



PM Modi likely to visit J&K, review damage caused by natural calamities

» Will conduct aerial survey of landslide hit Katra, Chasoti » Announce relief package for flood-affected people

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sept 09: After visiting flood hit areas in Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu and Kashmir in coming days to review the flood situation and damage caused due to cloudbursts, rains and landslides.

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and organizational General Secretary Ashok Koul while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “PM Modi will visit J&K to take the first-hand account of the damages caused by the recent natural calamities.”

He said, “The date of his J&K visit will be announced soon.”

Sources told KNO that PM Modi besides assessing the damages will also conduct an aerial survey of landslide hit holy town of Katra, where landslides enroute Shri Mata



Vashino Devi Shrine last month led to more than 35 people losing their lives.

They said that PM Modi will also conduct the aerial survey of Chasoti village in Kishtwar District where more than 60 people died after a landslide hit the hamlet nestled within

mountains. “PM Modi may also announce a special relief package for the flood victims in J&K.”

PM VISITS HIMACHAL PRADESH ANNOUNCES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF RS 1500 CRORE

Meanwhile, PM Modi today visited Himachal Pradesh to

review the losses caused by floods and landslides.

The Prime Minister first conducted an aerial survey of flood affected areas of Himachal Pradesh. Thereafter, PM Modi had an official meeting in Kangra to review the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken as well as assess the damage that has occurred in Himachal Pradesh.

PM Modi announced a financial assistance of Rs 1500 crore for Himachal Pradesh. There will be advance release of the second instalment of SDRF and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

PM asked for a multi-dimensional view to be taken to get the entire region and people back on its feet. These would be done through multiple ways, like rebuilding homes through PM Awas Yojana, restoration of national highways, rebuilding schools, provision of relief under PMNRF along with release

of Mini Kits for livestock.

Recognizing the critical need to support the agricultural community, additional assistance will be provided specifically targeted at farmers who currently lack power connections under the PM Awas Yojana, geotagging of damaged houses will be done. This will help in accurate damage assessment and faster delivery of aid to those affected.

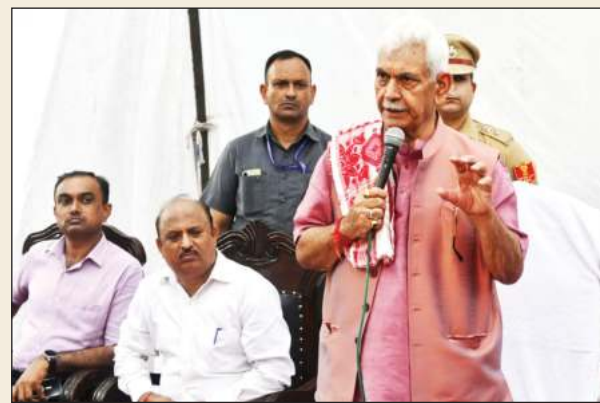
To ensure uninterrupted education, schools will be able to report and geotag damages, enabling timely assistance under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. Construction of recharge structures for water harvesting to help collect and store rainwater will be done. These efforts will improve groundwater levels and support better water management.

The Union Government has already sent Inter-Ministerial Central teams to | [More on P6](#)

Flood aftermath

Centre, J&K admin committed to rehabilitating people: LG Sinha

- Visits mega health camp in Jammu
- Inspects NH restoration at Udhampur



KT NEWS DESK

Samba, Sept 09: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the Health Camp at Keso Manhasan, organised by Health Department in collaboration with AIIMS Jammu for flood-affected families. He interacted with the people undergoing health check-ups and listened to their concerns.

The Lieutenant Governor said the Army, CAPFs, NDRF and district Administration's quick response in the wake of incessant rain saved many lives. “We are resolved to supporting the people of Jammu Kashmir through this difficult time. The Government of India and the J&K Administration are fully committed to not only restoring the damaged infrastructure but also complete

rehabilitation of affected families.

The recent natural calamities caused massive destruction throughout the Jammu region, which has not experienced such events on this scale for a very long time.

The Centre in coordination with J&K Administration is currently assessing the damage to essential infrastructure like road, power, water supply, education and health, caused by the recent natural calamities. The team has also visited several affected districts in the Jammu region,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the complete restoration of infrastructure will require some time, but the administration is focused on providing immediate relief to the affected population. | [More on P6](#)

NHA officials say highway ready to reopen

Say temporary road carved out, full restoration soon

KT News Desk

Jammu, Sept 09: The National Highways Authority of India (NHA) Project Director Shubham Yadav on Tuesday said that critical repair work of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway is in its final stage and the key highway may reopen for general traffic tonight.

Speaking to KNO in the evening, Yadav said the closure, triggered by heavy rains and massive landslides, had washed away several portions of the highway—particularly on the Jammu side. “Yesterday's fresh spell of rain triggered more debris, delaying work this morning. In response, a

250-meter-long temporary road has been carved out at the affected stretch to ensure two-way traffic movement in the coming days,” Yadav said.

He said that while the make-shift passage will provide temporary relief, complete restoration of the original carriageway at the severely-hit stretch will take much longer. “A detailed project report will be prepared for long-term repairs,” he said, adding that work at Udhampur is being closely monitored by senior officials.

“Clear weather since morning allowed uninterrupted work, pushing the project into its final phase. We are hopeful the highway | [More on P6](#)

Agriculture J&K's economic backbone, committed to empower farmers: CM

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 09: The Apex Committee for the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) led by Dr Mangla Rai, renowned agriculture scientist and former DG, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), on Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and briefed him about the progress on implementation of HADP for development of Agriculture & allied sectors across Jammu and Kashmir.

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 were also



present.

Mission Director HADP, J&K Sandeep Kumar, was also present on the occasion.

During the interaction, Dr Mangal Rai gave an overview of HADP and presented comprehensive two-year progress report on the program's initiatives. He also presented several suggestions before the Chief

Minister to further enhance the program's implementation and impact.

He also briefed the Chief Minister about the role of Apex Committee, informing that the committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the HADP through comprehensive agricultural development | [More on P6](#)

Kulgam encounter ends, terrorist hideout busted during searches

» 2 Lashkar terrorists killed, 2 soldiers also lose lives » LG Sinha pays tributes, CM Omar lays wreath

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Kulgam, Sept 09: The two-day-long gunfight between security forces and terrorists in the Guddar forest area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district ended on Tuesday after two soldiers, including a JCO, were killed in action and as many terrorists were shot dead, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the encounter began on Monday morning when a joint team of Police, Army's 9 RR, elite Para Special Forces and CRPF personnel launched a



search operation in the Guddar forest area. He said the operation was

launched on specific police input about the presence of 2-3 terrorists | [More on P6](#)

Highway closure chokes supplies, traders report 'losses in crores'

Say markets running out of stock, ask why essentials can't reach by train

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 09: The prolonged closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has left Kashmir's markets struggling, with traders reporting massive losses and shortages of essential commodities.

They say, from “a sewing needle to a helicopter,” almost everything in Kashmir comes from outside. With the highway closed for over 15 days now, not just farmers but traders too are reeling under the impact, as supplies dry up and markets face an unprecedented crisis.

Yaseen Khan, President of Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF), told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that business has “totally collapsed” due to the shutdown. “Essential supplies are running short, some shops have closed, and though exact estimates can't be made, heavy losses are visible,” he said.

He added that almost every sector is affected as Kashmir depends on outside supplies, ranging from rice and oil to petroleum products and electronics.

Tariq Ghani, | [More on P6](#)



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sept 09: Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) deputed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are currently visiting parts of Kashmir to assess damages caused by recent floods and landslides, officials said on Tuesday.

The teams are conducting field inspections, reviewing relief measures on the ground, and preparing detailed assessment reports.

Based on these reports, a relief package is expected

to follow, the team told the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

According to officials, the IMCTs arrived in Jammu on September 3 to carry out a ground assessment before moving to Kashmir. Their visit comes after heavy rains since early August have led to widespread flooding, landslides, and infrastructure losses in several districts.

Figures shared by authorities show that more than 150 people have died in rain-related incidents across the | [More on P6](#)

Custodian of Craft

85-yr-old artisan warns of decline in handicraft heritage as modernity takes toll

Aari master Mir Abdul Majeed recalls decades of craft excellence, urges youth to preserve Kashmir's traditional artistry, become job providers
Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sept 09: In the narrow lanes of Kathidarwaza, Perrbagh, lives an 85-year-old artisan who carries the weight of Kashmir's handicraft legacy on his frail shoulders. Mir Abdul Majeed, a veteran



of Aari staple work, has spent around 70 years perfecting the delicate art that once brought

global fame to the valley's artisans. Today, he speaks not only as a craftsman but as a custodian

of a tradition he fears may be lost to machines and modern apathy.

Majeed's journey began at the age of 12 when handicraft workshops thrived across Kashmir. “That time, workshops were everywhere, and I joined one to learn chain stitch. After mastering it, I shifted to staple work, which later gained immense popularity,” he recalls while speaking to the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The story of staple work in Kashmir, as | [More on P6](#)

MLA Doda's arrest ===

Mistakes could be corrected in Assembly, not by PSA, says Omar

CM meets Malik's father, assures support; protests erupt in Doda, Jammu; admin imposes curbs, internet shut
KNO

Srinagar, Sept 09: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said any mistake by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Doda, Mehraj Malik could have been addressed in the Assembly and there was no need to arrest him under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Talking to reporters, CM Omar Abdullah, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, “What did Malik do to warrant PSA? “If he had made a mistake, it could have been rectified in the Assembly under the supervision of the Speaker. He should not have been booked under PSA.”

He said there was no law and order problem in Doda, no stone pelting was witnessed, no riots took place, yet the MLA was booked under PSA. “This is unjust and would undermine trust in democracy,”

he said.

Omar also alleged that while people are being summoned to police stations and questioned, no action is being taken against those who played with religious sentiments and disturbed the atmosphere in Hazratbal.

The Chief Minister said that on July 13, many leaders were arrested, and on July 14, when he visited the graveyard, he was pushed by the police.

Later, the CM wrote on X that Mehraj Malik's father met him and he (CM Omar) has assured him of all the | [More on P6](#)

Ensure public receives hassle-free services: Dy CM

Takes on ground assessment of damage due to flash flood

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 09: In order to take the on ground assessment of the damage due to heavy rainfall and flash flood recently, the Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of Jammu city.

The Deputy Chief Minister visited low-lying and worst-hit localities of Sidra, Majeen, Lower Rangoor and Dawara Chowk. He also interacted with the flood victims, and assessed the extent of damage caused to residential houses, agricultural fields, public utilities and road networks in these areas.

He directed the administration to provide immediate relief in the form of ration, clean drinking water, medicines, and temporary shelter facilities to all affected families.

Taking a serious view of the damage caused to public infrastructure, the Dy CM asked officials of the concerned departments to prepare a comprehensive assessment report of losses for immediate submission to the Government, so that adequate compensation and rehabilitation packages can be extended to the



affected families at the earliest.

While interacting with the flood affected families, Surinder Choudhary assured them that the Government is committed to their welfare. He expressed solidarity with the victims and reiterated that providing timely relief and rehabilitation remains the topmost priority of the Omar Abdullah led Government.

The Dy CM reiterated the government's commitment to stand with the affected people, ensuring that departments should work together for speedy relief, proper rehabilitation, and long-term safety

of residents.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also made a surprise visit to DIC Jammu and reviewed the functioning. He checked the attendance register and stressed on maintaining punctuality in the office.

Surinder Choudhary emphasized the need for prompt service delivery, better management of public inflow and improved infrastructure. He also stressed that benefits of all government schemes should reach the last person in line in real-time and asked the officers to ensure that the public receives hassle-free services.

CS, Def Secy ESW discuss welfare measures



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday held a detailed interaction with Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare), Ministry of Defence, Dr. Niten Chandra, to review and deliberate upon issues related to the implementation of welfare schemes for Ex-Servicemen in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti and other concerned officers.

During the discussions, several important matters concerning the welfare and post-retirement opportunities of Ex-Servicemen were taken up by the Chief Secretary with the visiting Secretary.

