. Chawla, Organising Secretary, RESPICON 2025.



US probes malware email targeting trade talks with China, WSJ reports

- Malware reportedly traced to APT41, linked to Chinese intelligence
- WSJ: Email targeted US trade groups, law firms, government agencies
- Chinese embassy says it is not familiar with reported attack, opposes cybercrime

REUTERS

WASHINGTON: US authorities are investigating a bogus email purportedly from a Republican lawmaker that contained malware apparently aimed at giving China insights into the Trump administration's trade talks with Beijing, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday.

The malware in the email that appeared to be sent by Representative John Moolenaar in July to US trade groups, law firms and government agencies was traced by cyber analysts to a hacker group — APT41 — believed to be working for Chinese intelligence, the newspaper said.

Moolenaar, a harsh critic of Beijing, is the chairman of a congressional committee focused on strategic competition between China and the United States, including threats to US national security.

The email was the latest alleged Beijing-linked hacking operation aimed at giving China insight into recommendations to the White House for contentious trade talks with China,



said the Journal, quoting people familiar with the matter.

The Chinese embassy in Washington said it was not familiar with the details of the reported attack and that all countries face cyberattacks that are difficult to trace.

"China firmly opposes and combats all forms of cyberattacks and

cybercrime," it said in an emailed statement. "We also firmly oppose smearing others without solid evidence." The Journal said the first malware email was sent just before US-China trade talks in Sweden that led to an extension of a truce on tariffs until early November, when US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping could

meet at an Asian economic summit. "Your insights are essential," said the email that asked recipients to review proposed legislation attached to it.

Opening the draft legislation would have allowed the malware to give the hackers extensive access to the targeted groups, the newspaper said, adding that it could not be determined if the attacks had succeeded.

The newspaper said that the FBI and the US Capitol Police were investigating the email.

It quoted an FBI spokeswoman as saying that the bureau was aware of the email and was "working with our partners to identify and pursue those responsible." The Capitol Police declined to comment, it said.

In a statement to the Journal, Moolenaar called the attack another example of Chinese cyber operations aimed at stealing US strategy. "We will not be intimidated," he said.

The fake email came to light when staffers of Moolenaar's committee started receiving puzzling inquiries about it, said the Journal, quoting people familiar with the matter.

Shooting attack at Jerusalem bus stop kills 5

AP

Jerusalem, Sept 08: Paramedics said at least five people were killed in a shooting attack in Jerusalem after two attackers opened fire at a bus stop at a busy intersection in north Jerusalem.

Paramedics said an additional 15 people were injured, including six in serious condition.

Police said the attackers shot people waiting at a bus stop, while Israeli media reported the attackers also boarded a bus and opened fire inside.

Police a security officer and a civilian shot the attackers soon after the incident began halted the attack. Police did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the status of the attackers or their identity.

The shooting took place at a major intersection at the northern entrance to Jerusalem, on a road that leads to Jewish settlements located in east Jerusalem. Footage of the



attack showed dozens of people fleeing from a bus stop at the busy intersection during the morning rush hour. Paramedics who responded to the scene said the area was chaotic and covered in broken glass, with people wounded and lying unconscious on the road and a sidewalk near the bus stop.

There was no immediate comment on the attack from Palestinian militant groups.

The war in Gaza has sparked a surge of violence in both the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Israel. Palestinian militants have attacked and killed Israelis in Israel and the West Bank, while there has also been a rise in settler violence

against Palestinians.

While there have been scattered attacks over the past months in Israel, the last deadly mass shooting attack was in October 2024, when two Palestinians from the West Bank opened fire on a major boulevard and light rail station in the Tel Aviv area, killing seven people and leaving many others wounded. Hamas' military wing claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to police, the two men opened fire in the Jaffa neighborhood of Tel Aviv, including shooting directly into a light rail carriage crowded with passengers that was stopped at a station.

Asia Cup

India's Rohan Pandit, Virender Sharma named in match officials panel

IANIS

New Delhi, Sept 08: Indian umpires Rohan Pandit and Virender Sharma will be part of match officials panel named for the Asia Cup 2025 beginning on Tuesday.

In the continental opener, Afghanistan will take on Hong Kong China in a Group B clash at the Zayed Cricket Stadium, Abu Dhabi. Seasoned match referees Richie Richardson and Andy Pycroft will lead the match officials' team for the tournament. The match officials list for the Super Four and the tournament final will be announced later, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) said on Monday. The umpires set to officiate the tournament include Ahmad Pakteen (Afghanistan), Asif Yaqoob (Pakistan), Faisal Afridi (Pakistan), Gazi Sohail (Bangladesh), Izatullah Safi (Afghanistan), Masudur Rahman (Bangladesh), Raveendra Wimalasiri (Sri Lanka), Rohan Pandit (India), Ruchira Palliyaguruge (Sri Lanka) and Virender Sharma (India). India will begin their Group A games against the UAE at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on September 10, before facing off against Pakistan at the same venue on September 14. It is followed by a clash against Oman at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on September 19.

WHO asks Taliban to lift female aid worker restrictions following earthquakes

REUTERS

Islamabad, Sept 08: The World Health Organization has asked Taliban authorities to lift restrictions on Afghan female aid workers, allowing them to travel without male guardians and help women struggling to access care after a powerful earthquake killed 2,200 people in eastern Afghanistan.