These included the compilation and digitization of a comprehensive database of Ex-Servicemen in J&K for effective cadre management; the provision of allowing applications under the 'Ex-Servicemen Quota' in government jobs during the last year of service to facilitate a smooth transition to civilian life; and the engagement of retired personnel as NCC trainers, leveraging their expertise and discipline. He also discussed

several possibilities of providing livelihood opportunities to Veer Naris besides functioning of Sainik Welfare Board across districts also came up primarily during this discussion. Other measures to ease the process of addressing service-related issues were also part of the detailed review.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Niten Chandra reiterated the Ministry's deep sense of gratitude towards Ex-Servicemen for their invaluable service in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty especially that from J&K.

He underlined that the Central Government remains fully committed to their welfare and assured that avenues of post-retirement livelihood under various schemes would continue to be expanded, alongside measures to ensure easy access to job opportunities reserved for them.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, while appreciating the contribution of Ex-Servicemen, observed that the nation remains indebted to their services. He assured that local administration accords sympathetic consideration to the issues raised by Ex-Servicemen and will continue to take proactive steps to secure their welfare and ensure them a dignified post-retirement life.

Div Com reviews status of migrant grievances, issues

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the status of resolution of migrant grievances and other related issues.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners, Additional Commissioners, Assistant Commissioner Central, OSD, and the Law Officer. During the meeting, Div Com directed all Deputy

Commissioners to designate Nodal Officers in their respective offices specifically for the resolution of migrant grievances. He emphasized the importance of maintaining proper records of all grievance and ensuring timely action and follow-up for effective redressal.

Garg stressed that all pending court cases related to migrants should be actively pursued and monitored to ensure their swift resolution. Special focus was laid on



identification and removal of encroachments on migrant properties and land.

Div Com highlighted the need for both online and offline grievance mechanisms to be handled professionally, ensuring quality and timely disposal. Also, he directed that temple lands be demarcated in accordance with court directions, and any encroachments be promptly removed.

He instructed synchronization of data of DC offices and Div Com office to avoid repetition and duplicity of cases.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL JAL SHAKTI DIVISION GANDERBAL

Near Giraj...Pin 191201 PHONE: 0194-2416246,

Fax: 0194-2416246 Email:

No:-I&FCD/Gblj 4125-32 Date: - 08.09.2025

Sub: - Corrigendum for e_NIT No: - 13 of 2025-26

issued under endorsement

No: IFCD/GBL/CC/ 4006-55 Dated: 04-09-2025

CORRIGENDUM-1st

Due to a typographical error in the Bill of Quantities (BoQ) for the work titled: "Construction of R/Wall on Hayen Koul near 1-11 Mohd Ashraf Lone S/o Ab. Azil Lone and others at Nial Nijwan" figuring at Serial No. 02 of the aforementioned e-NIT, advertised for an amount of Rs. 1,75,000/-, the said work is hereby cancelled.

The said work shall be re-tendered afresh with the corrected specifications and details.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in e_NIT No: 13 of 2025-26.

DIPK-6070/25

DATED: 09-09-2025

Executive Engineer

Jrri and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION BANDIPORA.

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:1. Construction of KehnusaZurimanz Road along with P-Wall up-to Bangladesh.

2. Construction of road from Ketsan up-to Danageraar Basti.

Ref: -e-NIT No.30/ET/R&B/Bandiporaof 2025-26

Dated:-06-09-2025.

Kindly read time for completion "Two Working Seasons".

Instead of Time for completion "60 Working Days"for the above subjected works advertised vide this office e-NIT No.in reference.

All other terms and conditions of the NITshall remain unchanged.

No.:-EE/R&B/Bandi/3471-78

Dated:-08-09-2025.

DIPK-6068/25

DATED: 09-09-2025

Sd/=

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Bandipora

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Government Medical College, Srinagar

Subject: Answer Key for the position of Counsellor (ATF).

Notification No. 34 -EC of 2025

Dated: 09-09-2025

Today on 09th September, 2025, the Government Medical College, Srinagar conducted written test (OMR MCQ Based) of the candidates for selection/engagement as Counsellor on contract basis for an Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences Kashmir (Psychiatry) in response to this office Advertisement No: 17-EC of 2025; Dated: 22.05.2025.

The Answer Key framed by the paper-setter has been uploaded on the official website of GMC, Srinagar i.e., www.gmcs.ac.in as Annexure- "A" for information of all concerned candidates.

If any candidate feels that the key to any question(s) js/ are wrong, he/ she can submit objection/representation in the prescribed format annexed as per Annexure- "B" along with sufficient documentary proof/evidence and fee of Rs. 300/- per question (refundable in case of genuine/correct representation) in the Academic Section, Government Medical College, Srinagar within two days from the date of issuance of this notification.

The challenges made by the candidates will be verified by the subject expert(s). If the challenge of any candidate is found correct, the respective Answer Key will be revised and applied in the response of all the candidates accordingly. The key finalized by the Expert after the challenge will be final and the result will be prepared on the basis of the revised Final Answer Key.

No objection/representation shall be entertained after expiry of the stipulated time frame i.e. after 10.09.2025 (04:00 PM).

Controller of Examination GMC, Srinagar

No.: GMCS/EC/AK/CR/ATF/PSY/436-41. Dated: 09.09.2025.

ANNEXURE- "A" (Answer Key) Counsellor (ATF)

Question Number	Answer	Question Number	Answer
01.	A	31.	D
02.	A	32.	D
03.	D	33.	D
04.	B	34.	C
05.	B	35.	D
06.	C	36.	B
07.	B	37.	B
08.	C	38.	B
09.	D	39.	D
10.	C	40.	C
11.	C	41.	D
12.	B	42.	C
13.	C	43.	A
14.	B	44.	A
15.	A	45.	B
16.	B	46.	C
17.	B	47.	B
18.	B	48.	C
19.	B	49.	D
20.	A	50.	A
21.	A	51.	C
22.	D	52.	D
23.	B	53.	C
24.	B	54.	C
25.	C	55.	D
26.	D	56.	C
27.	C	57.	B
28.	A	58.	C
29.	A	59.	B
30.	B	60.	B

Annexure - B

Representation regarding objection(s) to any question/ answer pertaining to the written test held on 09.09.2025 from 10:30 to 11:30 AM for selection/engagement of Counsellor on contract basis for an Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences Kashmir (Psychiatry) in response to this office Advertisement No: 17-EC of 2025; Dated: 22.05.2025

Name of the Candidate:

Roll Number:

Discipline:

Address:

Payment Details:

Candidates 16 Digit A/C No.:

Q.No.	Details of Objection	Resource material copy to be enclosed

Signature of the Candidate

DIPK-6042/25

DATED: 09-09-2025

PSA Against MLA....

MLA Langate writes to Speaker, CM

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Sep 09: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Langate Sheikh Khurshed on Tuesday sent letters to the Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, voicing strong protest against the detention of MLA Doda, Mehraj Malik, under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

The AIP legislator termed the move "a direct assault on democracy and the sanctity of the House."

In his letter to the Speaker, Khurshed described the action as an unprecedented attack on the dignity, independence and sanctity of the Assembly.

He said by jailing an elected



member under a law meant for extraordinary threats, the government had effectively placed the entire Assembly under arrest and rendered the people's mandate meaningless.

"Such an action amounts to contempt of the House itself, as

it cripples the right of an MLA to represent his constituency and denies the people their chosen voice in this institution," Khurshed wrote, urging the Speaker to take cognizance and demand an explanation from the authorities, besides ensuring Malik's release.

He cautioned that failure to act would set a dangerous precedent where the executive could silence elected representatives at will, eroding the Assembly's very relevance.

In a separate letter to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Khurshed said the detention had pushed democracy to the edge of collapse. He appealed to the CM to convene an all-party meeting to safeguard the dignity of the Assembly and prevent elected voices from being silenced through undemocratic means.

"The people of Jammu & Kashmir are watching, and silence at this moment will be judged as complicity, whereas action will be remembered as statesmanship", he noted—(KNO)

Dy CM calls it 'murder of democracy'

KNO

Jammu, Sep 09: Deputy Minister Surinder Choudhary Tuesday condemned the detention of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA), terming it a "murder of democracy."

Speaking to the media, Choudhary expressed outrage over the incident, highlighting it as an affront to democratic principles and the sacrifices made by the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their rights and representation.

"This is not just an attack on an individual but an insult to the democratic values we hold dear," said Choudhary.

"The misuse of the PSA against an elected representative like Mehraj Malik is a blatant attempt to suppress dissent and silence voices that advocate for the people. This land has seen countless sacrifices for democracy and such actions undermine the very foundation of our democratic institutions."

The detention of MLA Mehraj Malik, representing the Doda constituency, has sparked widespread controversy, with allegations of political motivation behind the

move. Choudhary, a senior leader of the National Conference, emphasized that the use of stringent laws like the PSA against elected representatives sets a dangerous precedent and erodes public trust in governance.

He called for an immediate review of the detention and urged authorities to uphold democratic norms and respect the mandate of the people. "The voices of the people, expressed through their



elected representatives, cannot be stifled through such draconian measures," he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister also reiterated his commitment to safeguarding the rights and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, vowing to raise the issue at the highest levels to ensure justice and accountability—(KNO)

G A Mir condemns

MUBASHIR ALAM WANI

Srinagar, Sep 09: Congress Working Committee (CWC) member and General Secretary of AICC, Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Tuesday condemned the arrest of Doda MLA Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA), terming it a politically motivated move aimed at diverting the attention of the people of Jammu and Kashmir from core issues. Speaking to reporters, Mir, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), alleged that such detentions were being carried out with 'clear intentions' rather than by mistake.

"This is all management, how to move away from real public concerns and shift the attention towards non-issues," he said, citing a pattern of controversies around religious shrines like Dargah Sharif being used to overshadow governance issues.

Mir said the PSA had been 'misused for decades' and that 'civil society and civilised nations do not endorse its application on innocent people.' He questioned the timing of Malik's arrest, saying that after 10 years of waiting, people had elected their representatives through a democratic process.

He questioned the rationale behind the stringent measure, saying the issue was "not so grave that from Delhi to the Deputy Commissioner level, the entire machinery decided to invoke PSA against him."

"Detaining an elected MLA is like silencing the very voice of the public who voted for him," Mir said. Mir, however, added that an MLA should know how to put forth the issues of the public with decency, stating that Malik lacked a language approach.

He also criticised the administration's handling of public projects, claiming that unnecessary political branding, like boards placed on shrine renovation works, had triggered avoidable controversies. "Work speaks for itself; you don't need a board to claim it," he said—(KNO)

J&K potential enough to be top weddings destination: CM Omar



KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 09: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah Tuesday remarked that Jammu and Kashmir has immense potential for 'Destination Wedding Tourism' and efforts are on to tap this potential so that Kashmir can emerge from Paradise on Earth to Country's Destination Wedding Capital.

Chief Minister made these remarks after inaugurating the Hindustan-2025 Wedding Planners Expo, organised by Indian Chamber of Event Industry (ICEI) at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here today.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Ali Sadiq; MLA Gulmarg, Feroq Ahmad Shah; President ICEI, Rituraj Khanna; Chairperson ICEI, Gunjan Singhal; noted Hotelier Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya; big wigs of Indian Event Planning and Hospitality industry and other stakeholders of tourism industry were also present on the occasion.

In his address, the Chief Minister highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is known for its beauty across the globe and has immense potential for destination wedding tourism, apart from the other regular tourism activities like leisure tourism, adventure tourism, pilgrimage tourism or border tourism.

He added that the tagline 'Wed in Kashmir' is more than a tagline as it is a

movement which will turn Kashmir's natural beauty into engine of prosperity, bringing global spotlight and associated development for this region.

"This expo is a manifestation of Jammu and Kashmir's immense potential to emerge as a hub for luxury weddings and associated enterprises. It is also an opportunity for local entrepreneurs and artisans to showcase their talent on a national stage and further integrate into the growing event management ecosystem", Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister further said that in earlier times no Bollywood movie was complete nor any producer used to produce a film unless a song was not being picturised in Kashmir. "When the sun starts to set behind the fort, when the snow starts to fall in December and January and when the mustard fields start to turn yellow in March, this beauty reminds everyone of Bollywood movies filmed in Kashmir", Omar Abdullah said.

He added there are so many unique destinations that are reel-worthy that the Government wants to bring back on the tourism map. The Chief Minister also lauded the organizers for choosing Srinagar for the Expo as it will be an encouraging step for other event planners and encourage them to visit Kashmir and promote Kashmir's rich cultural heritage, breath-taking landscapes, and hospitality infrastructure in promoting

destination weddings.

The Chief Minister further highlighted that government is committed to creating an enabling environment for investment and entrepreneurship in the region in destination wedding tourism and event planning sector.

He urged the stakeholders to capitalize on the growing demand for destination weddings and related services, underlining that the event industry has tremendous potential in economic revival and employment generation in the region.

The Chief Minister also asked the ICEI management to work collectively with the J&K Government so that the beautiful landscapes of Kashmir valley can be flourished much more than they are known for. He also asked them to take positive message to their respective places and act as brand ambassadors of J&K's tourism.

Advisor to Chief Minister, MLA Zadibal, MLA Gulmarg, President ICEI and Chairperson ICEI also spoke on the occasion.

The Chief Minister also launched the 'Conventions' magazine of ICEI on the occasion. Earlier, the Chief Minister also visited various stalls established by some renowned names of event planners. He engaged with several exhibitors and interacted with participants to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by wedding planners and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

Walnut harvesting in full swing in Kashmir



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 09: As September unfolds, Kashmir's walnut season shifts into full swing, not just in Srinagar's Harwan area but across orchards and wild groves throughout the valley.

In places like Anantnag, Pulwama and Kupwara, farmers also harvest larger tonnes of walnuts, making J&K responsible for over 90% of India's walnut production.

The major production hubs include Anantnag, Kupwara and Pulwama, along with other key areas such as Shopian, Baramulla, Budgam, Srinagar and Ganderbal.

In Anantnag's beautiful valleys and Budgam's orchards, especially in places like Kandiwara, Kokernag and

Ashmuqam, walnut harvesting is not just a task, but a seasonal pulse.

The traditional method remains unchanged, as skilled "walnut thrashers" climb trees barefoot, wielding long cedar or willow sticks to knock down the ripe walnuts—a sight repeated across valleys and stream-sides, in managed groves and wild patches alike.

"This rustic method carries peril. Climbers often fall from heights of 30–45 metres, risking spinal injuries, paralysis, or even death," the locals from Srinagar's Harwan told KNO, while speaking about the risks of this harvest.

They said that once down, walnuts are gathered, de-husked, washed, dried in the sun, and manually shelled,

often turning into a community effort involving entire families.

Despite the organic purity and distinct Wonth, Kaghazi, and Barzul varieties, Kashmiri walnuts face diminishing demand as they are now often overshadowed by cheaper, mass-produced imports from California, Chile, and China.

Meanwhile, the growers cite the lack of processing facilities, packaging support, and state-backed market access as key obstacles. They said that in places like Pulwama, many must transport their walnuts to Jammu for sale, adding to labour and logistical costs, yet receiving meagre returns. This time, as the road is closed, that too remained shortened—(KNO)

BRO restores vital Gulabgarh–Chashoti link

KNO

Jammu, Sep 09: In a remarkable feat of engineering and perseverance, the 118 Road Construction Company (RCC) of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) led by Major Jivitesh Razora successfully restored the critical Gulabgarh-Chashoti road, which was reopened for traffic on Tuesday.

The vital link was severed following catastrophic torrential rains and subsequent landslides on August 26 and 27, cutting off numerous remote villages in the Jammu division.

Working in treacherous and unforgiving conditions, the BRO Karmyogis, as they are fondly known, launched a relentless restoration effort from the Chashoti side.

For 13 arduous days, men and machinery of 118 RCC worked round-the-clock, battling unstable hillsides and mountains of debris. They cleared a formidable 14-kilometer stretch, bearing the major brunt of the restoration work. The damage, caused by one of the heaviest downpours in recent memory, had rendered the road completely impassable, creating a crisis for local communities who depend on it for daily supplies, medical emergencies and essential travel.

The operation was a textbook example of inter-agency coordination. While the 118 RCC tackled the more extensive damage from Chashoti, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) initiated clearance

from the Gulabgarh end, opening a 7-kilometer stretch.

The combined effort of the two agencies ensured that the entire 21-kilometer blocked route was made motorable in record time.

"The challenge was immense," said an on-site BRO official. "The initial days were fraught with danger due to the risk of further landslides. But, our mission is to keep the lifelines of the nation open and the team of 118 RCC was motivated by the plight of the stranded villagers. Their dedication is unwavering."

The reopening of the road was met with cheers and relief from local residents. "We were completely cut off for almost two weeks," shared a resident from a nearby village. "BRO has come as our saviour. Seeing their machines work day and night gave us hope, and today, we are connected again. We are immensely grateful."

The swift and efficient operation by the 118 RCC not only highlights the strategic importance of the Border Roads Organisation in maintaining connectivity in India's most challenging terrains but also reaffirms their role as a force for national integration and a critical support system for civilian populations in times of natural calamity. Their motto, 'Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam' (Everything is Achievable through Hard Work), has once again been proven true—(KNO)

Man dies, woman injured in train accident

KNO

Pulwama, Sep 09: A man was killed while a woman sustained injuries after being run over by a train in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday, officials said

An official said that the incident took

place at Panjgam railway station, when a train, running from Baramulla to Sangan, hit the duo.

"The man, identified as Reyaz Ahmad Budgam, died on the spot, while the woman got injured and has been shifted to a hospital. Medico-legal formalities are underway," he said—(KNO)

SMVD remains suspended for 14th day

YOGESH

Jammu, Sep 09: The pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) remained suspended for the 14th consecutive day on Monday following adverse weather conditions and multiple landslides in the region since August 26.

Authorities said that the persistent rainfall has triggered landslides, blocking tracks leading to the shrine and making movement unsafe for pilgrims. The connectivity has been further disrupted as the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains blocked at several points due to landslides and road damage.

Restoration work is underway on priority to clear debris and secure the routes. However, the officials clarified that the yatra will only resume once weather conditions improve and the tracks are declared safe.

The prolonged suspension has disappointed devotees and caused hardship to local businesses dependent on the pilgrimage. The administration has appealed to pilgrims to remain patient and avoid unnecessary travel towards the shrine until further notice.

The yatra was suspended after a massive landslide on August 26 resulted in casualties of over 30 pilgrims. The disaster struck around 3 PM near Inderprastha Bhojnalya at Adhkuwari, about halfway along the 12-kilometre trek from Katra to the shrine. Following the tragedy, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ordered the formation of a high-level three-member committee to investigate the causes of the landslide.

The panel is headed by Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Jal Shakti, and also includes the Divisional Commissioner and the Inspector General of Police, Jammu—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Time To Unite For Kashmir's Environmental Revival

The recent natural disasters that have impacted Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country serve as a stark reminder of the fragile balance between human development and environmental sustainability. As people grapple with loss and disruption, it becomes increasingly clear that protecting our planet is not just a policy objective but a collective duty that requires immediate and sustained action from every segment of society. Climate

change is no longer a distant threat; it is here, manifesting in the form of devastating floods, landslides, and ecological degradation. These events call for a multidimensional approach to environmental stewardship, one that harmonises economic progress with planetary health. Educational institutions have a pivotal role to play in this endeavour. By integrating sustainability into curricula, promoting cutting-edge research on climate resilience, and fostering

a culture of innovation, universities can empower the next generation to address environmental challenges with knowledge and creativity. Short-term professional programmes focused on disaster management, conservation technologies, and ecological restoration can equip students with the skills needed to lead practical solutions on the ground. Beyond academia, society as a whole must embrace environmental awareness. From reducing waste and conserving

water to supporting renewable energy and sustainable agriculture, every action counts. Communities, civil society groups, and local administrations must collaborate to raise awareness, implement eco-friendly practices, and hold stakeholders accountable for environmentally destructive actions. It is high time to protect our Earth, and it demands that we rethink development models, prioritise green innovation, and ensure that economic growth does

not come at the cost of ecological integrity. The youth, in particular, must be at the forefront of this transformation, driving change through idealism, energy, and technological fluency. Let us commit to a future where development serves both people and the planet. Let us honour our shared responsibility by acting today, so that future generations inherit a world that is not only prosperous but also sustainable and just. The time for decisive action is now.

When Rivers Turn Against Us: An Appeal From Kashmir's 'Water Warrior'

As we reflecting on decades of environmental neglect, it is time to protect our rivers, wetlands, and forests before it's too late, because our future depends on it

Ruhail Maqbool Sheikh

I write today not just as a professional working on water, but as a son of this soil—born and raised among the rivers, lakes, and forests of Kashmir. For more than a decade, I have studied, sampled, and walked along the Jhelum, Dal, Wular, and countless mountain streams. I have seen their beauty, their strength, and their pain. And what I have witnessed fills me with deep sorrow: we are slowly killing the very lifelines that sustain us.

Our ancestors considered rivers sacred, wetlands as the valley's guardians, and forests as our natural shields. Yet, within a single generation, we have misused and abused these precious resources. Our rivers are choked with untreated waste and plastic, our wetlands are encroached and suffocated under illegal construction, and our forests are cut down without mercy. I have seen it myself during my work—lakes once rich with lotus blooms and fish are shrinking, streams once crystal-clear now carry sewage and garbage, and catchment areas lie barren where tall chinars and deodars once stood. Each test I conduct, each sample I analyse, and each survey I complete is not just scientific data—it is a mirror reflecting our negligence and greed.

The floods that devastate us are not accidents. They are warnings. The great deluge of 2014 should have been a turning point, a wake-up call to rethink our relationship with nature. Yet, what did we do? Instead of respecting the warnings, we continued building on floodplains, filling wetlands, and treating water bodies as dustbins. Today, intense rainfall lashes our valley with growing frequency, cloudbursts strike without warning in our mountains, and flash floods sweep away homes, bridges, and lives in minutes. These are not isolated



events—they are nature's way of reminding us that we cannot survive if we destroy the balance that protects us.

This crisis is not just environmental; it is moral and spiritual too. The Holy Qur'an had already warned us about such consequences:

"Corruption has appeared on land and sea because of what the hands of people have earned, so that He may let them taste part of what they have done, that perhaps they will return." (Surah Ar-Rum, 30:41)

Is this not exactly what we see today? Our misuse, our greed, and our neglect have brought corruption to the very earth and waters that sustain us. Floods, landslides,

droughts, and a changing climate are not punishments—they are reminders from the Creator to pause, reflect, and return to balance.

And yet, despite the grim reality, I refuse to give up hope. I have seen hope in the eyes of schoolchildren who plant saplings with me, in the determination of houseboat owners who clean Dal Lake, and in the voices of young volunteers who campaign against plastic. It is not too late to heal our land. But the question we must ask ourselves is: if not now, then when? If not us, then who?

We can still protect our rivers by ensuring no untreated sewage or plastic waste flows into them. We can restore our wetlands by removing encroachments and

giving them legal protection as nature's sponges against floods. We can replant our forests on barren hillsides and revive catchment areas to ensure groundwater recharge. We can adopt responsible waste management and make eco-friendly choices in daily life. We can change the way we build our cities, plan our roads, and live as communities. Every single action matters: a tree planted, a drain cleared, a wetland saved, an awareness spread.

This is not the government's fight alone. It is our collective fight—yours and mine, for our children and their future. Policies and laws can help, but without community responsibility, no government can

save nature. We need to see rivers not as drains but as living entities, wetlands not as wastelands but as protectors, and forests not as timber but as our life insurance.

My dear people of Jammu & Kashmir, let us not allow negligence to define our legacy. Let us be remembered as the generation that stood up for its rivers, its lakes, its forests, and its people. Let us create a culture where every citizen feels responsible for nature—where throwing waste into a river feels as wrong as throwing it into our own living rooms, and where cutting a tree without reason feels like hurting a family member.