"A very big issue now is the increasing paucity of female staff in these places," Dr. Mukta Sharma, the deputy representative of WHO's Afghanistan office, told Reuters.

She estimated around 90 percent of medical staff in the area were male, and the remaining 10 percent were often midwives and nurses, rather than doctors, who could treat severe wounds. This was hampering care as women were uncomfortable or afraid to interact with male staff and travel alone to receive care. The September 1 magnitude 6 quake and its aftershocks



injured more than 3,600 people and left thousands homeless in a country already dealing with severe aid cuts and a slew of humanitarian crises since the Taliban took over in 2021 as foreign forces left.

The Afghan health ministry and a spokesperson for the Taliban administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Taliban says it respects women's rights in line with its interpretation of Islamic law

and have previously said they would ensure women could receive aid. Its administration in 2022 ordered Afghan female NGO staff to stop working outside the home. Humanitarian officials say there have been exemptions, particularly in the health and education sectors, but many said these were patchwork and not sufficient to allow a surge of female staff, particularly in an emergency situation that required travel.

That meant aid

organizations and female staff faced uncertainty, Sharma said, and in some cases were not able to take the risk.

"The restrictions are huge, the mahram (male guardian requirements) issue continues and no formal exemption has been provided by the de facto authorities," she said, adding her team had raised the issue with authorities last week.

"That's why we felt we had to advocate with (authorities) to say, this is the time you really need to have more female health workers present, let us bring them in, and let us search from other places where they're available."

Sharma said she was extremely concerned about women in the future being able to access mental health care to deal with trauma as well as for those whose male family members had been killed, leaving them to navigate restrictions on women without a male guardian.

Satwik-Chirag to spearhead India's challenge in Hong Kong Open

IANIS

New Delhi, Sept 08: India's top shuttlers are set for another big week as the Hong Kong Open Super 500 begins on Tuesday, with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty once again leading the charge following their bronze medal finish at the World Championships in Paris.

Currently ranked world No. 3, the duo have been India's most reliable performers on the BWF Tour this season, registering multiple semifinal finishes across India, Malaysia, China and Singapore. Seeded eighth here, they start against Chinese Taipei's Chiu Hsiang Chieh and Wang Chi-Lin.

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu, who showed flashes of her best form with a commanding win over China's Wang Zhi Yi at the Worlds before falling in the quarterfinals, opens her campaign

against Denmark's Line Christophersen.

Former world No. 6 Lakshya Sen, still searching for form after finishing fourth at the Paris Olympics, takes on Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei. Sen has endured a series of narrow losses and fitness setbacks, including a first-round exit at the Worlds against top seed Shi Yu Qi.

Veteran HS Prannoy, who pushed Denmark's Anders Antonsen to the limit in Paris, will meet Japan's fifth seed Kodai Naraoka, in another challenging opener. Youngster Ayush Shetty, crowned US Open champion earlier this year, faces a tough test first up against China's Lu Guang Zu.

In women's singles, Anupama Upadhyaya faces fourth seed Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan, while Rakshit Ram runs into Thailand's fifth seed and former world champion Ratchanok Intanon.

Asia Cup: Date, venue, when and where to watch all matches



IANIS

New Delhi, Sept 08: The ACC Asia Cup is set to begin on Tuesday with Afghanistan facing Hong Kong and India beginning their campaign against ACC Asia Cup on the following day.

The tournament will run until September 28 and will feature eight teams that will be battling it out for the coveted trophy.

The continental showpiece, which has been played on a rotational basis between ODIs and T20Is since 2016, will be played in T20I format and will form an important preparation for all participants ahead of next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

The highly anticipated India vs Pakistan match will take place on September 14 in Dubai

and the two rivals could meet as many as three times should they progress to the Super 4 stage and the finals.

Of the 19 matches in the Asia Cup, 11, including the final, will be held in Dubai, while Abu Dhabi will host the remaining eight.

Defending champions India are the most successful team in Asia Cup cricket history having won the title eight times. Sri Lanka have won the Asia Cup six times, while Pakistan have emerged triumphant twice.

Groups
Group A: India, Oman, Pakistan, and hosts United Arab Emirates
Group B: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, and Sri Lanka.

Format
The top two teams from each group will proceed to the Super Fours stage, with the top two

facing each other in the title clash to decide the winner of the 17th edition of the Asia Cup.

Venues-
Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai
Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi

Telecast and streaming details-
All 19 games of the Asia Cup 2025 will be broadcast live in India on the Sony Sports Network and live streaming will be available on Sony Liv app and website.

Match timing-
18 of the 19 matches of the Asia Cup 2025 will kick off at 8:00 PM (IST) to avoid sweltering heat conditions in the region.

The only day fixture between UAE and Oman on September 15 at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi starts at 5:30 PM (IST).

INOX CINEMA SRINAGAR

BAAGHI 4 (A)
HINDI - 10:45 AM, 02:00 PM, 07:00 PM

SAIYAARA (U/A16+)
HINDI - 05:40 PM

PARAM SUNDARI (U/A13+)
HINDI - 05:30 PM

THE CONJURING LAST RITES (A)
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