Nature has always been generous to us in Kashmir. It has given us snow-capped mountains, gushing streams, lush meadows, and lakes that have inspired poets, saints, and travellers for centuries. It is time we show gratitude by protecting what we have left. The future of Dal, Wular, Manasbal, and the mighty Jhelum depends on the choices we make today.

This is my heartfelt appeal—as a Water Warrior of Kashmir, but more importantly, as your brother, your fellow Kashmiri, who dreams of a valley where nature and people live in harmony once again. I dream of a day when our children can play by rivers without fear of pollution or floods, when our farmers can rely on clean water for their fields, and when our wetlands and forests thrive as guardians of the valley.

Let us heal our relationship with nature before it is too late. Let us ensure that our rivers, lakes, and forests remain treasures for future generations, not ruins of our carelessness. Together, we can make sure that our waters remain lifelines, not threats.

The choice is ours—destruction or restoration, negligence or responsibility, greed or gratitude. May we choose wisely, for the future of Kashmir depends on it.

Sanchar Saathi App: India's Timely Response To Growing Cyber Crimes

Launched in January 2025 to enhance transparent and secure mobile services

Press Information Bureau

With over a billion subscribers, India has emerged as the world's second-largest telecom ecosystem. Mobile phones now serve as critical gateways to banking, entertainment, e-learning, healthcare, and government services, making mobile security more important than ever.

Rising cyber threats have made safeguarding mobile users a pressing national concern. According to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), cybercrime incidents surged from 15,92,917 in 2023 to 20,41,360 in 2024. Digital Arrest Scams and related cybercrimes reported on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal alone totalled 1,23,672 in 2024, with 17,718 cases already reported by February 2025.

In response to these escalating threats, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) introduced the Sanchar Saathi mobile app—a citizen-centric tool that brings robust security features and fraud-reporting capabilities directly to users' smartphones. The app complements the existing Sanchar Saathi portal by providing convenient, on-the-go protection against identity theft, forged KYC, device theft, banking fraud, and other cyber risks.

This proactive initiative has already made a measurable impact: more than 3 crore fraudulent mobile connections have been

terminated, 3.19 lakh devices blocked, 16.97 lakh WhatsApp accounts disabled, and over 20,000 bulk SMS senders were blacklisted, significantly curbing telecom-related fraud and enhancing user security across the country.

By empowering citizens with easy-to-use tools and real-time access to vital security features, the Sanchar Saathi mobile app represents a timely and effective response to India's growing cybercrime challenges.

The application is available in Hindi and 21 other regional languages, making it inclusive and accessible across the country. Available on both Android and iOS platforms, the app has already crossed 50 lakh downloads since its launch.

QR code on a screenAI-generated content may be incorrect.

Citizen-centric services offered by Sanchar Saathi

The Sanchar Saathi mobile app brings all citizen-centric services of the portal directly to users' smartphones, including security, verification, and fraud-reporting features.

Sanchar Saathi has the following features –
Chakshu – Enables users to report suspected fraud communications via calls, SMS, or WhatsApp – especially KYC-updating scams. This proactive reporting tool helps the DoT monitor and act swiftly on forged KYC and identity-theft cases, and encourages citizens to report unsolicited commercial

communication (UCC).

IMEI Tracking and Blocking – Allows tracking and blocking of lost or stolen phones anywhere in India. It assists police authorities in tracing stolen or lost devices, prevents counterfeit phones from entering the black market, and blocks attempts at device cloning.

Another important feature is – the option to verify the number of mobile connections. If any suspicious connections—potentially created using forged KYC details—are found, users can report and block them immediately.

Know Your Mobile Handset's Genuineness – offers an easy way to verify whether a purchased mobile device is genuine.

Reporting of International Calls with Indian numbers – Allows citizens to report international calls disguised as domestic calls from numbers starting with +91 (10 digits after the country code). Such calls originate from illegal telecom setups abroad.

Know your Internet Service Provider – Lets users check details of wireline Internet Service Providers across India by entering a PIN code, address, or ISP name.

This initiative strengthens telecom security by empowering citizens to secure their digital identities and combat telecom fraud. Sanchar Saathi also supports enforcement of TRAI's Telecom Commercial

Communications Customer Preference Regulations (TCCPR) by enabling users to report spam and fraudulent calls and messages at the click of a button.

Cybercrime is "any unlawful act where computer, communication device or the computer network is used to commit or facilitate the commission of crime".

User Empowerment

The Sanchar Saathi initiative exemplifies Jan Bhagidari—people's participation in governance. User reports play a crucial role in preventing misuse of telecom resources for cybercrime and financial fraud. The DoT continues to act swiftly on these reports, and status dashboards on the portal ensure public transparency.

Privacy and Security

The app is designed to strengthen telecom security while protecting user data and privacy. It complies with the Information Technology Act 2000 (IT Act), India's primary law governing cybercrime, e-commerce, secure transmission, and data privacy. This legal framework defines and penalizes offenses such as hacking and data theft.

Sanchar Saathi prioritizes user privacy and collects only the minimum personal information necessary to provide services.

The platform does not create profiles for commercial marketing, nor does it share user data with third parties. Data sharing is strictly limited to law enforcement when legally required, ensuring protection against unauthorized access and misuse of data.

The platform's privacy practices align with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 (DPDP Act), which emphasizes individual control, transparency, and accountability. Sanchar Saathi limits data collection to legitimate purposes, minimizes data capture, and implements clear consent mechanisms.

Conclusion

The Sanchar Saathi App has emerged as a powerful tool for securing India's growing telecom ecosystem. By integrating services like blocking lost devices, reporting fraud, verifying mobile connections, and safeguarding user privacy, it empowers citizens to protect their digital identity with ease. Its wide language availability, alignment with cyber laws, and strong privacy safeguards make it both inclusive and trustworthy. As adoption continues to rise, Sanchar Saathi is not just reducing telecom fraud; it is reinforcing digital confidence and shaping a safer, citizen-centric future for India's mobile users.

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

CS, Secy Textiles discuss skill development, artisan empowerment

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday held a high-level meeting with Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, to chart a forward-looking roadmap for the robust promotion and transformative development of the handicrafts, handloom and sericulture sectors in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary sought the Ministry's support to introduce advanced certificate courses in NIFT Srinagar's craft sector, with a vision to eventually evolve them into full-fledged degree programs. He also emphasized the establishment of an incubation centre at NIFT aligned with the UT's flagship Mission YUVA scheme, to skill and empower the youth.

Emphasizing the strategic role of QR coding in promoting authentic handmade products from Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary underlined its potential to not only enhance traceability and assure authenticity but also to expand market access, strengthen brand value, and build greater consumer trust, calling for its wider adoption across the craft and handloom sectors.

He further assured the Secretary, Textiles, that the J&K Government would soon resolve the pending issue of land transfer for the establishment of a Weaver Service Centre at Bemina, a step expected to significantly strengthen artisan-centric initiatives in the handloom sector.

During the deliberations, Secretary Textiles sought the intervention of the Chief Secretary to address issues related to NIFT Srinagar at its Ompora campus. She stressed the need for increased funding support and additional land allocation to transform the institute into a premier

fashion technology centre of excellence.

Rao is on a two-day visit to Srinagar on 9th and 10th September 2025, during which she will interact with textile industry representatives, meet Heads of Departments of the Industries & Commerce Department, virtually inaugurate the Kanihama Craft Handloom Village, inaugurate the CSB Seri-Tourism Project at Manasbal, preside the distribution of Modified Modern Steel Carpet Looms to 100 beneficiaries at IICT Srinagar, and inaugurate Animal Fibre Quality Assurance Laboratory at SKUAST Kashmir.

The visit is expected to drive policy support, technical guidance, and resource allocation to accelerate the growth of J&K's traditional sectors. It will boost skill development and employment, strengthen handicraft and handloom value chains via QR coding and market linkages, enhance infrastructure with the Weaver Service Centre and quality assurance facilities and promote sericulture-based tourism, while attracting greater national attention and investment to the Union Territory's rich craft and textile ecosystem.

Also present at today's meeting were Padmini Singla, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Musrrat Islam, Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir; Tannu Kashyap, Director General, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) along with other senior officers from J&K administration.

The meeting underscores Government of India's unwavering commitment to revitalizing traditional crafts in Jammu & Kashmir, empowering artisans, strengthening rural economies, and enhancing the region's cultural identity on a global platform.

Awareness camp organized

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 09: To highlight the importance of nutrition in maintaining good health and preventing waterborne diseases, two awareness camps were organized Tuesday by the Department of Ayush in Shopian district.

Ayush Health and Wellness Centre (AH&WC) Wachi and AH&WC Dachoo held the camp at Alsaba Educational Institute Wachi Zainapora to highlight the importance of proper nutrition in preventing various diseases and maintaining overall health.

More than two hundred students participated in the camp who were sensitised about the significance of nutrition in disease prevention.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Shafiq Ahmed Shah and Dr. Mohammed Yousuf highlighted the role of a balanced diet in maintaining good health and preventing lifestyle related disorders.

The camp also focused on post-flood precautions, where health officials advised people to ensure safe drinking water, maintain hygiene and take timely medical consultation to prevent waterborne diseases.

Besides, a separate awareness programme was also conducted by AH&WC Kaprin in Kaprin regarding post flood precautions and prevention of water-borne diseases to ensure that the health education reaches vulnerable tribal nomadic communities.

NH restoration being monitored on hourly basis: CM JKPICCA calls on Omar Abdullah



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir Fruits & Vegetable Processing & Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) called on Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah at Raabita Public Outreach Office here and raised the issue of closure of National Highway in view of the peak fruit season in valley.

The delegation, while interacting with the Chief Minister, sought immediate intervention of the Government to ensure uninterrupted movement of fruit and vegetable laden

trucks from Kashmir to outside Mandis. They also sought streamlined passage of fruit and vegetable laden trucks, no arbitrary halts, alternate routes, dedicated transport corridor, priority movement status for fruit laden trucks as well as immediate start of Railway Cargo Service to ensure faster and direct transportation of the valley's fruit produce to national markets.

While interacting with the delegation, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured the association members that the government is fully aware of the gravity of the situation

and NH-44 restoration is being monitored on hourly basis. He emphasized that all possible measures are being explored to restore highway connectivity at the earliest, while long-term solutions are also being explored to prevent such issues in future peak seasons.

The Chief Minister further assured the delegation that the introduction of Railway Cargo Service for fruit produce of Kashmir has already been raised with the Union Ministry of Railways and additional rakes have been requested from them for smooth transportation of fruit produce.

Union Textiles Secretary reviews H&H sectors in J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 9: Union Textiles Secretary, Neelam Shami Rao Tuesday said that the Central Government will explore establishing a vibrant textile and certification system to promote high-end handicrafts and handloom products of Jammu and Kashmir.

She made these remarks during an interaction with representatives from chambers of commerce, exporters, weavers, and artisans' associations at the Arts Emporium Office, Srinagar.

Chairing a meeting with stakeholders, the Union Secretary discussed ongoing initiatives and proposals aimed at promoting local crafts, enhancing exports, and creating new avenues for growth, innovation, and employment generation.

Neelam Shami Rao emphasized that a strong testing and certification system would help eliminate counterfeit products, boost exports, and safeguard the unique identity of Kashmiri crafts.

In this regard she instructed that a proposal be submitted to the Union Government.

Appreciating the Government's decision to reduce GST on textiles and handicrafts from 12% to 5%, stakeholders called for a brand campaigning for J&K handicrafts and handloom products at national and international markets, infrastructure upgradation, extension of welfare schemes for artisans, market diversification, and curbing sale of machine-made and counterfeit items from



showrooms.

At the outset, the Union Secretary stressed ensuring maximum coverage of artisans under pension schemes, PF/ESIC registration, and scholarship benefits for their children. She said that efforts are being made to diversify markets for local products, targeting Europe, the UK, and the Middle East markets.

Neelam Shami Rao said that the Government is committed to developing J&K's textile sector with a focus on infrastructure development, skill enhancement, market expansion, and the welfare of artisans, weavers, and entrepreneurs.

Union Secretary also visited the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) campus in Budgam, where she inspected various labs, auditorium, classrooms and interacted with faculty and students.

She appreciated students for their exemplary work and dedication in making best products, showcased on the occasion.

Addressing students she encouraged them to make best use of training and learning throughout their time in

the campus, and become one among the best creators.

"You are the future of India's textile industry. Your creativity and skills will define the next generation of design and fashion from Kashmir to the world. Keep trying, explore new ideas, and be yourself, the world will recognize your work through your creativity," she said.

Neelam Shami Rao described the NIFT campus as one of the best in the country and encouraged students to focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Union Secretary also virtually inaugurated the Craft Handloom Village at Kanihama, terming it a significant step towards promoting traditional crafts, tourism, and sustainable livelihoods.

She directed the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to ensure wide publicity of the craft village to attract tourists and encourage direct purchases from artisans.

Later, the Union Secretary visited the CSB Basic Seed Farm, Manasbal, where she inaugurated the CSB Seri-Tourism Project and interacted with scientists and stakeholders.

Int'l Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies-2025 celebrated

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: Pollution Control Committee Srinagar Kashmir Tuesday celebrated International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies under the theme 'Racing for AIR.'

The event was celebrated across Kashmir province, with the main and mega event held in the conference hall of JKPC Srinagar, Kashmir.

All the district officers of Kashmir region, dedicated scientists of JKPC Kashmir and renowned scientists of Kashmir besides all the officials of JKPC Kashmir attended the event.

Highlighting the importance of the day, renowned scientists and scholars threw

light on the significance of this day and explained technically how to tackle the menace of Air pollution.

Renowned professors, Dr Arshad Jahangir from Kashmir University and Dr Farooq from SKUAST-K were felicitated for their outstanding contribution in their respective fields aimed to achieve Greenpeace in the society.

Regional Director JKPC, Abhijeet Joshi explained the importance of the day and the measures needed to be taken to overcome this burning issue, pollution in general and Air pollution in particular.

Earlier, a valuable presentation was given by Dr Shabir, renowned scientist of CPCB.

Inspection of drug establishments held at Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 09: In order to ensure proper compliance of maintenance of sale/ purchase records of drugs by sale establishments, an inspection of various retail and wholesale drug sale enterprises was today carried out in Kulgam town with the main emphasis on checking of records of schedule H & H1 category of drugs.

Around 15 sale establishments were inspected and 1 medical store was found violating conditions of license in terms of absence of qualified person, non functional CBS, and his operation was disallowed on spot under section

22(d) of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 till the compliance is ensured. One more Medicate near Dist. Hospital was show-caused.

Many drug samples were lifted for testing and analysis to ensure quality medicine reaches the general public.

Moreover, a meeting with the courier service providers at Chawalgam was conducted to sensitize them with reporting of suspicious parcels, random reporting of medicine parcels etc.

The intensive drives by Drug Control officials are aimed to ensure that the quality medicine reaches the intended patients without any unscrupulous sale.

DLSA Budgam conducts Pre Lok-Adalat session



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 09: In preparation of the upcoming 3rd National Lok Adalat scheduled to be held on 13th of September 2025, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam Tuesday conducted pre Lok-Adalat for Pre-litigation Civil & Telephone Services related matters, at ADR Center in District Court Budgam.

The pre Lok Adalat was held under the chairmanship of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Budgam, O.P Baghat and under the guidance of the Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/ Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The session aimed at resolving disputes before they proceed to litigation. It also aimed to resolve disputes that were pending before the formal litigation process.

The event witnessed the

active participation of litigants, and officials from BSNL and saw the successful settlement of maximum number of cases by the Bench for pre Lok Adalat.

Notably, the pre-Lok Adalat provided an opportunity for the litigants to present and discuss their cases, seeking an amicable settlement rather than resorting to prolonged court proceedings. By engaging in mediation, conciliation, and negotiation, the participants explored alternative methods to achieve a mutually agreeable resolution.

By proactively addressing Pre-Litigation matters, the aim of the session was to reduce the burden on the formal judicial system, promote access to justice, and encourage the timely delivery of justice.

The event marks an essential step towards fostering a culture of alternative dispute resolution in the district.

CS chairs 1st nion Territory Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee meeting of PMAY-U 2.0

Approves 1,558 new housing units

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired the maiden meeting of the Union Territory Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee (UTLSMC) of the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to review progress under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) and assess implementation of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-Jammu and Kashmir Shehri (D-JAY Shehri) scheme aimed at livelihood generation for the urban poor.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur; Commissioner Secretary, PCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations; MD, J&K Housing Board, Shahbaz Mirza; MD,

NULM, Mridhu Salathia besides other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Committee approved the construction of 1,254 housing units under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) vertical of PMAY-U 2.0 across districts of the UT and 304 additional dwelling units under the Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) vertical to be taken up in Udhampur district. The Committee also cleared the Annual Capacity Building Plan for 2025-26 for onward submission to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of identifying eligible beneficiaries to ensure timely commencement of Affordable Housing projects. He directed the Department to expedite completion of household surveys under PMAY-U 2.0 in all districts so that registration of beneficiaries under different verticals could be enhanced.

Stressing the need for transparency, he instructed that verification of all applicants be completed expeditiously to ensure



genuine households receive the intended benefits.

Reviewing the pace of construction, he directed for completion of housing units being undertaken by the beneficiaries within stipulated timelines. He emphasized accelerating ongoing works under Phase-I of PMAY-U, which is nearing its sunset date, while simultaneously focusing on effective

implementation of PMAY-U Phase-II.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur informed that December 2025 marks the sunset date of PMAY-U Phase-I, while Phase-II is already under implementation across the country. She highlighted that the scheme comprises four verticals—Beneficiary Led

Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS), and Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) aimed at providing all-weather pucca houses to urban poor families.

She explained that Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are entrusted with demand assessment, verification/validation of

applications, and submission of monthly beneficiary lists to District Level Committees (DLCs) headed by Deputy Commissioners. The DLCs in turn review implementation and forward Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the UT Level Appraisal Committee (UTLAC) chaired by the Administrative Secretary, H&UDD, which then submits recommendations to the UTLSMC chaired by the Chief Secretary.

MD, J&K Housing Board, Shahbaz Mirza, while giving an overview of progress achieved under PMAY-U, informed that 32,803 dwelling units have been created across J&K under BLC (29,371 units) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (3,432 units).

Under PMAY-U 2.0, 18,489 applications have been received under BLC vertical and 4,753 under AHP vertical. Of these, 8,798 BLC applications and 1,093 AHP applications have been verified by ULBs, while 2,057 applicants under BLC and 53 under AHP have been found eligible.

Presenting the results of the household survey, Mirza

informed that 3,27,630 households have been surveyed in J&K, identifying 64,097 households eligible under BLC, 13,999 under ISS, 5,321 under AHP, and 1,999 under ARHC verticals.

Later, MD NULM, Mridhu Salathia briefed the Committee about implementation of D-JAY Shehri, which focuses on socio-economic upliftment of the urban poor. She explained that the scheme's profiling exercise will be conducted through a door-to-door household survey and help desks at fixed locations.

For the exercise, she added that around 150 teams each in Jammu and Srinagar are being constituted, comprising Mission Managers, Community Organizers, Municipal Officials, Anganwadi/ASHA workers, and Fair Price Shop dealers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that both housing and livelihood initiatives must be implemented in a time-bound, transparent, and beneficiary-oriented manner to ensure that urban poor families across the UT derive maximum benefit from these flagship schemes.

CM Omar meets delegations at Raabita Office Srinagar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 09: Scores of delegations and individuals called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita office here today to apprise the Chief Minister of various issues of public importance.

A delegation of folk artists and renowned singers of Kashmir including Ustaad Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Waheed Jeelani, Gulzar Ganie and Muneer Mir raised the concerns of the local artists and singers with the Chief Minister. They sought the Government's intervention to resolve various challenges faced by the community from last several years.

Similarly, other public delegations also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various developmental issues and concerns of their respective areas.



Apart from these delegations, scores of individuals called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various personal and public concerns.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all delegations and individuals, assuring them that the issues raised would be appropriately addressed through the concerned departments.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also held a brief interaction with MLA Kulgam, M.Y Tarigami and discussed developmental activities in Kulgam constituency.

Minister Sharma reviews availability of food stocks, LPG supplies

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 09: In the wake of the recent floods that have disrupted life in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, on Tuesday convened a high-level meeting to review the availability and distribution of essential commodities including food grains, LPG, and petroleum products across the Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Saurav Bhagat, along with senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the minister was apprised that adequate stocks of food grains and essentials are available in all districts. The ration for the month of August has

already been distributed, while in certain flood-affected and vulnerable areas, the September quota has also been issued in advance to ensure uninterrupted supply. In addition, the department has maintained a buffer stock of food grains, LPG, and other essential items to meet any future requirements in case of extended disruption.

It was also highlighted that with the active cooperation of telecom operators, the Smart PDS system has been made fully functional, ensuring that the distribution of ration remains smooth and transparent despite the challenges posed by floods.

The meeting was informed that around 400 trucks carrying petroleum products and other essential supplies have reached the Kashmir Division through the Mughal Road, providing a lifeline after the temporary disruption of the national highway. Similarly,

supplies have been ensured to the far-flung districts of Kishtwar and Doda through the Simthan Top route, ensuring that people in these areas do not face any shortage of essentials.

Sharma was also briefed that air-dropping of food supplies has been carried out in inaccessible and cut-off villages, where road connectivity has been severely affected due to landslides and flooding. This measure has ensured that no household remains without food and basic essentials during the crisis.

While interacting with the officers, the minister said, "The government is fully committed to ensuring uninterrupted availability of food grains, LPG, and other essentials across Jammu and Kashmir, even in the face of natural calamities. I want to reassure the people that there is no shortage of food stock. All possible measures,

including road transportation through alternative routes and air-dropping in inaccessible areas, are being taken to reach every household."

The minister directed the officials to maintain close coordination with district administrations and field functionaries to monitor the ground situation regularly and to adopt a proactive approach in addressing emerging challenges. He stressed that special attention must be given to remote and vulnerable areas to ensure equitable supply and to prevent any hardship to the public.

Sharma appreciated the efforts of officers, frontline workers of the Food & Supplies Department and various oil companies for working tirelessly in difficult conditions and called for continued dedication until complete normalcy is restored.

ED searches 6 locations in Delhi-NCR, Ladakh

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 09: Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Srinagar Zonal Office has conducted searches under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) at five locations in Delhi-NCR and one location in Ladakh at the residential and business premises in the matter of seizure of 108 kg foreign origin gold by ITBP, resulting in recovery of incriminating documents.

"DRI has also investigated this case and their investigation revealed that 1064 Kg. foreign origin gold was transacted in this manner and payments were made through USDT/Tether," a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reads, adding that DRI has detained 10 persons under COFEPOSA and are still in COFEPOSA custody.

It reads that ED investigation revealed that the smuggled foreign origin gold was being sent illicitly by one Bhu-Chum-Chum, a Chinese national, to an individual named Tendu Tashi in India via the Indo-China Border (Tibet Sector).

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PM Modi likely

visit Himachal Pradesh to assess the extent of damage, and based on their detailed report further assistance will be considered, it said.

Prime Minister also met families who were affected by the calamity. He expressed his condolences and deep sorrow to the family members of those who have lost their lives. He stated that the Union Government will work closely with the State Government at this difficult time and extend all possible assistance.

PM Modi also announced an ex-gratia of Rs.2 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs.50,000 to the seriously injured in the floods and natural calamity.

The Prime Minister announced that children orphaned due to the recent floods and landslides will be extended comprehensive support under the PM CARES for Children scheme. This will ensure their long-term welfare.

Prime Minister also stated that all assistance under disaster management rules are being made including advance disbursements to the States. He appreciated the efforts of the personnel of NDRF, SDRF, Army, State administration and other service-oriented organisations for making efforts in immediate relief and response. The Central government will further review the assessment based on the memorandum of the State as well as the report of the Central teams.

Prime Minister acknowledged the gravity of the situation and assured that the Central Government will make all efforts to address the situation. (KNO)

Centre, J&K admin

The Lieutenant Governor said the farming community has been severely affected by the recent natural calamities. He urged farmers across the Jammu region to take advantage of the benefits of PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The Lieutenant Governor also expressed gratitude to the Director and the entire team of AIIMS Jammu for organising the health camp for the flood affected families and also discharging their moral responsibility towards the healthcare of the people of Samba.

Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah during his recent visit to Jammu emphasized that health camps should be set up in every Panchayat for flood-affected people.

AIIMS Jammu will be organising 9 more mega health camps and J&K health department, CAPFs, BSF, CRPF, Army are also organising similar health camps. I urge the people to visit these camps and avail healthcare services.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor visited Devak Bridge near AIIMS Jammu at Vijaypur, Samba. The bridge suffered damages due to incessant rains and increased water levels. He directed the officials to expedite the restoration work.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC Chairman Samba; Chander Parkash Ganga, Member of Legislative Assembly from Vijaypur; Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, Member of Legislative Assembly from Ramgarh; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director, AIIMS Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu -Samba -Kathua Range; Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Samba and other senior officials.

Earlier, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the mega Health camp for flood affected families, organised by the Health Department, at Rajeev Colony Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the affected families. He patiently heard their concerns. He assured the families that the Government of India and J&K administration is committed to the wellbeing of the people affected due to recent natural calamities in the UT.

The LG was accompanied by Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and other senior officials.

Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor also

visited the Thard Village at Udhampur and reviewed the ongoing restoration works on National Highway-44. He was briefed by RS Yadav, NHAI Regional Officer, J&K on the deployment of men and machinery for speedy restoration of National Highway. It was informed that the team is working round the clock and one lane will be open to traffic soon.

Sinha also interacted with the affected families and enquired about their wellbeing.

The Lieutenant Governor visited the Health Camp organised by the Health Department at Gujjar Bakerwal Hostel, Jakhani, Udhampur and inspected the healthcare facilities at the Camp for the flood-affected families.

Balwant Singh Mankotia, Member of Legislative Assembly from Chenani; Pawan Kumar Gupta; Member of Legislative Assembly Udhampur West; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Sarah Rizvi, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range; Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur; Amod Nagpure Ashok, SSP Udhampur, and other senior officers accompanied the Lieutenant Governor.

Agriculture J&K's

strategies aimed at transforming the agricultural sector and improving the socio-economic conditions of farmers.

Dr Rai also briefed the Chief Minister about the ongoing three-day midterm review (2023-2025) of HADP by Apex Committee which commenced yesterday at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir, adding that the committee will continue its deliberations over the next two days to ensure the successful achievement of all HADP goals.

While interacting with the committee members, the Chief Minister stressed on them to focus on comprehensive roadmap for sustainable agricultural development, diversification, and empowerment of farming communities in the region. He emphasized on the critical need for an integrated strategy that addresses sectoral challenges like soil health, water management, modern farming techniques, and market linkages.

Omar Abdullah further highlighted that the agriculture sector remains a pivotal driver of J&K's economy and reaffirmed the government's resolve to provide an enabling environment for farmers by facilitating access to modern inputs, credit, technology, and markets. He added that J&K is emerging as role model for agriculture sector across the country.

While commending the Apex Committee for progress on implementation of HADP, the Chief Minister called for effective promotion of horticulture and allied activities, strengthening of rural infrastructure, and establishment of a robust support framework for small and marginal farmers.

He assured the Committee that the Government is committed to accelerate region's agricultural growth through progressive policy measures and active collaboration with Apex Committee.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister also commended the Vice Chancellors of SKUAST-K and SKUAST-J for tremendous improvement in the academic and research ecosystem of the both varsities. He also lauded them for NIRF ranking of 7th for SKUAST-K and 23rd for SKUAST-J.

NHAI officials say

may reopen within hours, finally allowing stranded vehicles to move," Yadav said.

The prolonged closure of this vital road has disrupted the supply chain in the Valley, leading to acute shortages of food, medicines and fuel. Thousands of vehicles remain stranded on both sides, while commuters have been forced to wade through muddy stretches to reach their destinations.

Traders told KNO that around 800 to 1,000 trucks carrying fruits are stuck on the highway. They said the transportation of produce to outside markets has been badly affected.

The road had briefly reopened for a few hours last month, but fresh blockades forced another shutdown, leaving vehicles stranded once again.

Despite repeated assurances since last

Tuesday, the scale of damage kept restoration efforts ineffective until now. The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains the lifeline for Kashmir, carrying the bulk of goods and passenger traffic between the Valley and the rest of the country. (KNO)

Kulgam encounter

in the area. As the searches were underway, terrorists opened fire on the forces, which was retaliated to, triggering a gunfight.

In the initial exchange of fire, one terrorist was killed while three Army personnel, including a JCO, sustained injuries. The injured soldiers were evacuated to a military hospital, where two of them, including the JCO, succumbed. The condition of another injured Army officer is said to be stable.

As the searches continued, security forces again engaged the hiding terrorists. Another terrorist was killed in the gunfight, taking the toll to two.

"The operation ended this afternoon after a final round of searches," the official said.

The soldiers killed in action were identified as Subedar (JCO) Prabhat Gaur and Lance Naik Narendra Sindhur.

"The Army honours the supreme sacrifice of the bravehearts in the line of duty. Their courage and dedication will forever inspire us. The Indian Army expresses deepest condolences and stands in solidarity with the bereaved families," a Chinara Corps spokesman said.

Meanwhile, security forces also busted a hideout in the forest, recovering an INSAS rifle and other incriminating material. Officials said the slain terrorists had been using the hideout to survive in the dense jungles.

One of the killed terrorists was a Pakistani national operating under the code name Rehman Bhai, while the other was identified as Aamir Bashir of Shopian, who had joined terrorist ranks two years ago. Both were affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit, officials added.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of law.

LG SINHA PAYS TRIBUTES

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the brave army personnel Sub Perbhat Gaur and L/Nk Narendra Sindhur, who made supreme sacrifice in the ongoing operations against terrorists in Kulgam.

"I salute the supreme sacrifice of our Army Bravehearts Sub Perbhat Gaur and L/Nk Narendra Sindhur. Their valour and indomitable spirit will remain etched forever in our hearts. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. The nation stands shoulder to shoulder with them in this difficult hour," the Lieutenant Governor said.

CM OMAR LAYS WREATH

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today laid the wreath and paid rich tributes to the brave soldiers who made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty during the Kulgam encounter.

Expressing profound sorrow over the loss, the Chief Minister said that the exemplary courage, unwavering valour, and ultimate sacrifice of these soldiers will be eternally remembered with deep respect and gratitude.

The Chief Minister further affirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the families of martyrs and their continued support in all circumstances. (KNO)

Highway closure

President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK), said the losses run into crores. "Not just one trader, but everyone is hit badly as stocks have exhausted. Shortage is rising because of non-availability of products," he said.

He also questioned why essential goods are not being brought in by train. "If train services have stated, why can't supplies arrive through rail as well? Rates of essentials are already skyrocketing," he said.

Mohammad Saleem, Vice President of the Lal Chowk Traders Association, said many shopkeepers are facing acute shortages, while those with leftover stock are resorting to price hikes.

He added that the recent GST hike has further compounded their losses, leaving traders under immense strain.

Meanwhile, traffic authorities said the Mughal Road and Sinthan road are open as

per advisory, but NH-44 continues to remain closed.

The Doda-Kishtwar road (NH-244) is also shut due to a landslide at Rankha Shed near Nasib Nagar, while the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) road is blocked at Zojila. Restoration work is underway, and officials have urged people not to travel until the highways are fully restored. (KNO)

MHA teams assess

Union Territory, including casualties among yatrins and local residents.

Search and rescue operations are still underway in some remote areas.

The Centre constituted the IMCTs on September 1 to examine the impact of floods and landslides in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Punjab.

Each team is headed by a Joint Secretary-level officer from the MHA or the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and includes representatives from the ministries of agriculture and farmers' welfare, expenditure, Jal Shakti, power, rural development, and road transport and highways.

"The teams are mandated to assess the damages and review the relief operations initiated by the administration," an MHA official told KNO. "Their reports will guide the central government in deciding the scale of assistance."

The officials said that the mechanism was put in place in 2019 by Home Minister Amit Shah, who directed that central teams must reach disaster-hit areas at the earliest, rather than waiting for formal memorandums from state governments.

In Kashmir, the IMCTs have so far visited flood-affected villages, interacted with district officials, and inspected damaged public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and water supply schemes. "We are taking note of immediate needs as well as long-term restoration requirements," one team member said.

A senior officer said that the local government is extending full cooperation. "The team's visit will help in aligning state-level assessments with central support," the officer said.

The reports prepared by the IMCTs are expected to form the basis for additional financial support and mitigation measures from the Centre.

Officials said the teams will conclude their fieldwork shortly and submit findings to the Union Home Ministry for further action.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited Jammu on September 1 and 2 to review the situation following heavy rains, cloudbursts, and landslides in the region. During his visit, he met families affected by floods in Mangu Chak village and inspected damaged sites, including the Tawi Bridge at Bikram Chowk, the Shiv Temple, and several residential areas.

The Centre has sanctioned Rs 209 crore to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to support relief and recovery measures. (KNO)

Mistakes could

possible help.

PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN DODA

Meanwhile, protests were reported from several areas of Doda district and Jammu with people demanding Malik's early release.

Witnesses told KNO that people in Doda town and adjoining areas gathered in large numbers, raising slogans and holding placards in favour of Malik.

Some shops in the main market remained closed as a mark of protest. Roads leading to Malik's constituency also witnessed protest marches, with residents alleging that detaining an elected representative through a preventive law undermined their mandate.

Malik, who represents the Doda-52 constituency, was arrested on Monday after an order was issued by District Magistrate Doda citing activities "prejudicial to public order."

Officials said the legislator was detained under provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978. This is the first known instance of a sitting MLA in Jammu and Kashmir being held under the law.

The detention has sparked strong reactions across political circles, with several parties questioning the use of the PSA against an elected representative. However, officials maintained that the step was taken to prevent

a law-and-order situation in the district.

Despite restrictions and heavy deployment of security forces, thousands of protesters assembled at the clock tower in Doda town near the DC office.

People raised slogans against the district administration and in favour of the MLA to demand his early release.

Earlier, police resorted to cane charging on protestors as soon as they assembled at the clock tower. However, the protestors didn't leave and stayed at the spot peacefully.

However, due to the closure of all roads leading to district headquarters Doda, a two-month-old girl, Umaisa, daughter of Adil Hussain, a resident of Gundoh died when an ambulance was not allowed to cross a bridge over river Chenab in Pul Doda and reach the Associated Hospital Doda.

In this regard, police have taken cognisance and registered a formal case.

A massive protest was held in Malik's home town of Malikpura and Kahra areas. Violent protests erupted in Kahra, causing injuries to some policemen during the clashes.

Meanwhile, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supporters said they had gathered in support of the MLA and will not leave the area till he is released.

In Kahra area of Gandoh, people also came out to protest against Malik's arrest under PSA and they had an altercation with police as well, which later resulted in the stone pelting incident, causing injuries to a few policemen.

Tight security was put in place in Doda today and to keep an eye on the security situation, Deputy Inspector General of Police Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban Range, Shridhar Patil reached district headquarters Doda and held a meeting with police officers to review the situation.

To avoid assembly of people, the district administration Doda had also imposed Section 163 of BNS, but still, people didn't care and continued their protest.

Similar protests were seen in almost across Jammu division by AAP supporters. (KNO)

85-yr-old artisan

Majeed narrates, began almost by accident. A foreign woman, Ms Helen, visited Dalgate and suggested he experiment with staple thread instead of the traditional cotton used in Aari. That single suggestion sparked a new wave in Kashmiri handicrafts. "From that moment, staple work became a sensation. Its demand even surpassed Kaleen and Pashmina for a time," Majeed says.

Encouraged by its popularity, he opened his own workshop, training dozens of students and experimenting with innovative designs. His works soon travelled far beyond Kashmir, finding buyers across India. "I still remember traveling to Kolkata to collect payments and seeing my pieces being sold at very high prices. That motivated me to continue working from there, and later, I expanded to Mumbai where I also held exhibitions that attracted thousands of customers," he said.

But Mir's greatest recognition came at home. In 1983, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi visited Srinagar, he presented her with an embroidered landscape of Hari Parbat. "She offered me a government job, but I declined. I preferred to remain independent and let my art speak for me," he recalls with quiet pride. Decades later, in 2017, his famous creation Tulip Girl earned him the prestigious State Award and has sent pieces for even national awards as well.

Despite the recognition and lifelong success, the veteran artisan expresses deep concern about the present state of the craft. "Foreign tourists are fewer now, and machine-made products have ruined the market. Still, this art gave me dignity and helped hundreds of families earn their livelihood," he said.

For Majeed, the survival of this heritage now depends on the younger generation. "The government is showing some interest in handicrafts, but it is the youth who must embrace it. If they learn, they can create employment for others instead of chasing jobs. Our legacy should not vanish in silence," he appeals.

As his wrinkled hands continue to guide the needle with unmatched precision, Majeed stands as both a reminder of the valley's glorious past and a plea for its uncertain future. (KNO)

PM Modi announces Rs 1,500 cr immediate relief for disaster-hit Himachal

PTI

Shimla, Sept 09: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced an immediate relief of Rs 1,500 crore for rain-affected Himachal Pradesh.

Modi, who took stock of the flood and landslides situation in the state, also announced Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia for the next of kin of the dead and Rs 50,000 for the injured. He first conducted an aerial survey of affected areas and then held a meeting in Kangra to review the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken as well as assess the damage.

In the meeting with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, BJP leaders, affected families and people engaged in rescue services in Kangra, Modi assured all help for restoration and rebuilding of infrastructure in the affected areas. The financial assistance of Rs 1,500 crore



will be advance release of the second instalment of SDRF and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Modi asked for a multi-dimensional view to be taken to get the entire region and people back on its feet. These would be done through multiple ways, like rebuilding homes through PM Awaz Yojana, restoration of national highways, rebuilding schools, provision of relief under PMNRF along with release of mini kits for livestock.

To ensure uninterrupted education, schools will be able

to report and geotag damages, enabling timely assistance under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

Construction of recharge structures for water harvesting to help collect and store rainwater will be done. These efforts will improve groundwater levels and support better water management.

The Centre has already sent inter-ministerial teams to Himachal Pradesh to assess the extent of damage, and based on their detailed report further assistance will be considered.

Modi also met families affected by the calamity. He expressed condolences and deep sorrow to those who lost their relatives.

The prime minister stated that the Centre will work closely with the Himachal Pradesh government at this difficult time and extend all possible assistance.

He said all assistance under disaster management rules are being made including advance disbursements to the states. He appreciated the efforts of the personnel of NDRF, SDRF, Army, state administration and other service-oriented organisations in relief and response work.

The central government will further review the assessment based on the memorandum of the state as well as the report of the central teams, he said.

Modi acknowledged the gravity of the situation and assured that the Centre will make all efforts to address the situation.

400 scientists worked 24x7 during Operation Sindoor: ISRO chief

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 09: More than 400 scientists worked round-the-clock to provide support using earth observation and communication satellites during Operation Sindoor, ISRO chairperson V Narayanan said on Tuesday. The space agency provided satellite data from its spacecraft for national security requirements, Narayanan said in his address at the 52nd National Management Convention of the All India Management Association (AIMA).

"During Operation Sindoor, all satellites were working 24x7 perfectly, enabling all requirements," he said.

"Over 400 scientists were working 24x7, full-time and all the satellites used for earth observation and communication were working perfectly during the mission," the ISRO chief added. The role of the space sector in armed conflicts came into sharp focus during Operation Sindoor, which saw extensive use of drones and loitering munitions



and tested the capabilities of air defence systems such as indigenously developed Akash Teer.

According to Narayanan, ISRO has completed 7,700 ground tests under the Gaganyaan project that plans to achieve India's maiden human spaceflight by 2027. Besides, 2,300 more tests are planned under the project before carrying out the human spaceflight. Under the Gaganyaan project, ISRO plans to carry

out three uncrewed missions, the first expected in December this year. This will be followed by two more unmanned missions. The space agency has secured approvals for carrying out two crewed missions under the Gaganyaan project.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has tasked ISRO with setting up India's own space station by 2035 and landing an Indian astronaut on the moon by 2040.

Delhi CM Secretariat, Maulana Azad Medical College get bomb threat

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 09: A bomb threat email targeting Delhi Chief Minister's Secretariat and Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) triggered a swift security response on Tuesday, an official said.

According to the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a separate call regarding the threat was also received, following which multiple fire tenders were rushed to the spot as a precautionary measure.

Delhi Police said the threat email mentioned a possible detonation at both MAMC and the CM Secretariat. Immediate and coordinated action was taken under standard operating procedures (SOPs), with bomb detection and disposal teams (BDDT) pressed into service at both sites.

"Senior officers, including additional DCP (central), ACP Kamla Market and SHO IP Estate, were present at the Secretariat overseeing anti-sabotage checks. At MAMC, the exercise was being supervised by the additional traffic officer (ATO) of IP Estate



police station. Appropriate measures have been taken to ensure the safety and security of people present at both locations. There is no cause for panic," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Nidhin Valsan in a statement said.

Mr. Valsan further said a team from the cyber police station is examining the origin and authenticity of the email. The initial assessment has revealed similarities with previous hoax threat emails.

"Preliminary findings indicate the message may have actually been intended for a location in another state. However, we are treating it with utmost seriousness and all SOPs are being followed," he added.

Police said the District Disaster Management

Authority (DDMA), traffic police and Special Cell have also been informed and are assisting in the response.

Police sources said intensive checks are underway at both MAMC and the Secretariat, with sniffer dogs and technical teams scanning the premises. Entry and exit points have been secured and access restricted during the verification exercise.

All security drills are being carried out with due diligence. Such threat emails, even if they later turn out to be hoaxes, cannot be taken lightly, said the officer. This incident follows a spate of hoax threat emails received in several schools and educational institutes in recent months, prompting heightened vigilance among security agencies.

Sensex jumps 314 points to settle at 81,101

Nifty ends above 24,800 on IT rebound



PTI

Mumbai, Sept 09: Benchmark Sensex rose by 314 points and Nifty closed above 24,800 on Tuesday following a rebound in IT shares and hopes of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve later this month.

Rising for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 314.02 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 81,101.32. During the day, it surged 394.07 points or 0.48 per cent to 81,181.37.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 95.45 points or 0.39 per cent to 24,868.60, registering its fifth day of gain. From the Sensex firms, Infosys jumped 5.03 per cent after India's second-largest IT services company said its board will consider a proposal for buyback of equity shares on September 11.

Tech Mahindra, Adani Ports, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services and Bajaj Finserv were also among the

gainers. However, Trent, Eternal, UltraTech Cement and NTPC were among the laggards. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory while Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index ended lower.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. US markets ended higher on Monday.

"Markets closed higher on Tuesday, buoyed by strength in IT stocks following Infosys' announcement that its board will consider a share buyback on September 11. The news lifted sector sentiment," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder - Livelong Wealth, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,170.35 crore on Monday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DII) bought stocks worth Rs 3,014.30 crore, according to exchange data.

Aishwarya Rai urges Delhi HC to restrain illegal use of name, image

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 09: Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan on Tuesday urged the Delhi High Court to protect her personality rights and to restrain certain persons from unauthorisedly using her name, images and AI-generated pornographic content.

Justice Tejas Karia orally hinted that he would pass an ad-interim order cautioning the defendants.

Senior advocate Sandeep Sethi, appearing for Rai, said the actor seeks to enforce her publicity and personality rights and



contended that some completely unreal intimate photographs were being circulated on the internet.

"There can be no right in their favour to use her images, likeness or persona. A gentleman is collecting money merely by putting my name and face," Sethi argued.

"Her name and likeness is being used to

satisfy someone's sexual desires. This is very unfortunate," he said.

Rai was also represented through advocates Pravin Anand and Dhruv Anand.

The high court listed the matter for further proceedings before the joint registrar on November 7 and before the court on January 15, 2026.

‘44% diabetics undiagnosed in 2023; underdiagnosis a challenge in poor countries’

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 09: About 44 per cent of the world's diabetics were undiagnosed in 2023, while underdiagnosis and sub-optimal management of glycaemic index continue to pose major challenges in low- and middle-income countries, according to an analysis.

Estimates published in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology journal show that 43.6 per cent of India's diabetic population were diagnosed with the condition in 2023, an increase of about 14 per cent in diagnosis rates seen in 2000.

Over 97 per cent of those diagnosed were under treatment in 2023, an international team of researchers forming the 'Global Burden of Disease' (GBD) study found.

More than 55 per cent of people aged 15 and above around the world were diagnosed with diabetes, the analysis of data collected during 2000-2023 from across 204 countries and territories revealed.

"By 2050, 1.3 billion people are expected to be living with diabetes, and if nearly half don't know they have a serious and potentially deadly health condition, it could easily become a silent epidemic," said first author Lauryn Stafford, a researcher at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the US' University of Washington, which coordinates the GBD study. The team also included researchers from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

The highest rates of diagnoses were seen in North America and the highest rates of treatment among the diagnosed were in high-income Asia Pacific (Japan, South Korea and other countries). Southern Latin America,



including Chile and Argentina, was found to have recorded the highest rates of optimal glycaemic levels among those receiving diabetes treatment. Central sub-Saharan Africa faced the largest gaps in diagnosis, with under 20 per cent of people with diabetes being aware of the condition, researchers said.

Given the rapid pace of rise in cases, an investment in screening programmes among the youth is urgently needed, they said, highlighting that access to medicines and glucose-monitoring tools has improved, especially in underserved regions.

The World Health Organisation had, in May 2022, set a target to have 80 per cent of people with diabetes clinically diagnosed by 2030. Eighty per cent of those diagnosed should have good control of glycaemia and as many must have good control over blood pressure, the WHO has said.

Heart health: 7 potassium-rich foods to slash risk of heart failure

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Sept 09: Here's the kicker about heart health: it often feels complicated because of the guidelines and restrictions it comes with. What to eat, what to cut down on, what processed foods and drinks to limit, or what veggies to add to your daily diet.

Here's the solution the latest research has suggested.

The recent findings offer a simple, powerful change: eating more potassium-rich foods could slash your risk of heart disease to a large extent. The breakthrough study from Denmark suggests that eating more potassium-rich foods could lower the risk of heart failure, dangerous irregular heart rhythms, and hospitalization by a striking 24%. That's nearly a quarter reduction, simply by selecting the right foods.

How? Potassium is an essential mineral that helps your body balance fluid levels by flushing out excess sodium, regulate heartbeats, and control blood pressure. Researchers involved over 1,200 heart patients with implantable defibrillators in what's known as the Potcast trial. Participants were guided to increase their potassium intake using everyday, affordable foods.

Why does this matter? Because diets high in sodium and low in potassium are now the norm, exactly the opposite

of what humans evolved with. And many of us don't eat enough potassium to keep our blood pressure and heart rhythm stable. So, what's the key here? Common, affordable foods like avocados, bananas, spinach, lentils, and baked potatoes. How to add those conveniently to your daily diet?

Let's dive in for the simple hacks and tips.

Avocado

Trust us when we say this: avocados aren't just trendy, they're a potassium powerhouse, with roughly 360 mg per half avocado, which helps your body excrete excess sodium and ease blood pressure stress. Their healthy fats and fiber also support balanced digestion and steady energy.

Recipe idea: Smash avocado on whole-grain toast, top with cherry tomato halves, a sprinkle of sea salt, and chili flakes.

Best time: Perfect for breakfast or a mid-afternoon snack, keeps you full and supports blood pressure all day.

Bananas

America's favorite fruit delivers around 330 mg of potassium per medium banana. Paired with its ease of eating as a snack or breakfast staple, it's no wonder bananas were among the key foods in the study linked to heart risk reduction.

Recipe idea: Blend a banana with yogurt, a handful of spinach, and

berries for a heart-friendly smoothie.

Best time: Ideal for post-workout energy or a quick, healthy breakfast.

Spinach

This leafy green packs a serious punch, roughly 545 mg per 80 g of raw spinach. It's easy to add to smoothies, salads, or soups. Its magnesium and vitamins complement potassium's heart benefits, making it a double win for cardiovascular care.

Recipe idea: Sauté spinach with garlic and olive oil as a bright side dish or fold into omelets.

Best time: Great with lunch or dinner for an easy potassium boost amid your main meal.

Baked potato (with skin)

A surprising yet potent source, a medium baked potato with skin can offer up to 926 mg of potassium. Swap out fries or carbs for this nutrient-rich alternative that supports heart-healthy blood pressure.

Recipe idea: Bake until soft, top with Greek yogurt, chopped herbs, and a sprinkle of paprika.

Best time: Satisfying dinner option when you want comfort food without compromising heart health.

Salmon

Fish like salmon offer both potassium and omega-3 fats: a combination that nourishes heart rhythm and inflammation control. While not the highest in potassium, its heart-protective profile

makes it a worthwhile inclusion in a balanced diet.

Recipe idea: Bake salmon with lemon slices, dill, and a drizzle of olive oil. Serve over greens or alongside a baked potato. **Best time:** Makes a nourishing dinner centerpiece that balances potassium with healthy fats.

Lentils

Though not part of the European trial foods list, lentils are recognized for their potassium content and blood pressure benefits in related research. A hearty addition to meals, they're a smart swap for processed carbs and help keep sodium in check naturally.

Recipe idea: Simmer lentils with tomatoes, carrots, onions, and spices to create a warming stew.

Best time: Ideal for lunch or dinner, and perfect for batch-prepping; flavor deepens over time.

Beetroot and cabbage

The POTCAST trial highlighted beets, white beets, and cabbage for their dietary guidance tips. While specific potassium values vary, these veggies are excellent for adding potassium along with fiber and inflammation-reducing nutrients.

Recipe idea: Shred cabbage and roast beets, then toss with olive oil, apple cider vinegar, and a touch of honey for a vibrant salad.

Best time: Perfect as a refreshing side for lunch or dinner.

Nepal PM Oli quits as anti-corruption protests spiral

REUTERS

Kathmandu, Sept 09: Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned on Tuesday, his aide said, as anti-corruption demonstrators defied an indefinite curfew and clashed with police, a day after 19 people died in violent protests triggered by a social media ban.

Oli's government lifted the social media ban after protests turned violent, killing 19 and injuring more than a 100 after police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters trying to storm parliament on Monday.

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The unrest is the worst in decades in the poor Himalayan country that is wedged between India and China and has struggled with political instability and economic uncertainty since protests led to the abolition of its monarchy in 2008.

"The PM has quit," Oli's aide Prakash Silwal told Reuters, a move that plunges the country into fresh political uncertainty. Earlier on Tuesday, Oli had called a meeting of all political parties, saying violence is not in the interest



of the nation and "we have to resort to peaceful dialogue to find solutions to any problem".

But anger against the government showed no signs of abating, as protesters gathered in front of parliament and other places in the capital Kathmandu, in defiance of an indefinite curfew imposed by authorities.

The protesters set fire to tyres on some roads, threw stones at police personnel in riot gear and chased them through narrow streets, while some looked on and shot videos of the clashes on their mobile phones as thick black smoke rose to the sky.

Hundreds of people from some towns located near the India-Nepal border had started marching towards Kathmandu to support the protesters, one of the protesters told Reuters by phone. Witnesses also said that

protesters were setting fire to the homes of some politicians in Kathmandu, and local media reported that some ministers were plucked to safety by military helicopters.

Reuters could not immediately verify the information.

"We are still standing here for our future ... We want this country corruption-free so that everyone can easily access education, hospitals, medical (facilities) ... and for a bright future," protester Robin Sreshtha told Reuters TV.

Arrival of planes from the southern side at Kathmandu airport, Nepal's main international gateway, was closed because of poor visibility due to the smoke from fires set by protesters in areas nearby, aviation authority official Gyanendra Bhul said.

Organisers of the protests,

India expresses concern, advises nationals to remain cautious

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 09: India on Tuesday said it is deeply saddened by the loss of many young lives during protests in Nepal and hoped that the issues will be resolved through peaceful means.

Violent protests by youths in Kathmandu and a few other places against a government ban on social media sites on Monday left at least 19 people dead and over 300 others injured.

"We are closely monitoring the developments in Nepal since yesterday and are deeply saddened by the loss of many young lives," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with families of deceased. We also wish speedy recovery for those who were injured," it said.

"As a close friend and neighbour, we hope that all concerned will exercise restraint and address any issues through peaceful means and dialogue," the MEA said in a statement.

It also asked Indian nationals to exercise caution in view of the prevailing situation in that country.

"We have also taken note that authorities have imposed curfew in Kathmandu and several other cities of Nepal. Indian nationals in Nepal are advised to exercise caution and adhere to the steps and guidelines issued by the Nepali authorities," the MEA said.

which spread to other cities in the Himalayan country, have called them "demonstrations by Gen Z", driven by young people's widespread

frustration with the government's perceived lack of action to tackle corruption and boost economic opportunities.

Peter Navarro predicts Brics collapse, says members 'all hate each other'

PTI

Washington, Sept 09: The BRICS alliance will not last since the member nations "all hate each other", White House trade adviser Peter Navarro has said, likening their trade practices to "vampires" exploiting the United States.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

"I don't see how the BRICS alliance stays together since historically they all hate each other and kill each other," Navarro said in an interview with the 'Real America's Voice' show on Monday.

In a diatribe targeting the BRICS nations, he said the "bottom line" is that none of the countries in the grouping can "survive if they don't sell to the United States. And when they sell to the United States, their exports, they're like vampires sucking our blood dry with their unfair trade practices".

Navarro, who has been ranting against



India over its import of Russian oil and high tariffs, said the country has been at war with China for decades.

In a sarcastic remark, he said, "And I just remembered, yeah, it was China that gave Pakistan a nuclear bomb. You got ships flying around the Indian Ocean now with Chinese flags. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi, see how you kind of work that out." He also claimed that Russia is in "bed with China".

Navarro claimed Beijing has its sights on the Russian port of Vladivostok and is already "colonising Siberia, which is the biggest land mass of the Russian semi-empire" through "massive illegal immigration".

"So good luck with

that, Putin," he said. On Brazil, Navarro said the country's economy is "going down the tubes" because of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's "socialist policies" while "they keep the real leader of that country in a cell", a reference to former president Jair Bolsonaro, who is currently under house arrest and is on trial for allegedly plotting a coup following his loss in the 2022 presidential election.

In July, President Donald Trump criticised Brazilian officials for their "persecution" of Bolsonaro and said the Brazilian government has "unjustly charged Bolsonaro with multiple crimes". For this, he imposed an additional 40 per cent levy on Brazil.

Indo-Pak Asia Cup clash

No instructions but Surya, Salman 'won't stop' on-field aggression

PTI

Dubai, Sept 09: India skipper Suryakumar Yadav on Tuesday said his side will not hold back on aggression in the high-voltage Asia Cup clash against Pakistan on September 14 as it is an important aspect of playing international sport.

His Pakistani counterpart Salman Ali Agha had identical views -- no instructions but no shying away from it either. Before the Pakistan game, India will open their campaign against the UAE on Wednesday.

"Temper? Sir, aggression is always there on the field when

we take the field. And without aggression, I don't think you can play this sport. And I'm sure, I'm very excited to take the field on the front foot," Suryakumar replied when asked whether players will be told to dial down the intensity in the much-awaited Sunday clash of the T20 event.

The Asia Cup match is being held in the backdrop of border tensions between India and Pakistan after 26 tourists were killed by terrorists in Pahal-gam earlier this year leading to military action by India under Operation Sindoor. Salman held a similar view on aggression but added that he wouldn't



be issuing any specific instructions to his players. "Well, you don't need to say anything to any player. Because everyone is individually very different. If someone wants to be aggressive

on the field, they are more than welcome to do that.

"When it comes to fast bowlers, they are always aggressive," Salman said.

The captains' press conference and the trophy unveiling ceremony was followed by a question and answer session. The emcee requested the media to ask only apolitical questions.

In fact, Suryakumar and Salman weren't even seated together as Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan took the place between them.

The Indian skipper was also asked if he would like to see a change in his team's approach

Sri Lanka Parliament set to strip privileges of former presidents

PTI

Colombo, Sept 09: Sri Lanka's Supreme Court has ruled that the bill to withdraw presidential privileges extended to former presidents and their widows can be approved in Parliament by a simple majority.

The court's ruling was read out in Parliament on Tuesday by Speaker Jagath Wickremaratna.

"The Supreme Court has determined that no provision of the bill is inconsistent with any provision of the Constitution and can be enacted by Parliament with a simple majority," he said.

Following the apex court's ruling, the parliamentary business committee decided to debate the bill on Wednesday. If passed, the



bill will end special benefits such as an official residence, monthly allowances, secretarial support, official transport, and other perks currently provided to former presidents and their widows.

Sri Lanka currently has five living former presidents and one widow entitled to these

privileges. In late July, the government gazetted a new bill aimed at revoking all privileges granted to former presidents or their widows since 1986. The draft bill, titled Presidents' Entitlement (Repeal), seeks to repeal the Presidents' Entitlement Act No. 4 of 1986 and was subsequently referred to the Supreme Court.

A petition was filed by the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), the political party of former presidents Mahinda and Gotabaya Rajapaksa, challenging the bill's constitutionality.

However, the Supreme Court rejected the petition, stating that the petitioners had failed to comply with the mandatory provision under Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

Bazball 'misconceptions' are 'disrespectful' to players, says Eng head coach McCullum



PTI

LONDON: "Bazball" brand of cricket was not a "rigid" playing style but about giving "freedom" to the players to express themselves and the "misconceptions" about the approach were "disrespectful" to them, said England head coach Brendon McCullum.

McCullum took over England's Test side in 2022, and he, along with captain Ben Stokes, revived a team that had won one match in 17.

They have since become known for a fearless and aggressive brand of cricket, particularly with the bat, which came to be known as "Bazball".

But, McCullum, who dislikes the term "Bazball", said he has frustrations around how they are perceived as a team.

"We never have that kind of mindset about ourselves in the sense that, we're not rigid in how we go about things," McCullum told the 'For the Love of Cricket'

podcast, as reported by BBC Sport. "I think there's a bit of a misconception about how we play, that we swing the bat as hard as we can, we try to take wickets and then we go for a round of golf and a few beers," he said.

He added, "I find it slightly disrespectful to all of you guys (the players) and all of the people in the set-up who work so hard and have such clear determination of wanting to succeed, to have that so simply categorised, almost."

The former New Zealand captain said his emphasis has always been around players' mindset, rather than instilling a particular way of playing or a focus on high scoring.

"For us, it's about trying to create an environment that allows you to handle the pressures of international cricket, to understand the size of that task but to not be restricted in your ability to play," McCullum added.

"You want your talent to come out, I hate seeing talent stymied,

so having a certain style or belief in how we want to play gives us the best chance of success. You can't do that if you are bound by this tension and negativity," he said.

McCullum said that when he was appointed in 2022, he felt he was not suited to the white-ball role because at that time they needed someone to take them "from good to great".

"I felt like what you guys needed at that time, my skills were kind of suited to that (Test cricket) giving guys confidence and encouragement to push the boundaries of their games," the former swashbuckling batter said.

"I looked at where the white-ball side was at and I was thinking, that's not really my skill, I'm about giving a team soul and purpose and freedom, and pushing them towards bravery on the field. So I felt the Test team was more aligned to that, at the time," said McCullum who was also made ODI and T20I head coach in January this year.

Wednesday, 10th September

MOVIES SCHEDULE



THE CONJURING LAST RITES (A)
ENG ATMOS WITH ENG SUBTITLES
11:20 AM, 02:30 PM, 06:00 PM
HINDI - 12:40 PM



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HINDI - 03:40 PM



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



BAAGHI 4 (A)
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